

# Joshua 4&5

Memorial Stones & Sharp Knives

# Joshua 4-5:9

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: <sup>2</sup>“Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, <sup>3</sup>and command them, saying, ‘Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; <sup>5</sup>and Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, <sup>6</sup>that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones *mean* to you?’ <sup>7</sup>Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”

# Joshua 4-5:8

<sup>8</sup>And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. <sup>9</sup>Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

<sup>10</sup>So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. <sup>11</sup>Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people. <sup>12</sup>And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses had spoken to them. <sup>13</sup>About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. <sup>14</sup>On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

# Joshua 4-5:8

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, <sup>16</sup> “Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan.” <sup>17</sup> Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, “Come up from the Jordan.” <sup>18</sup> And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, *and* the soles of the priests’ feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

<sup>19</sup> Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth *day* of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. <sup>20</sup> And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. <sup>21</sup> Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What *are* these stones?’ <sup>22</sup> then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’; <sup>23</sup> for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, <sup>24</sup> that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

# Joshua 4-5:8

So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who *were* on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who *were* by the sea, heard that the L<sub>ORD</sub> had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel.

At that time the L<sub>ORD</sub> said to Joshua, “Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time.” So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. And this *is* the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt *who were* males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people *who were* men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the L<sub>ORD</sub> —to whom the L<sub>ORD</sub> swore that He would not show them the land which the L<sub>ORD</sub> had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, “a land flowing with milk and honey.” Then Joshua circumcised their sons *whom* He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. Then the L<sub>ORD</sub> said to Joshua, “This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

# Memorial Stones



1. Joshua piled 12 stones up in the riverbed.
2. 12 Men, one from each tribe carried stones from the Jordan to the camp at Gilgal.



# 2 reasons for the stone memorial

[Jos 4:6, 20-24 NKJV] 6 "that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones [mean] to you?' ... 20 And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. 21 Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What [are] these stones?' 22 "then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; 23 "for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, 24 "that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it [is] mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."



- 1. For a witness to others in the family**
- 2. For a witness to the world**

**Jos 5:1 NKJV** So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel.

**The Nations in the land knew God was near**



**Genesis 15:16...**

“But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

“...for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction.”

“...has not yet reached it's full measure.”



# Sharp Knives

Josh 5:2-7



V.3 — at “**Gibeath-haaraloth**”  
English: “*the hill of foreskins*”

# Circumcision

O.T.

Cutting away of the flesh

*Physical Picture / Symbolic*

# Circumcision

N.T.

Cutting away of the flesh

*Reality / Spiritual*

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[Deu 10:16 NKJV] **"Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.**

[Deu 30:6 NKJV] **"And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.**

[Gen 17:11 NKJV] **"and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.**

# Circumcision

O.T.

Cutting away of the flesh

*Physical Picture / Symbolic*

# Circumcision

N.T.

Cutting away of the flesh

*Reality / Spiritual*

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- [Rom 2:28-29 NKJV] 28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.
  - [Phl 3:3 NKJV] 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

# Circumcision is all about the HEART

**[Jhn 3:6-7 NKJV] 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'**

**[Gal 5:16 NKJV] 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

# Joshua 5:8

**So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.**



# Joshua 5:9

## The place of Gilgal

**Then the LORD said to Joshua, “This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.**

**“Rolling away the  
Reproach”**