

**Welcome to: -
Bible House of Grace.**



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Joshua 5.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Joshua 5.

Topics.

- The kings of the Amorites and Canaanites hearts melt, because of Israel.
- The sons of Israel are circumcised a second time at Gibeath-haaraloth.
- Israel kept the Passover at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho.
- An overview of Passover from the Old Testament: Passover and the feast of
- The manna stopped and the people ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan.
- The commander of the LORD'S army stands before Joshua.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the first five books of Moses anticipated the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham concerning the Promised Land. Moses is now dead. Joshua crosses the River Jordan (about 1400 B.C.) and after a string of military victories apportioned the land according to the twelve tribes. These battles shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God fights for His people when they are faithful and courageous and put their full trust in Him. (Josh. 1:6-9).

At the close of the book Joshua says that he and all his house will serve the LORD and invites the people to choose whether they will serve the gods of their fathers or the gods in whose land they dwell or the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The people choose to serve their God. (Josh. 24:15). Although anonymous the book appears to contain eyewitness testimony, some of which may have been written by Joshua himself.

The Kings of the Amorites and Canaanites Hearts Melt, because of Israel.

Joshua 5:1 ----- ¹As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

The previous chapter finished with Israel crossing the River Jordan, travelling ten days and camping at Gilgal. (Joshua 4:19-20). Ponder for a moment it is almost certain the kings of the Amorites and the Canaanites had heard of God's promise to Abraham that He would give his offspring the land of Canaan and now Israel is not only in their land, but their God has miraculously stopped the River Jordan for hours to allow them to enter it. Is it any wonder these kings are in great fear?

The Sons of Israel are Circumcised a Second Time at Gibeath-haaraloth.

Joshua 5:2-3 ----- ²At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time." ³So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.

Circumcision was the covenant God had made with Abraham, in the book of Genesis the LORD said: -

- This is my covenant, which you (Abraham) shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall be

circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, ¹³both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." (Genesis 17:10-14).

The Reason why the Sons of Israel were Circumcised.

Joshua 5:4-7 ----- ⁴And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. ⁶For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD; the LORD swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

The generation that came out of Egypt, crossed the Red Sea and entered into the wilderness refused to obey the word of the LORD and cross the River Jordan (except Joshua and Caleb) so God kept them in the wilderness forty years until the men who at that time were old enough to go to war had died. Naturally none of the children of the new generation born in the wilderness had been circumcised.

Israel Kept the Passover at Gilgal on the Plains of Jericho.

Joshua 5:8-10 ----- ⁸When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. ⁹And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho.

An overview of Passover from the Old Testament: Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to celebrate and remember that God in haste delivered Israel out of Egypt by night. On the 10th day of the first Jewish calendar month of the year (called Abib) all Israel were to take from their own flock one male lamb from their sheep or goats a year old and without blemish for each household and keep it until the 14th day. On the 14th day in the evening at sunset the entire nation of Israel were to kill and eat the Passover. For further information concerning the Passover, see the title: -

- Passover in the Old and New Testament.

In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Manna Stopped and the People Ate of the Fruit of the Land of Canaan.

Joshua 5:12 ----- ¹¹And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

When the people of Israel were in the wilderness of Sin (Exod. 16:1) all of Israel accused Moses and Aaron of killing them with hunger (Exod. 16:3) so the LORD said He would rain bread from heaven (Exod. 16:4). It was like white coriander seed (Exod. 16:31) and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey (Exod. 16:31). Every morning during their forty years in the wilderness they had manna to eat and in the evening they had quail to eat (Exod. 16:13-14).

The Commander of the LORD'S army Stands before Joshua.

Joshua 5:13-15 ----- ¹³When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" ¹⁵And the commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Joshua is near Jericho, perhaps meditating on the vast task ahead of him or maybe in deep prayer praying for God to show him a way to enter and conquer the city, and while in prayer lifts up his eyes and sees a man standing before him with a drawn sword in his hand. The sword is a symbol of battle and victory, which means that this man was prepared and ready for war. Joshua asks him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

It appears Joshua was not sure if this man with the sword was for Israel or for the inhabitants of the land of Canaan. The man tells Joshua that he is the commander of the army of the LORD and tells Joshua to, "Take off his sandals from his feet, for the place where he is standing is holy." This immediately takes the mind back to the following verses: -

- Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."
⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (Exodus 3:3-6).

In Genesis chapter three, Jehovah God is given the following titles: -

- The Angel of the LORD (v2).
- The LORD (v4).
- The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (v6).
- God (v6).
- The LORD (v7).
- God whose name is I AM THAT I AM (v14).
- I AM (v14).
- God (v15).
- The LORD God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (v15).
- The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob (v16).
- The LORD God of the Hebrews (v18).
- The LORD our God (v18).

In this chapter the Angel of the LORD is God appearing to man in a form that will not destroy him. Should God appear to any descendant of Adam (which we all are) in His fullness and Holiness His presence would destroy them. This is why God always appears surrounded in dark clouds, fire or as some form of spiritual angelic being such as the Angel of the LORD. It is certain that the Invisible, Immortal Eternal Almighty Holy God of creation, the source of all life and Omnipotent God

the Eternal Spirit is able to take on various spiritual angelic manifestations as he did to Moses in the burning bush and now to Joshua at Jericho to reveal to them His eternal plans that He purposed in His eternal mind before the foundations of the world for mankind's salvation on earth and His plans and purposes for their lives. Also in Genesis chapter three the Angel of the LORD tells Moses that he has seen the affliction of His people in Egypt and come down to: -

- Deliver His people out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. (Exodus 3:8-5).

And in the following verses tells Moses to tell his people: -

- The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: ¹⁷And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.(Exodus 3:16-17).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the Angel of the LORD that appeared to Moses in the burning bush is the same Angel of the LORD that is now appearing to Joshua at Jericho in as the commander of the LORD'S army. The commander of the LORD'S army stands before Joshua assuring him that God is no longer suffering His people (i.e., the rebellious wilderness generation), but is now going to go before the armies of Israel and fight for them and give them victory over all their enemies.

For further information see the title: -

- Angel of the LORD in, Angels (ON WEBSITE MENU).

A vision or a real event: throughout the generations there have been various opinions as to whether Joshua was having a vision of this man with the sword in his hand or whether it was an actual literal appearance, since none of us can know for absolute certain the best answer I can give is to leave the reader with the following definition of a biblical vision and let each one decide for themselves.

It perhaps should be highlighted that the primary importance of the appearing of the commander of the LORD'S army with his drawn sword in his hand is not whether it was some type of vision or a literal appearance, but the fact that he came with the message that God was now for Israel and not against them (as He was with the rebellious wilderness generation) and that the LORD'S angel would go before Israel's armies and fight for them and give them the victory.

A biblical vision: can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Since many of these biblical visions, events or experiences often appear as real events to the person experiencing them they can be spoken of in the following two ways: -

1. As an actual and real event.
2. As a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind).

The person having the vision maybe left in confusion as to whether it was a vision or an actual event. This is because many biblical visions appear so real the emotions and the body respond as though it is an actual real event, even though it may simply be playing out in vivid colour and crystal clear pictures on the imagination of the mind.

The reason for this is that the human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore cannot discern the difference between a real picture being played out on the imagination of the mind or an imaginary one so the nervous system responds to both the real image and the imaginary image in the same manner.

This is why in many chapters the same event is written as a real experience in some verses and as a vision in others since the biblical character is not always sure what they actually experienced (2 Cor. 12:1-3).

Paul when speaking of himself in the third person said: -

- I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows and I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows (2 Cor. 12:1-3).

Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain and he was not only transfigured before them, and his face, shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light, but Moses and Elijah also appeared to them. This event was so real that Peter asked Jesus if he should make a tent for the Lord and one for Moses and one for Elijah, yet as they were walking back down the mountain Jesus told Peter, James and John not to tell this vision to anyone (Matt. 17:1-9).

A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to and they then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision.

For further information on visions, see the title: -

- Visions in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.