

YEHOSHUA AND YAHSHUA

AND THE BATTLE FOR THE

LAND OF ISRAEL

PART 1 AND 2

PRESENTED BY  
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# THE LAND OF YISRAEL BELONGS TO THE 12 TRIBES



כָּל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר  
תֵּדְרֹךְ כַּף-כַּף-כַּגְּלְכֶם בּוֹ  
לָכֶם יִהְיֶה  
דְּבָרִים, י"א, כ"ד

"Any place where  
your feet shall walk,  
it shall be yours"

Deut. 11:24



Yehoshua 1:  
YHWH declares –  
“No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”

# YEHOSHUA MEANS – YAHWEH SAVES

In Nehemiah 8:17, Yoshua is written as יֵשׁוּעַ or Yashua, the name for Jesus.

Indeed, the Book of Yoshua in the Greek Septuagint Old Testament is entitled Ἰησοῦς (Jesus)!

Both Yoshua and Yashua mean the same - "Yahweh saves."

"Yehoshua Ben Nun, who was formed to be in his days a great deliverer for his chosen ones" (יהושע בן נון... אשר נוצר להיות בימיו) (wikipedia) (שועה גדלה לבחיריו).



The name Yehoshua has the form of a compound of "Yeho-" and "shua": Yeho- יהו is another form of יהו Yahu, a theophoric element standing for the name of G-D) יהוה the Tetragrammaton YHWH, sometimes transcribed into English as Yahweh or Yehovah), and שׁוּעַ shua' is a noun meaning "a cry for help", "a saving cry", that is to say, a shout given when in need of rescue. Together, the name would then literally mean, "YHWH is a saving-cry," shout to YEHOWAH when in need of help.

Another explanation for the name Yehoshua is that it comes from the root שׁוּעַ yod-shin-'ayin, meaning "to deliver, save, or rescue". According to the Book of Numbers verse 13:16, the name of Yoshua son of Nun was originally Hoshea` הוֹשֵׁעַ, and the name "Yehoshua`" יְהוֹשֻׁעַ is usually spelled the same but with a yod added at the beginning.

# Yoshua (Hebrew: יְהוֹשֻׁעַ; Yěhōshúa‘

According to the books Exodus, Numbers and Yoshua, he became the leader of the Israelite tribes after the death of Moses; of the tribe of Ephraim. He was born in Egypt prior to the Exodus, and was probably the same age as Caleb, with whom he is occasionally associated.

The Book of Yoshua is the first book in Nevi'im (Prophets), the second section of the Tanakh. It is considered part of the Deuteronomistic history that begins in Deuteronomy and ends with the second Book of Kings. These books tell the story of the Israelites from the wandering in the desert to the establishment of a monarchy in the Land of Israel.

Yehoshua figures heavily in the Torah as the protégé of Moshe. He appears early on as Moshe's sentry at the base of Mount Sinai during the Golden calf incident (Exodus 32). He also has an important role as one of the 12 spies sent into the land of Canaan, and one of only two who came back with positive reports about the land (Numbers 13).

Finally, after Moshe strikes the rock and loses his right to enter the Land of Israel (Numbers 20), Yohshua is designated the next leader of the Israelites. And it is under Yohshua's leadership that they enter the land of Canaan.

The overall story of the Book of Yohshua involves the Israelites' conquest and settlement of Canaan. We will now go in depth and see the foreshadow of Yahshua's return, through his predecessor Yohshua.

Yahweh told Moshe to send men to spy out the land of Canaan. He told him to send a man from each tribe;

They were to find out about the land and the people in the land. Moshe said to find out if the people were strong or weak. Did they live in cities or in camps? He wanted to know what the fruit of the land was like, and if they had forests or not. He asked them to bring back some of the fruit that was ripe.



Twelve Tribes of Israel

Manasseh	Asher
Naphtali	Zebulun
Issachar	Gad
Ephraim	Dan
Benjamin	Reuben
Simeon	Judah

**The men went into the land and found that it really was a good land. The grapes were so big that it took two men to carry a cluster of them on a pole between them. However they returned with a negative report that the people there were like giants (nephilim) and they could not conquer them.**



**These two men of faith in Yahweh - Caleb and Joshua said,  
"Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are able to  
overcome it."**

- Only two of the spies disagreed with this negative report: Yoshua ben Nun, who is Moshe' chief student, and Caleb ben Yefuna from the tribe of Judah.
- Yoshua represented the tribe of Ephraim .
- Caleb represented the tribe of Judah . These two great men would play instrumental roles in the upcoming Conquest. Their tribes were blessed because of their faith in YHWH.



# Yoshua to Succeed Moshe

Then Moshe went out and spoke these words to all Israel: 2 “I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. YHWH has said to me, ‘You shall not cross the Jordan.’ 3 Adonai himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Yoshua also will cross over ahead of you, 4 And YHWH will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. 5 YEHOVAH will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. 6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for YHWH ELOHIM goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

7 Then Moshe summoned Yoshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that YHWH swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. 8 YEHOVAH himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

**14 Then YHWH said to Moshe, “Now the day of your death is near. Call Yoshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, where I will commission him. ” So Moshe and Yoshua came and presented themselves at the tent of meeting.**

**Moshe’ responsibility was to lead the people to the Promised Land, now it was Yoshua’s responsibility to lead them into the Promised Land and settle it.**



**23 Then YHWH gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: “Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.”**



# TAKING THE LAND YHWH PROMISED TO THE ISRAELITES

More than 500 years had passed since YHWH first promised the country called **Canaan** to Avraham's family. And 40 years had passed since they crossed the Red Sea. In Numbers 26:51 the Jewish adult males numbered 601,730: These were the numbered of the children of Israel, six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty. Double it to include the women and you have 1,203,460 adults. Since we don't know how many children there were, we could be talking anywhere from 2 million people and up.

During those 500 years, the family had increased to become the great nation called the **Israelites**. But they were a nation without any land. Now they were entering Canaan to take possession of it as YHWH had promised.

The Israelites had a strong army. But YHWH did not want them to trust in their military power. **HE wanted them to trust Him and have faith.** So HE gave them unusual instructions for their first battle, which was against the city called Jericho. They should not attack the city as an army usually would. Instead they should just march round its walls. And YHWH would hand over the city to them.

Joshua 1:1 After the death of Moshe the servant of YHWH, HE said to Yoshua the son of Nun, 2 "Moshe my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moshe.

This is after the mourning for thirty days. They mourned for Moshe thirty days, as we understand previously, from the Pentateuch.



# CROSSING THE JORDAN

4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life.

This is not just current day Israel we are looking at. The land that has been given to Israel extends right up to the Euphrates, right across to the west sea, and down to Egypt.





# YEHOVAH NISSI – HE IS OUR BANNER

- Joshua 1:5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. (RSV)
- This is a promise YHWH made to Yoshua. The sequence is that the commanders of Israel are given that promise, and while they walk with YHWH, HE will not forsake them or leave them, and Israel will stand. No nation will be able to come against it, while it obeys the laws of YHWH. That is HIS promise. However when we stop following his commandments, we are no longer under His supreme protection and nations are allowed to entrain upon us.

# FOLLOW THE LAW AND COMMANDS OF YHWH



This is the nexus. Keep Yahweh's commands and covenants and we will be successful. If we don't, we will fail. All of that is found in Deuteronomy 28, the blessings and the curses. The understanding of the blessings and the curses is important.

Deuteronomy 28:13-14 "The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Pastor's today will quote this scripture about being the head and not the tail, but fail to quote the entire scripture and put it into its true context which is what we have to do, to receive these blessings. In a nutshell it is follow YHWH's laws and commands and you will receive the blessings he has offered to those who are faithful.

YHWH Declares to Yoshua: 7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for YHWH your ELOHIM will be with you wherever you go.”

10 So Yoshua ordered the officers of the people: 11 “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land your Yehovah is giving you for your own.’”

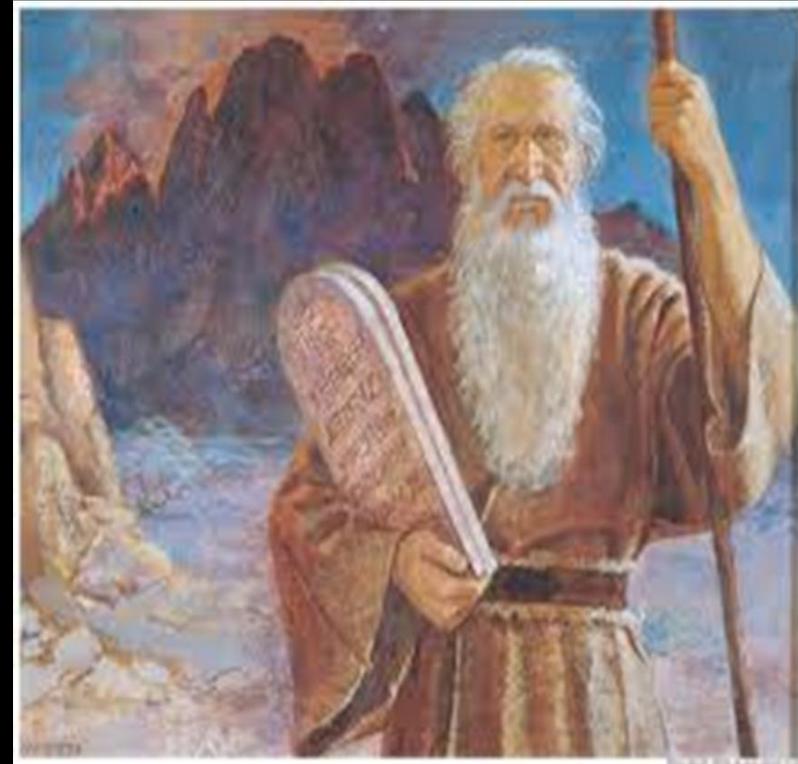


## GET THE FIGHTING MEN READY FOR BATTLE

12 But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Yoshua said, “Remember the command that Moshe the servant of YHWH gave you after he said, ‘YEHOVAH will give you rest by giving you this land.’ 14 Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moshe gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them until YHWH gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land YHWH is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moshe the servant of Yehovah gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

## THE LAW GIVES MAN INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO LIVE

The time before YHWH's law was instituted the world was an exceedingly wicked place and the people sinful on every level. The bondage the Israelites endured in Egypt is analogous to life before the law. Without YHWH's law there was no direction for the people, one was free to decide what was right and wrong in one's own eyes. The law and commandments gave man a sense of direction by setting down in stone the morals that people must follow. It is important to note that the Ten Commandments did not solve the problem completely, but simply gave a general direction to follow.



# WHY DID YHWH WANT THE CANAANITES UTTERLY DESTROYED?

Part of the answer can be found in Leviticus 18 and Deuteronomy 18:9–14. In these passages the Bible describes the Canaanites at the time of Yoshua as being an exceedingly wicked people who were indulging in incest, adultery, polygamy, bestiality, homosexuality, witchcraft, child sacrifice to Molech, and a variety of other “abominable customs” (Leviticus 18:30).

The people had become a dangerous threat to others and if permitted to live would have turned the Israelites away from following Yehovah (Deuteronomy 7:4). So YHWH determined that no man would be able to stand before the Israelites until the Canaanites were destroyed (Deuteronomy 7:24).

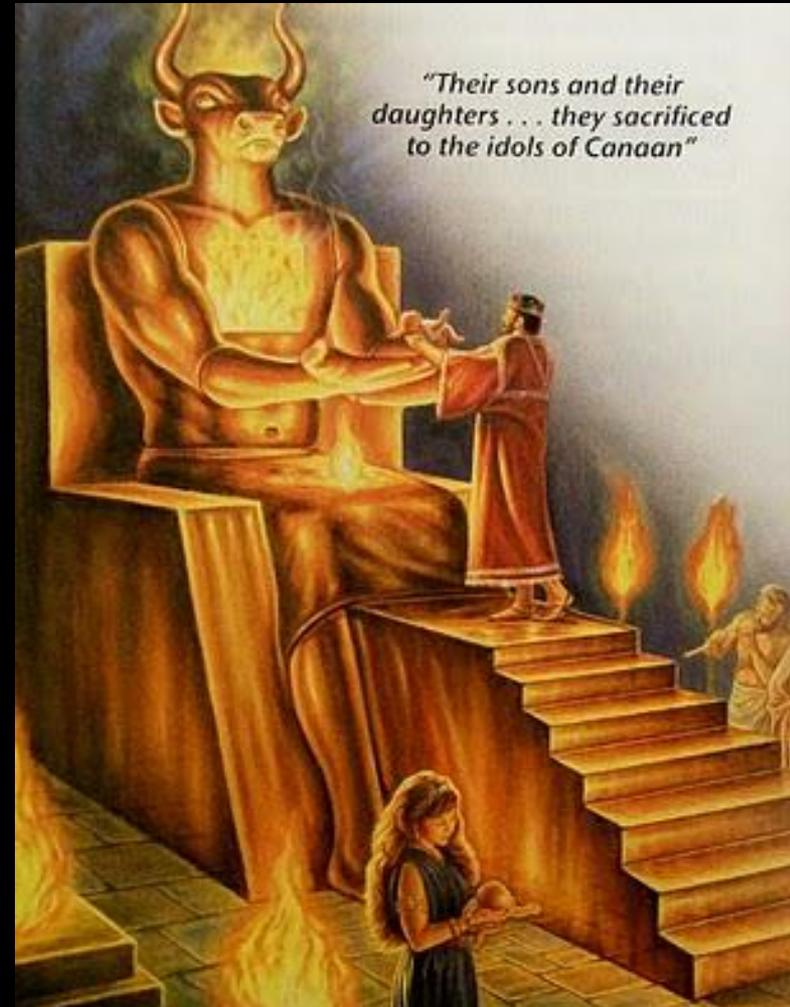
The Bible says that YEHOVAH is slow to anger (Genesis 15:16, Numbers 14:18). He does not delight in the death of the wicked; He would rather people turn from their wicked ways and live (Ezekiel 18:23). Should the Canaanites have turned their backs on their evil ways as the Ninevites did (Jonah 3:10), YHWH would likely have shown the Canaanites mercy. But they did not repent. And so HIS judgment fell on them.

YHWH used the Israelites to drive them out of the land—just as He would use the Assyrians and Babylonians centuries later to drive the Israelites out of the land for the same sins!

We will find as we go through this that Jericho is a representative of all the nations and peoples of Canaan. It is a symbolic war here; a symbolic judgment on one city that stands for God's judgment on the whole land.

## THE CAANANITES WERE CHILD MURDERERS

Bible historian Henry H. Halley notes that archaeologists excavating the area “found great numbers of jars containing the remains of children who had been sacrificed to Baal [a prominent god of the Canaanites].” He adds: “The whole area proved to be a cemetery for new-born babes. . . . Canaanites worshipped, by immoral indulgence, as a religious rite, in the presence of their gods; and then, by murdering their first-born children, as a sacrifice to these same gods.



There is archaeological evidence to support that these enemies of Israel consecrated their infants to these devils. Archeologists have found that it was common for these Canaanites tribes to sacrifice an infant and place its body in the foundation of their house as some sort of bizarre "house blessing" ritual.

Their religious sites are filled with two things: the skeletons of sacrificed children and fertility figurines with enlarged sex organs. These people lived for Satan. They dedicated their children to Satan. They even sacrificed their children to Satan. Any surviving children would have been set apart to serve the devils and these children were likely filled with devils.



## HAVE YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF WHY YHWH INSISTED ON EVEN KILLING THE ANIMALS AND CHILDREN OF THE CANAANITES?

I believe this will help answer this question. These people were irrevocably given over to Satan and his demons. Demons can possess children and they can possess animals.

“The devils therefore went out of the man and entered into the swine. And the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake and were stifled.” (Luke 8:33)

YHWH ordered the deaths of children and animals in the last case because the men, women, children, and animals were possessed by devils. It would not be fitting for Israel to adopt demon-possessed children and demon-possessed livestock.

These pagan people consecrated their children and livestock to Baal who is a devil. Imagine if you poured goats blood on a baby and baptized the child for the devil. Would that baby have spiritual problems? You bet. These Canaanite children had been handed over to the devils that their parents worshiped.

Repeatedly, the Bible states that when the Gentiles (nations) worshipped, and when Israel worshipped as the Gentiles did, they were actually worshipping demons (Lev.17:5-7; Dt.32:12-18; Ps.106:34-38; 1Cor.10:18-22).

"The gods of other nations are mere idols, but YHWH made the heavens!(Psalm 95:5)

"The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice unto devils, and not to God." 1 Corinthians 10:20

# DIVINE JUDGEMENT AGAINST SIN

We could say that Jericho, then, was a divine judgment against the Amorites and the Canaanites for their mounting sins. Go back to Deuteronomy 9 and see this specifically said.

Deuteronomy 9:4-5 Do not think in your heart, after YHWH your ELOHIM has cast them out before you, saying, `Because of my righteousness YHWH has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that YHWH is driving them out from before you. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that YHWH drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfil the word which HE swore to your fathers, to AVraham, Yitzchaq and Yaacov.

<http://www.bibletools.org/>

# ISRAEL HAD 7 MAJOR ENEMIES AND OUR FLESH HAS 7 MAJOR ENEMIES

Joshua 3:10 And Joshua said, “By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites.

These seven enemies had to be conquered before the children of Israel would be able to take possession of the land YHWH had promised.

The meanings of their names lend to some interesting insights that are reflective of the spiritual enemies of our flesh that we are confronted with as we enter and take possession of the promised land of an eternal relationship with YEHOWAH and the life He intended us to have.



These enemies are also represent the fleshly occupants of the territories of our soul that must be conquered through faith in the completed work of Yahshua on the cross so we can take possession of the land of our lives.

The names of these enemies show a progression and downward spiral of allowing these fleshly enemies, empowered by our sin and rebellion, to dwell in the land of our lives. Lets take a brief look at each one and then we will see how they operate and function in us that we would not be ignorant of his devices. (II Corinthians 2:11) by Tamarajo

The first enemy were the Canaanites and their name means humiliation, embarrassment, and or shame.

The second was the Hittites. Hitti means fear or terror.

The third were the Hivites. Hivi means smallness and too much rest (depression)

The fourth one was the Perrizites. Periz means to separate, become fragmented and have no boundaries

The fifth one was the Gergashites. Gergashi means deception.

The Sixth on was the Amorites. Amori means Pride and the need for public approval (rebellion is the behavior exhibited)

The Seventh was the Jebusites meaning oppression

# CONQUERING OUR ENEMIES



We can see what happens when sin operating through our flesh is the ruling force in our souls, there is a progressive downward spiral of its destroying forces. It begins with humiliation and shame.

The first step to defeating these fleshly enemies is to acknowledge their existence and the problems they are causing, acknowledging that have we have either made a god of ourselves, others, or things to remedy it.

It is important to look at how we take life into our own hands without considering what YHWH might do for us and direct us to do. When YHWH is not on the throne of our hearts our flesh is. [by Tamarajo](#)

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

“ YHWH resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of YHWH, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.



# PART 2

## THE STORY OF YOSHUA AND RAHAB

## AND THE JORDAN RIVER CROSSING

# RAHAB THE HARLOT

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

2 The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”



4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them.

She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from.

5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.”



6 But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.

7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, "I know that the YHWH has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you.



10 We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.

11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for YEHOWAH is G-D in heaven above and on the earth below.



# RAHAB – A WOMAN OF FAITH!

12 “Now then, please swear to me by YEHOWAH that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them —and that you will save us from death.”

14 “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when YEHOWAH gives us the land.”



So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

17 Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.

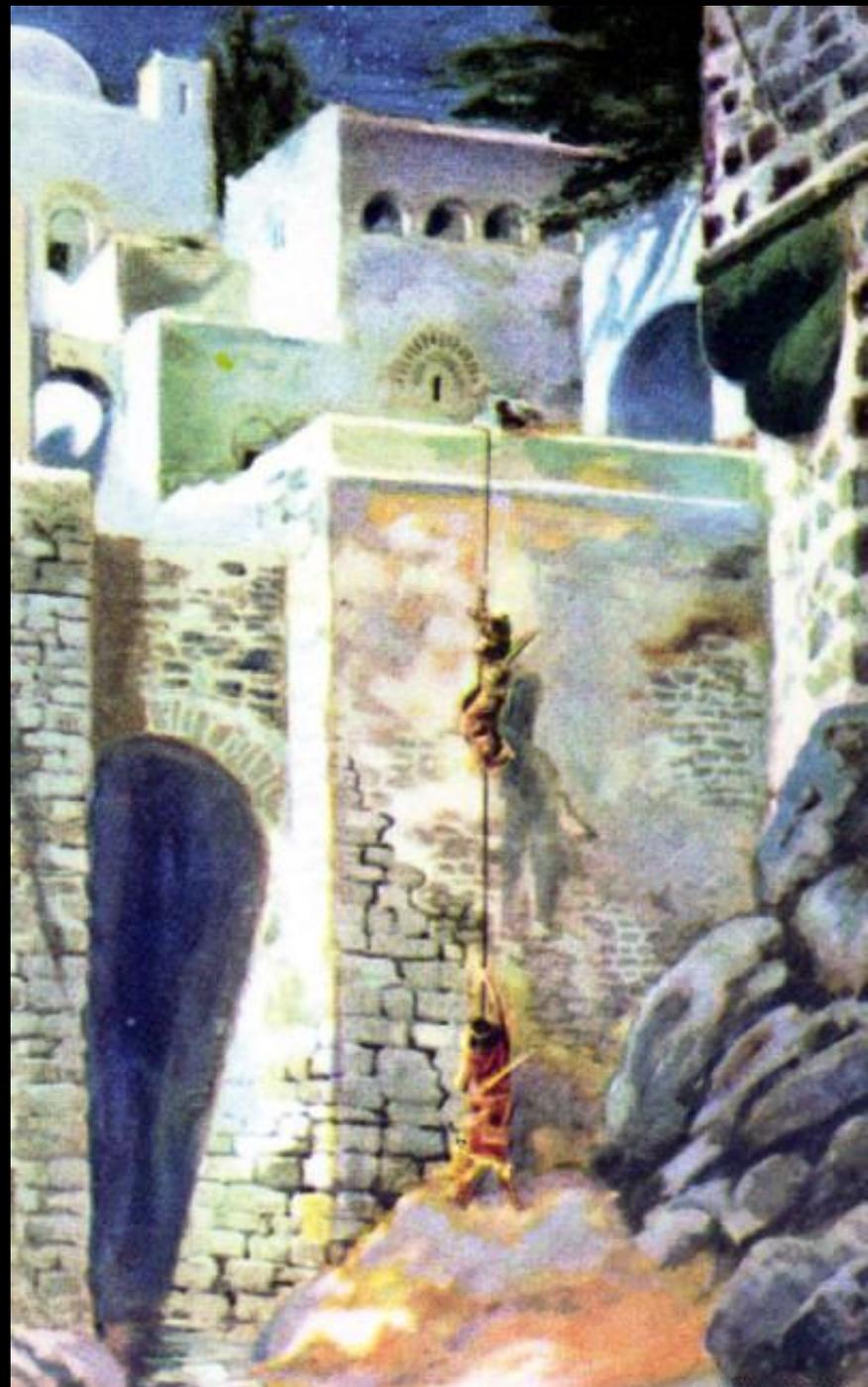


19 If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them.

20 But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear. ”

21 “Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.”

So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.



22 When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. 23 Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Yoshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. 24 They said to Yoshua, “YHWH has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”



N

Beth-el  
★

★ Ai

Abib 11-13

Israel Circumcised  
(three day wait)

Abib 14

Passover  
(Sabbath)

Abib 10

Israel Crosses Jordan  
(Tuesday)

Abib 15-21

Battle for Jericho  
(Unleavened Bread)

Abib 15

Wave Sheaf Day  
(Sunday)

Jericho

Abib 7-9

Israel Camps at Jordan  
(three day wait)

Abib 6

Israel Moves to Jordan  
(Friday)

Abib 15

Wave Sheaf Cut at Gilgal  
(End of Sabbath at Sunset)

Abib 15

Sheaf Waved at Gilgal  
(Sunday Morning)

Abel-Shittim

Israel Camped  
from Shittim  
to Jeshimoth

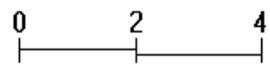
Jerusalem

Beth-Jeshimoth

Mt. Nebo

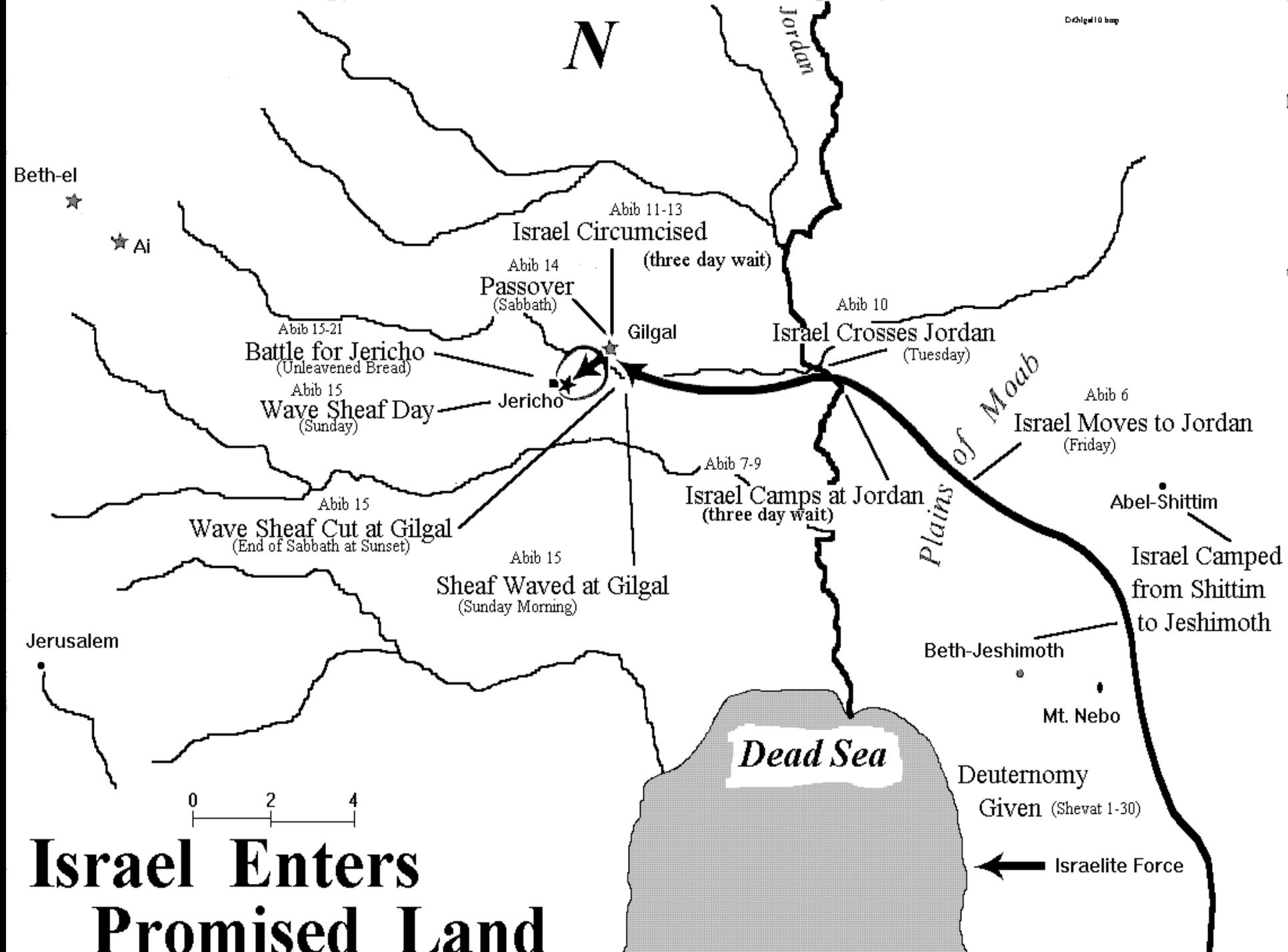
Dead Sea

Deuteronomy  
Given (Shevat 1-30)



← Israelite Force

# Israel Enters Promised Land



# Crossing the Jordan

Yehoshua 3: 1 Early in the morning Yoshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. 2 After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 3 giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.

4 Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.” 5 Yoshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow YEHOWAH will do amazing things among you.”



6 YOSHUA said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them. 7 And YHWH said to YOSHUA, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moshe. 8 Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"

**About 13 miles between  
Abel-shittim and Jericho**

Jericho  
River

Gilgal?

Jericho

Abel-shittim

Jerusalem ●  
Bethlehem ●

Nebo

DEAD SEA

**Crossing the Jordan** **MOAB**  
**Gilgal east of Jericho**



9 YOSHUA SAID TO THE ISRAELITES, "COME HERE AND LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF THE YHWH YOUR ELOHIM. 10 THIS IS HOW YOU WILL KNOW THAT THE LIVING G-D IS AMONG YOU AND THAT HE WILL CERTAINLY DRIVE OUT BEFORE YOU THE CANAANITES, HITTITES, HIVITES, PERIZZITES, GIRGASHITES, AMORITES AND JEBUSITES.

11 SEE, THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF YHWH OF ALL THE EARTH WILL GO INTO THE JORDAN AHEAD OF YOU. 12 NOW THEN, CHOOSE TWELVE MEN FROM THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, ONE FROM EACH TRIBE. 13 AND AS SOON AS THE PRIESTS WHO CARRY THE ARK OF YEHOVAH—THE MASTER OF ALL THE EARTH—SET FOOT IN THE JORDAN, ITS WATERS FLOWING DOWNSTREAM WILL BE CUT OFF AND STAND UP IN A HEAP."

14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15 Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing.



It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea ) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of YEHOVAH stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.



Yoshua 4: When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2 “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, 3 and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight. ”

4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, 5 and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, 6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 7 tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. 9 Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been[a] in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.



# 40,000 MEN ARMED FOR WAR CROSSED INTO JERICHO

10 Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything ADONAI had commanded YOSHUA was done by the people, just as Moshe had directed YOSHUA. The people hurried over, and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of YEHOVAH and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. 12 The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moshe had directed them. 13 About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before ADONAI to the plains of Jericho for war.

14 That day YHWH exalted YOSHUA in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moshe.

15 Then YEHOWAH said to Yoshua, 16 “Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.”

17 So Yoshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.”

18 And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of YEHOWAH. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

# HIS WAYS AND THOUGHTS ARE HIGHER THAN OURS

Chapter 5 describes the consecration of the people of Israel in preparation for the great task that lay before them. As such, it stands as a bridge between the crossing of the Jordan and the beginning of the military campaigns to subjugate the inhabitants of the land. For many, however, especially to those trained in military tactics, this chapter may seem like an enigma, at least from man's point of view. And of course, that's precisely the issue here. YEHOWAH's ways are infinitely higher than ours. From all appearances, now was the time to attack the enemy. The people of Israel were filled with the excitement and motivation of having miraculously crossed the Jordan. They apparently knew the enemy was in disarray from the standpoint of their morale (5:1); so surely, it was time to strike.

Many of the military leaders under Joshua's command may have been thinking, "For goodness sake, let's not wait! Let's go! Now is the logical time and the enemy is ripe for the taking!"

But in YHWH's economy and plan there are spiritual values, priorities, and principles that are far more vital and fundamental to victory or our capacity to attack and demolish the fortresses that the world has raised up against the knowledge and plan of YHWH (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

Looking at conditions from our perspective of deadlines, feeling the pressure to perform and accomplish things in order to please people and sometimes our own egos, we are too often in a hurry to 'get the show on the road.' But to be successful from YHWH's standpoint, certain things are essential if we are going to attack the various fortresses of life in His strength and according to His principles.

Before Israel was ready to face the enemy, they too needed a similar preparation of heart and willingness to submit to YHWH's directions that they might experience His power. To ensure victory, YHWH took them through several events to instruct and prepare them for battle. Chapter five falls into five instructive sections, each one fundamental to victory. These include:

(1) A statement regarding the morale of the inhabitants of the land (5:1). Essential to spiritual victory is our understanding that in YAHSHUA, all the enemies we face are, in essence, defeated foes (cf. Rom. 6; Col. 2:1-15; Heb. 2:14).

(2) The renewal of the rite of circumcision (5:2-9). As a sign of God's covenant with Abraham, circumcision stood for Israel's faith in God's promises which included the possession of the land as their inheritance. It was an act of faith and spiritual preparation. [WWW.BIBLE.ORG](http://WWW.BIBLE.ORG).

(4) Eating of the produce of the land with the ceasing of the manna (5:11-12). As just seen, observing the Passover stood for YEHOWAH's deliverance out of Egypt and from judgment of the destroying angel, but for HIS covenant people, deliverance from Egypt included the promise they would inherit the land, a land of abundance, a land of wheat, barley, fig trees, olive oil and honey (cf. Deut. 8:8-9). It spoke of their new beginning, of their new life as the people of YEHOWAH, delivered from judgment and rock solid in the place of blessing. May I repeat the principle: the Passover not only looked back, but it looked forward to their new life in the land enjoying its abundant blessings by the power of YAH. Thus, eating of the produce was an act of confirmation of HIS abundant blessing.

(5) Yoshua's encounter with the Captain of the hosts of the Lord (5:13-15) becomes the last key event of preparation.

**WE WILL NO GO IN DEPTH TO EACH OF THESE 5 EVENTS.**

# GILGAL AND THE 12 STONES

19 On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. 20 And Yoshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.

21 He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ 23 For YHWH ADONAI dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. HE did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. 24 He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of EL ELYON is powerful and so that you might always fear YHWH your G-D. ”

The text states (Joshua 4: 6) that the Torah is written on stones in order to ensure the permanence of its message. “When your children will ask their fathers in the future: ‘What is the meaning of these stones?’ You will inform your children: ‘Israel crossed this Jordan on dry land.’” (Joshua 4: 21-22.)

Elsewhere the Torah commands rituals, like the Paschal lamb, as a way of memorializing certain events for future generations. (Exodus 12: 26, 13: 14, Deuteronomy 6: 20.) In this case, stones have the advantage of physical longevity. In the time of the Torah the stone was seen as a highly durable object. For example, when enemies ratified a treaty, they used a stone as a witness.

This symbolic durability of the stone also signifies treaties between man and YEHOWAH, as in the case of many altars in the Bible that are made only of whole stones. Perhaps the most prominent use of stones as a covenant is the case of the Tablets that Moshe brought down from Sinai.

## Gilgal Argaman

An Iron-age ceremonial site which was recently excavated in the Jordan valley near Moshav Argaman. It is likely that this site was erected by the Israelites, leaded by Joshua, and was their first camp after crossing the Jordan.

Round Altar at Gilgal



This verse in Joshua 4 gives us the exact date of Israel's entrance into the Promised Land: "And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho" (verse 19).

This date is significant because it was the day appointed by YHWH for choosing the Passover lambs. In only four days, it would be time to observe the Passover--the first Passover kept by Israel in the Promised Land. But there remained one major obstacle to Israel's keeping the Passover. Since none of the new generation of Israelite males had been circumcised, they were forbidden by YHWH's law to partake of the Passover! YHWH had clearly commanded through Moshe that "no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof" (Ex. 12:48).

# CIRCUMCISION IS CUTTING A COVENANT WITH YHWH

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. ”

9 Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. 10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.

## Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal

Joshua 5: 2 At that time YHWH said to Yoshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

4 Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age —died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. 5 All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. 6 The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the YHWH.

For YEHOVAH had sworn to them that they would not see the land He had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

7 So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones YOSHUA circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. 8 And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

Remember that the land of Canaan was also still possessed by wicked nations that Israel was to defeat and cast out! But before they could begin their work, YHWH instructed them to be circumcised. Shaul tells us that we too, are circumcised!

Col 2:11-12: "In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Yahshua, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of Yahweh, who raised him from the dead."

Before we can begin to take over our promised land, we too, must be circumcised! And this happens when we are baptized and raised with Him through faith in the Power of **Jehovah-mekoddishkem: YHWH whom Sanctifies!**

So just like Israel had to stop and be circumcised, when we accept Yahshua into our hearts, and cut a covenant with ALMIGHTY YHWH and have our hearts circumcised!

9 Then YHWH said to Yoshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

The Torah says that after Israel was circumcised, the "reproach of Egypt" was "rolled away

What does this mean to us? When we accept Yahshua into our lives, our hearts become circumcised, and the reproach of our old sinful lives are "rolled away"! Gone! Seen by YEHOWAH as if they never existed! "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Yahshua HaMaschiach, because through Yahshua HaMaschiach the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom 8:1-2)!

There are two Hebrew words for a wheel around which the design of the Bible revolves; they are translated as orphan and galgal. The first one is the plural and the second is the singular. The etymology of galgal is particularly relevant to the study of the Wheel of God. A closely related word is Gilgal, this differs by only in a single vowel which was not part of the original text as it appears in Joshua 5.9; The shame of sin (bondage in Egypt) is gone!

‘Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.’

The root common to the two words rolled and Gilgal is galgal, which express the notion of something round, circular or rolling. It forms the root word for Galilee, the place where the lord Jesus carried out his ministry. It consisted of visiting a circuit (galeel) of cities.

# THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY HAS A DOUBLE MEANING



This was exactly what Samuel did when he judged Israel, he went from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah and resided at Ramah (1Sam: 7:16). It also forms the root for Megillah which denotes the scroll or the roll of a book, as used by Zechariah about a flying roll and in Psalm 40.

All of these ideas come together in the meaning of the root Galah, which is translated as uncovered, discovered, opened, or revealed. It is used in Isaiah 53.1 “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the YEHOVAH revealed?” This is the Hebrew root – the root of the word Revelation – that governs the overall structure of Scripture!

Yet there is more – not only does this root express both the nature of Scripture (it is a revelation from YHWH) and its geometric form (a wheel) it also encodes the axial theme about which this wheel of revelation revolves!

The name of the place where YAHSHUA was crucified is the Aramaic Golgotha, which became Golgotha in Greek. It came from galgal through the Hebrew word for a skull, gulgoluth, because of its round form.

The name of the place where YAHSHUA was crucified, therefore, differs from the Hebrew word denoting a wheel, galgal, by the addition of two letters, the Aleph and the Tav. These are the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet that govern the overall structure of YHWH's Wheel. They correspond to the Greek Alpha and Omega, by which the YAHSHUA HAMASCHIACH identified himself. The Hebrew Tav denotes the axis or the cross around which the wheel revolves. The two letters Aleph and Tav combine to form the word Eth which when added to galgal is an anagram of the word Golgotha; this became the centre for YHWH's revelation to humanity. There is still more.....As you digest this morning, think about God wonderful design which all started at Gilgal.

By Pastor Bell. Read the references given: Joshua 5, 1 Samuel 7, Psalm 40 and Isaiah 53.

# YAHSHUA FULFILLS THE TORAH AT GULGOTHA

