

“CONSECRATION AT GILGAL”

I. Joshua 5:1-15

A. Last week we talked about Israel crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land...

- 1) Joshua led them across on dry ground, a sign that their trust in God was well placed and God Himself would be with them as they took possession of the land...
- 2) One man from each tribe was chosen to select a stone from the middle of the Jordan. These stones were built into a memorial to commemorate this day...
- 3) Gilgal was the place the stones were stacked and it became Israel's base of operation as they subdued the Promised Land... Later, Israel's first king, Saul, would be anointed there; then rejected there. It became a base for prophets and was visited by Elijah and Elisha in their days...

B. Today we pick up where we left off last Sunday--in Gilgal. They are 2 miles from the fortified city of Jericho. Battle plans are being drawn up and Israel's enemies are trembling in fear... But first the people's hearts had to be consecrated...

C. Joshua 5:1-15 God's people are circumcised and celebrate Passover...

- 1) With Israel's enemies melting in fear, it is time for God's people to consecrate their hearts in preparation for taking possession of the Promised Land...
- 2) Because their forefathers died in the desert, God wants all the males circumcised. This was a sign of God's Covenant, first established with Abraham...
- 3) The name Gilgal (*Roll or rolled away*) is explained... (*Etymologically it has the same root word as Golgotha a.k.a. Calvary...*)
Lyrics to: "Rolled Away"
- 4) Then the people celebrated Passover. This had not taken place for 39 years and this was only the third time: First in Egypt; once in the desert; and now...
- 5) Then Joshua, personally scouting out Jericho, encounters the Commander of the Army of the Lord. (*A Theophany or Christophany- a pre-incarnate encounter with the Lord Himself...*) Joshua understands Who is in charge of this great undertaking... He prepares for battle on His face. (*He who has ears let him hear...*)
- 6) Joshua is told to take off his sandals like Moses at the burning bush because he is standing on holy ground... Awesome!

D. Israel had successfully crossed the Jordan on dry ground. Just 2 miles away was Jericho, their first military obstacle... But God wanted them to first consecrate their hearts, remind them Whose people they were, reinforce Who and What this was all about.

- 1) Circumcision was an individual demonstration of God's Covenant with them and Passover was a corporate demonstration of God's Covenantal faithfulness...
- 2) The ultimate fulfillment of God's Covenant came through Christ--dying on the Cross for our sins and rising from the dead...
- 3) Circumcision corresponds with Baptism (did you know that?) And Passover corresponds with the Last Supper (Communion). Quote by Gene Friberg... Turretinfan writes: *"The un-bloody sign of baptism replaces the bloody sign of circumcision, just as the un-bloody Lord's Supper replaces the bloody Passover."*
- 4) Baptism is the way each person individually demonstrates publicly their faith in Christ... Colossians 2:9-12...
- 5) The Last Supper was the first Communion... Communion is the way we corporately demonstrate we are God's Covenantal people; a people redeemed by the blood of the Lamb... John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7b; Romans 3:25-26...

E. As I have pondered and prayed for our church the last couple months with respect to the building being given to us, I have a sense that what lies ahead for us far surpasses what is coming with the brick and mortar; I sense it is a new season, a new era even, for this family of believers...

- 1) I want our hearts to be ready for all that God has in store... I want us to consecrate our hearts & lives anew as we go forward... I want us to be *"all in"* for God!
- 2) What was God's heart for Israel with respect to the Promised Land? How would they eventually misuse the land and its privileges for purposes other than God's purposes? (*It behooves us to take note of Israel's eventual failures...*)
- 3) We know God has provided so generously to all of us. Many good things have come from His hands! But may we as a family of believers not find ourselves staring at His hands and what His hands have provided. May we instead look to His face... May we take in and absorb the countenance of His love; listen for His voice to speak afresh to us through His Word; and may we peer through His eyes--taking on His perspective--with respect to all He would have us do for the glory of His name!

* Close with 1 Peter 2:1-12 & Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Joshua 5:1-15 (NIV)

1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites. **2** At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "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 Lord. For the Lord 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 Joshua 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. **9** 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. **10** On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. **11** The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. **12** The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan. **13** Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" **14** "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" **15** The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Colossians 2:9-12 (NIV)

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, **10** and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. **11** In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

John 1:29 (ESV)

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 Corinthians 5:7b (NKJV)

7b For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Romans 3:25-26 (HCSB)

25 God presented Him as a propitiation through faith in His blood, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. **26** God presented Him to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.

1 Peter 2:1-12 (NIV)

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4** As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." **7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," **8** and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **11** Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Baptism & Communion in Joshua 5

Circumcision and Passover. These are the two main identities of the Jewish faith.

One is the initiation into the Jewish faith, the other is the continuation of it.

Abraham was key to introducing the first and Moses the second.

One could not be part of the faith without both these outward signs

Is there any correlation in the NT?

Baptism and The Lord's Supper.

One is the initiation into the faith and the other is the continuation of it.

- "Baptism & Communion in Joshua 5" by Pastor Gene Friberg, Trinity Bible Church, 10/30/05

Some Excellent Video Clips

"Healing Hand of God" by Jeremy Camp (Thanks Doug Price!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpuzUQsJdT8>

Baptism is Symbolism - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQCqUfe-0JA>

Texting God--Francis Chan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk6ic90nLLY>

"Unstoppable" by Kirk Cameron - Documentary Film Trailer
(Where is God in the midst of tragedy and suffering?)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzKijw7v6AM>

Bonus Stuff

Rolled Away

Author Unknown

Rolled away, rolled away, rolled away
All the burdens of my heart rolled away
Rolled away, rolled away, rolled away
All the burdens of my heart rolled away

All the sin had to go
'Neath the crimson flow, hallelujah
Rolled away, rolled away, rolled away
All the burdens of my heart rolled away

Golgotha--The Place of Execution

By S. Baring Gould

http://ibiblestudies.com/auth/gould/golgotha_the_place_of_execution.htm

"And they bring him to the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull." - Mark 15:22

Calvary, or Golgotha, is not now distinguishable as a hill, partly because of the accumulation of rubbish from the ruin of the city, in the hollows and valleys, and partly because it is doubtful whether it ever was, properly, a hill. It stood below Zion, and was looked down on from Herod's new palace, but it was slightly above the elevation of the lower town. Its name, Golgotha, more correctly, Golgoltha, comes from the same root as Gilgal, that signifies a hill, and the term golgoi was used for sacred stones, employed in the heathen rites of the Canaanites and Phoenicians, in their worship of Venus (Baaltis). As in Wales and Cornwall, and in Scotland, Pen means "head" and "mountain," so this word golgol came to have a double meaning. Among the early Christians a legend existed, that Calvary took its name from Adam's skull having been buried there, and it is possible that the Jewish rabbis had such a story; but the name Calvary, or Golgotha, properly means only the rounded stone, and by a corruption of the original signification was taken to signify "the place of a skull." Just in the same way, the Capitoline hill, in Rome, was so called, because it was a rounded elevation, but afterwards a fable grew up that it took its designation from the head of a certain Tulus having been dug up there. The spot, Calvary, would seem to have been the place of execution from an ancient date. It is probably mentioned by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:38,39), in a prophecy concerning the rebuilding and enlargement of Jerusalem, in which he foretells that the wall would be built in an extended arc from the hill of Gareb in the East, sweeping round, along the North, to the hill of Goath in the West — and Goath, here, answers to Calvary, and means the place of execution. His prophecy was fulfilled about seven years after the death of Christ, by Agrippa, when Golgotha was actually enclosed within the new walls; and at the present day it lies within the city. - S. Baring Gould, M.A. The Biblical Illustrator

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

By Hank Hanegraaff

No one gets out of this world alive, so this is beyond a doubt the most important question you can ever ask yourself! In fact, the Bible was written, "so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

First, according to Scripture, you need to *realize* that you are a sinner. If you do not realize you are a sinner, you will not recognize your need for a savior. The Bible says we "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Furthermore, you must *repent* of your sins. Repentance is an old English word that describes a willingness to turn from our sin toward Jesus Christ. It literally means a complete U-turn on the road of life—a change of heart and a change of mind. It means that you are willing to follow Jesus and to receive him as your Savior and Lord. Jesus said, "repent and believe the Good News" (Mark 1:15).

Finally, to demonstrate true belief means to be willing to *receive*. To truly receive is to trust in and depend on Jesus Christ alone to be the Lord of our lives here and now and our Savior for all eternity. It takes more than *knowledge* (the devil knows about Jesus and trembles). It takes more than *agreement* that the knowledge we have is accurate (the devil agrees that Jesus is Lord). What it takes is to *trust* in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. The requirements for eternal life are based not on what *you can do* but on what *Jesus Christ has done*. He stands ready to exchange his perfection for your imperfection.

According to Jesus Christ, those who *realize* they are sinners, *repent* of their sins, and *receive* him as Savior and Lord are "born again" (John 3:3)—not physically, but spiritually. The reality of our salvation is not dependent on our feelings but rather on the promise of the Savior who says: "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24).

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

- Hank Hanegraaff - From *The Complete Bible Answer Book*.

Lincoln & Cow Legs

Once, when a stubborn disputer seemed unconvinced, Lincoln said, "Well, let's see how many legs has a cow?" "Four, of course," came the reply disgustedly. "That's right," agreed Lincoln. "Now suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would the cow have?" "Why, five, of course," was the confident reply. "Now, that's where you're wrong," said Lincoln. "Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg." (Author Unknown)