

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED
A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

The Israelites Are Restored Joshua 5:1-12

"Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.'" Joshua 5:9a

Read Joshua 5:1-12.

1. What had the rulers of the land heard about the Israelites? (v. 1; 2:10) How did they respond?

2. Ordinarily, it would be unwise to circumcise an entire army when it is poised for battle in enemy territory (v. 8). How has the fame of God's deeds made "that time" a good one for the circumcision?

3. What did circumcision signify for Abraham and his descendants? (Gen. 17:3-11)

4. What replaces circumcision for us, the heirs of the new covenant? (Col. 2:11-14)

Read Joshua 5:2-9.

5. In this passage, Joshua circumcises a new generation of Israelites. Why did God condemn the previous generation? (Num. 14:1-11, 26-32)

6. What are some reasons they must circumcise themselves now?
 - a. v. 2; Gen. 17:9-12

 - b. vv. 4-5, 7

 - c. v. 10; Ex. 12:48-49

7. Why is God requiring this before they go to war instead of after they settle in the land? (Josh. 1:7-8)

8. What do *you* think it means to "roll away the reproach (shame) of Egypt"?

9. Why is "today" the day the LORD has rolled away the disgrace and shame of being slaves in Egypt? (Gen. 17:7-11)

10. How is becoming a Christian similar to rolling away the reproach of Egypt?

Read Joshua 5:10–12.

11. It has been thirty-nine years since the Passover (Ex. 12:1–30).

- a. Why are they now instituting the celebrating of it? (Ex. 12:25)
- b. How might their remembrance of God's past deliverance encourage them in their present situation?

12. Where have we seen an echo of the Passover already in Joshua? (2:12–21)

13. Read Luke 22:7–20. How is God's deliverance of his people from Egypt (under the old covenant) a picture of our deliverance through Christ (under the new covenant), which we commemorate in the Lord's Supper?

How can the Lord's Supper be an encouragement to us, as the Passover was to the Israelites?

14. The Israelites had been eating manna for forty years. (Ex. 16)

- a. When did it stop? (v. 12)
- b. What is the significance of their eating "the produce of the land" (v. 11) and of the stopping of the manna?

15. Although God provided for the Israelites during their time in the desert, what was the status of the Israelites as they wandered? (Num. 14:30–34; Heb. 3:17)

How does Joshua 5:1–12 reflect a change in their status before God?

16. How has God changed our status? (Eph. 2:1–7; Col. 1:21–23)

How do you see this change reflected in your own life?