

In The Land In The Kingdom

10-23-22

Joshua 4:19-24 NO/OH

¹⁹On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' ²²tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' ²³For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.

They are in the Land. In the NT we are in the kingdom. God has performed a great miracle for us to be HIS children. God tells the people to take some rocks from the Jordan and pile them up on dry land as a reminder what God has done for them. God knows people need to continually remember what God has done for them. In the NT, this is why we take communion. Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." Also, In the Land/in the kingdom we openly identify with God. For the Israelites, this was by circumcision which had a clear message of identification.

Joshua 5:9 (NIV)

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you."

The “reproach of Egypt is rolled away” means the world’s influences and sin are rolled away. In a NT sense we identify with God through baptism.

In the Land Israel acknowledged their “New Life” by celebrating Passover. The NT clearly says in 1Cor.5:7, “Christ is our Passover Lamb” who is the source of our “New Life”.

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

After wandering in the desert for 40 years the Israelite were fed by manna from heaven. In the Land, God’s economy changes for HIS people. The manna stopped!

Joshua 5:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain.

¹²The **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.

Remember God’s physical promise before crossing the Jordan. In the land, the basic need for manna was replaced by the fullness of the abundant provision of the fertile land.

Joshua 1:3 (NIV)

I will give you every place where you set your foot.

In the NT we see the abundant spiritual fulfillment for the children of God living in God's kingdom.

Col.1:13-14 (NIV)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Joshua gives us a physical example of taking the Land that God promised. The NT shows us the spiritual reality for the church.

Heb.13:6 (NIV)

So we say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?"

Heb.13:8 (NIV)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

In the Land/in the Kingdom, all things are ours, but we are totally out of step with the world. Therefore, to possess God's promises we must walk in the light God provides.

Joshua 5:13 (NIV)

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?"**

In the land, God's spiritual presence rules as a warrior confirming HIS promises. God does not choosing sides.

Joshua 5:14 (NIV)

"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?"

God's spiritual, angelic warrior in the land is taking over to fulfill promises. HE came to take over not to choose sides! Do not ask, "Are you for us or against us?" Say, "Take over!"

Joshua 5:15 (NIV)

The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for **the place where you are standing is holy.**"

The Land is Holy Ground not a place of personal achievement. God's given us the land. We only step into it. King David in HIS battles while living in the land understood this.

2Samuel 5:23-24 (NIV)

²³David inquired of the LORD, and HE answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the poplar trees. ²⁴As soon as you **hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees,** move quickly, because that will mean **the LORD has gone out in front of you** to strike the Philistine army."

God told David as soon as you hear the spiritual army of God marching in the tops of the trees, follow them into battle. God had given David the victory. He only had to follow. We in the church should move when we hear God moving above us and before us. We step into what God has already given us.

Eph.1:22-23 (NIV)

²²And God placed all things under HIS feet and appointed Jesus to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of Jesus who fills everything in every way.

This is not human achievement, but God's accomplishment. All these promises are only attainable through Jesus!

Acts 4:12 (NIV)

Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Many of Christians live like Jesus doesn't exist. They accept HIM in name only. We must live like Jesus is alive and takes the land before us fulfilling all HIS promises.