JOSHUA—A TASTE OF THE PROMISED LAND

Crossing Over To Possess The Land

February 7, 2016
Memorials Are Important Reminders For God’s People

- They Are A Reminder of God’s Faithfulness
- They Remind Future Generations Of God's Moving
- Memorials Transmit A Testimony To A New Generation
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- It's Time To Experience The Promised Land
- The Enemy Has No Heart To Resist

(Josh 5:1 NIV) “…their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.”
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Promised Land Entry Symbolizes:

- Removal Of All That Stands Against God’s Promise
- When God Gives The Land -- No One Can Take It Away
100% Commitment & Circumcision

- God Doesn’t Do Things The Way That People Do
- Spiritual Life Must Be Made Right Before The Battle
- They Had Neglected Important Aspects Of Their Faith: Circumcision And Passover
Their Circumcision Was:

- A Sign That They Were The Covenant People Of God
- A Matter Of The Heart
- A Way of Operating Obediently
- The Sign of A Truly Committed Follower
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- Even At Our Weakest -- If We Are Operating Obediently In God’s Plan -- The Enemy Is No Match For Us
- *Every Plan That Seems Good -- Is Not Always Of God*
- *Spiritual Preparation Of Circumcision And Passover Was Needed Before They Could Begin The Conquest*
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- God Calls His People Of All Generations To A Circumcision Of The Heart:
  - A Spirit Of Brokenness And Openness Before Him
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What Does Getting Rid Of Excess Flesh Accomplish?

- Circumcision -- Cuts To The Root Of Identity
- Circumcision -- Cuts To The Root Of Privacy.
- We Can’t Live Successfully Operating In The Flesh
- It Will Hurt – But, There's A Healing Process
The Reproach Of Egypt Is Removed

- **Joshua 5:9 (NIV)** 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.

- **All The Negatives That Egypt Entailed For Israel Were Dealt With Powerfully As The Covenant Between God And His People Was Restored**
Gilgal Means “Rolling Away”

The Reproach Of Egypt Was Rolled Away
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After Circumcision Comes Celebration

- They Were To Celebrate The Passover

- Passover Bonded Them To Both Their Past And Future
The New Covenant Correlation Of Passover Is Communion

Communion With Jesus Is Essential To Our Victory In The Land Of Promise
(Josh 5:11 NIV) 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 of the produce of Canaan.
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- After They Had Eaten The Fruit Of The Land Of Canaan God’s Provision Of The Manna Ceased
- The End Of The Feed Me Mentality (Immaturity)
- Start Of "Conquest And Harvest" Mentality (Maturity)
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This Is A Time For Stretched Potential

- *A Time Of Untapped Potential*
- *A Time For Our Potential To Be Stretched*
- *God Gets Glory When His Potential Is Fulfilled In Us*
What Is Stretched Potential?

- *It Is When We Aim For And Arrive At The Best God Has To Offer*
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- In Mediocrity We Adopt A “Whatever Happens” Attitude
- It Is A Tragedy To Take Potential And Throw It Away
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There Is A Tremendous Price For Mediocrity & Missed Potential:

- Missing: Significance / Accomplishments / Possibilities
- Not Living In The Fullness Of God’s Blessings
- A “Ho-Hum” Existence
- The Costs Of Mediocrity Are Higher Than The Cost Of Possession
If It Is Really Important -- If It Really Matters -- It Will Take Time And Effort
3 Principles Of Stretching Our Potential:

- Growth In Life Costs Us Something
- Productive Life Is Not An Accident
- Winning In Life Involves Seasons Of Pain
The Promised Land Had More Benefits / Potential / Substance -- Than Anywhere They Had Ever Been

Remember: God Has Some Great Victories Ahead!