

Joshua 5

v.1 God has gone before them, the Holy Spirit has convicted of sin, righteousness and judgment to come

Melting hearts are a great thing, if they melt unto repentance. But sometimes hearts melt before God, and then solidify again into an even harder state.

When our spiritual enemies see that we are trusting in God, and are willing to step out in obedient faith - even when it seems crazy - they instantly lose confidence in their battle against us.

We may forget, but our spiritual enemies always remember that *If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom_8:31)* They know that when we are really trusting in God, their defeat is assured.

As they have now entered in (been baptized into the promised land), they must now bring the flesh into that reality

Circumcision- *see Genesis 17*

Why flint knives? Why would God tell Joshua and the Israelites, who were living in the Bronze age, to specifically use flint knives for a very delicate surgical procedure? These people lived in Egypt for hundreds of years. They possessed metal tools and weapons and the technology to produce them. After all, just after they started their walk-about in the desert, they designed and crafted a pretty slick golden calf out there in the wilderness. Moses broke it, in case you're interested.

It's fascinating that God's command to make flint knives, presumes that Joshua was familiar with this "old neolithic technology". It's precisely this Old World flintknapping technology that makes it so interesting. Flintworking at that time revolved primarily around a method called Blade-Core technology. It involves procuring a chunk of flint which is then shaped in a way that allows production of predictable, parallel sided blades. This type of flint blade is sharp. How sharp? Sharp enough to serve as a surgical instrument, and much sharper than a bronze knife is capable of being, due to the relative softness of the metal.

So here we have Stone-Age technology, which apparently enjoyed some degree of familiarity even in the Bronze Age. But in this situational context, God's motive seems focused on the reality that flint blades will cut cleaner, thus resulting in less pain and more rapid healing for the patients. It's almost startling that to think that

God would point to old technology as being superior in this circumstance. How did He know that? Well, He's God.

But wait. There is perhaps an even more compelling reason why God directed flint knives to be used. If you study bronze blades and flint blades under high magnification, you see a stark difference. The surface of a flint blade is quite smooth and homogeneous. A bronze blade is full of pits and grooves, great homes in which all kinds of harmful bacteria can thrive. A blade that is struck from, what would have been the interior of a chunk of flint, is comparatively sterile.

Now it's doubtful that the Israelites had knowledge of bacteria and its ability to cause dangerous infections, but once again, God certainly did. So, is it probable that God commanded Joshua to use old technology because of its superiority in this case? Is it likely that His directive came out of His concern to mitigate pain, discomfort and risk of infection that resulted from doing delicate, non-anasthetical surgery, in a tent. It would seem so

- (Jer 4:4 NKJV) Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings."

- (Deu 30:6 NKJV) "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.- Who does the circumcising ?

- (Rom 2:28-29 NKJV) For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; {29} but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

- (Rom 4:7-12 NKJV) "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; {8} Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin." {9} Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. {10} How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. {11} And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,

{12} and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

- (Col 2:11-14 NKJV) In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, {12} buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. {13} And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, {14} having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

v. 12 no more manna- but God is still providing but in a different way- this is sometimes how God deals with us as we mature in the faith

Gilgal became a beachhead and camp for Israel in their conquest of Canaan. They returned there after battle and remembered, finding strength in the remembrance of the memorial, their obedience, and their redemption.

It is good to have a place like Gilgal in our life. This is a place where we first come into God's promises, a place of memorial, a place of obedience and redemption.- for me it's Memorial Day

v.13-15 as Joshua leads the people, he needs to understand he is not the one in charge, he receives his orders from another-

- understands that the Lord is in the midst of the battle and worships there