

new shore

So they waited. Gilgal. The rolling place.
Here the story turns inward before it turns outward.
The conquest started with submission.

definitions

Using a Bible app or the word glossary at the back of this book,
look up each Strong's number to find the definitions.

reproach

STRONGS DEFINITION | H2781

Joshua 5:9 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

Gilgal

STRONGS DEFINITION | H6002

Joshua 5:14 And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"

commander

STRONGS DEFINITION | H8269

decode the text

Read | Joshua 5:1

As the Lord had said, the Canaanites were terrified.
And can you blame them?
Millions of people just walked into their backyard.

What might run through the minds of Israel's fighting men as they stood on the western shore of the Jordan? What seems like the obvious military move for Joshua and the military at this moment?

whatever they were thinking,
it probably didn't include what God was thinking...

Read Joshua 5:2-9

According to Joshua 5:2 and 5:9, what did the Lord command Israel to do at Gilgal, and what did He declare had been "rolled away"?

Consider Genesis 17:7-14

Observe the text and summarize in your own words. Why was this covenant necessary before they could go forward into the land?

THE COVENANT SIGN WAS A VISIBLE MARKER OF BELONGING,
OBEDIENCE, AND SEPARATION FROM THE

ways of the world

wield the sword

CONSECRATION

Circumcision is more than a physical act. It symbolizes rolling away the flesh, dying to self, renouncing the world, and living to God. Consider Deuteronomy 10:12–17 and Colossians 2:11–15. Gilgal means “rolling away.” What do these passages reveal about true ‘circumcision,’ and what are its marks?

Romans 12:1-2 +2 Timothy 2:21 + Ephesians 4:22-24 . What does God call His people to do, and how does He work in them through the process of being set apart?”

decode the text

Read Joshua 5:10-11

Israel kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at evening on the plains of Jericho.

Read Exodus 12:43–49

Why is observing Passover significant at this moment, and how was circumcision directly connected to participation in it?

THE PASSOVER REMINDED ISRAEL OF GOD'S DELIVERANCE AND PROVISION. THEY COULD NOT ENJOY THE LAND'S ABUNDANCE APART FROM *remembering* WHAT GOD HAD DONE.

wield the sword

COMMEMORATION

Consider 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 + 1 Timothy 1:12-17. What does it mean to “remember” the cross in a way that shapes daily life, not just a moment of reflection? In what ways might forgetting the cross impact our ability to live Spirit-filled lives?

decode the text

Read Joshua 5:12 + Deuteronomy 8:7–10

What changed in Israel’s provision once they entered the land? How did this mark a transition from wilderness dependence to participation in the land’s abundance?

wield the sword

PROVISION

Consider Hebrews 5:12–14 + 1 Corinthians 3:1–3. The manna ceased, and Israel ate the produce of the land. How do these passages describe spiritual maturity? What distinguishes milk from solid food?

decode the text

Read Joshua 5:13-15

What did Joshua ask the armed man, and how did the response redirect Joshua's perspective?

Compare Joshua 5:15 with Exodus 3:5.

Identify the exact verbal parallels. What did this connection suggest about the identity of the speaker and the nature of this encounter?

In Exodus 3, the burning bush marked the commissioning of Moses. How did this encounter function similarly for Joshua at the threshold of conquest?

wield the sword

SUBMISSION

Consider Revelation 19:11–16 In the end, our Warrior King will be unveiled in all His power. Jesus secures the final victory! How does this vision of Christ's final victory shape our understanding of every present battle?

stepping forward



They've crossed the impossible river, but the real conquest hasn't even begun. Gilgal is no mere campsite—it is the decisive turning point. Twelve stones rise as silent, unyielding witnesses to God's power. Circumcision's knives cut deep, stripping away the old identity and rolling back Egypt's reproach forever. Passover is eaten, manna ceases, and the land's produce finally sustains them. Then the Commander of the Lord's army appears—sword drawn—delivering the unmistakable truth: this victory belongs to the Lord alone, not to their swords or strategy.

Entering the Promised Land is one thing. Living in it demands everything. Israel had to consecrate their hearts, renew the covenant, trust God's fresh provision, and follow His Commander without reservation. The abundant life in Christ mirrors this exactly.

It is already yours—purchased at the cross, sealed by the empty tomb, overflowing with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Yet it is not automatic. It requires deliberate consecration, unflinching obedience, and a daily posture of surrender.

The new shore is never just geography. It is a heart position: stripped of old wounds and reproach, feasting on God's daily bread, standing unshod on holy ground, eyes fixed on the Warrior King who has already subdued every foe. This is the abundant life—not passive possession, but active participation under the One who goes before.

Rise, consecrate, obey, follow.

The victory is already His and yours to claim, one surrendered step at a time.