

The Necessary Spiritual Preparation: Five Essentials for Living the Victorious Life Joshua 05:01–15

1. *Essential 1 — must cross over the Jordan River: A picture of crossing over from the old life to a new victorious life*

- a. The Israelites crossed over Jordan by the power of God
- b. The result: Demoralized and paralyzed the enemy

2. *Essential 2 — must be circumcised: A symbol of cutting away the sins of the flesh and being identified as a follower of God*

- a. Joshua obeyed God:
He circumcised the Israelites
- b. The reasons for the circumcision
 - 1) To restore the “sign” (mark) of their commitment, their covenant relationship with God
 - The first generation had died out in the wilderness:
They had been circumcised, but their children had not

1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.”

3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

4 Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt — all the men of military age — died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt.

5 All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had died out because they committed terrible sin, broken the covenant with God • Their children were not circumcised because God had to suspend His covenant relationship with Israel, bar them from the promised land • The second generation had been raised up to replace their fathers: They needed to be circumcised, identified as the true followers of God and inheritors of the promised land • The circumcised men were disabled while healing: To test their faith <p>2) To roll away the “reproach of Egypt”: Circumcision symbolized that the Israelites belonged (were slaves) to God, not to Egypt</p> <p>3. <i>Essential 3 — must remember the Passover: A symbol of God’s power to deliver His people through the shed blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ)</i></p> <p>4. <i>Essential 4 — must celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread: A symbol of the urgency to be free from the world and its sin, liberated to live for God in the promised land</i></p>	<p>6 The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.</p> <p>7 So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.</p> <p>8 And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.</p> <p>9 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.</p> <p>10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.</p> <p>11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain.</p>
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a. They ate the food of the land
in the Feast:
A foretaste of God's blessings
in the promised land

b. The manna stopped

**5. *Essential 5 — must submit
to the true Commander of God's
people, to the LORD Himself***

a. Joshua's encounter while alone
near Jericho to plan and pray

1) Looked up, faced a man
with a drawn sword:
Asked if friend or foe

2) Heard man identify himself as
the "captain of the LORD's host"

b. Joshua's response

1) Fell face down
in submission and reverence

2) Asked for a message
from the LORD

c. The LORD's message
of assurance:
Take off your sandals —
the promised land is holy
(His land);
therefore victory is assured

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 the produce of Canaan.

13 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?"

14 "Neither," he replied,
"but as commander of the army of the LORD
I have now come."
Then Joshua fell faced-own to the ground
in reverence, and asked him,
"What message does my Lord have
for his servant?"

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