

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
007 - LESSON – Sunday – November 9, 2025

3ABNSABBATHSCHOOLPANEL.COM

THE QUARTERS LESSON:
LESSONS OF FAITH FROM JOSHUA
(Second Chances – The Book of Joshua)
By Barna Magyarosi

THIS WEEKS LESSON: WORSHIP IN A WAR ZONE

MEMORY TEXT: Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

This week we are going to look at some key moments during Israel's presence in the Promised Land, when Israel rededicated themselves to the Lord, sometimes in the face of impending danger.

Psalm 137.4 NKJV “How shall we sing the LORD’S song In a foreign land?”

Joshua took the seemingly irrational decision to circumcise the Israelites on enemy territory (**Joshua 5:1-9 (NKJV)**) “**So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel. (2) At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time.” (3) So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. (4) And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. (5) For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. (6) For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD—to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, “a land flowing with milk and honey.” (7) Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. (8) So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. (9) Then the LORD said to Joshua, “This day I**

have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.”

To celebrate the Passover in the face of imminent danger (Joshua 5:10-12 (NKJV) “(10) **Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. (11) And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. (12) Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.”);**

To build an altar and worship the Lord while the conquest was in full swing (Joshua 8:30-35 (NKJV) “(30) **Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal, (31) as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: “an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. (32) And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. (33) Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. (34) And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. (35) There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.”); and**

to set up the tabernacle of the Lord when seven tribes in Israel had not yet received their inheritance (Joshua 18:1-2 (NKJV) “(1) **Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them. (2) But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.”).**

Sunday – COVENANT FIRST

In our busy lives, we tend to give attention to the urgencies that life throws at us. Very often we neglect to carve out quality time to renew our commitment to God and to pause and express our thankfulness for what He has done and daily continues to do for us.

Morning and evening worship, as well as the family altar, seem to be so out of context in our overcharged, convenience-driven, and achievement-oriented life.

Yet, deep in our hearts, we all know the occasions spent together with God and our loved ones are the best investment of our limited time.

Joshua 5:1-7 (NKJV) “(1) So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel. (2) At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time.” (3) So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. (4) And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. (5) For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. (6) For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD—to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, “a land flowing with milk and honey.” (7) Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.”

Why did the Lord command Joshua to circumcise the second generation of Israelites at this particular time of the conquest?

After the exploration of the country, the encouraging report of the spies, and the miraculous crossing over the Jordan, we would expect an immediate engagement with the enemy. However, there is something more important than the military conquest: Israel’s covenant with God.

Before the new generation could engage in taking the land:

- They needed to be fully aware of their special relationship with the Owner of the land.
- The renewal of the covenant sign comes as a response to God’s gracious and miraculous act of bringing Israel safely across the Jordan.

Our covenant with God should always be an answer of gratitude for what He has already accomplished for us, NEVER an act of trying to obtain some benefit by legalistic conformity to His requirements.

(This same concept, no doubt, was crucial to Paul’s struggles with those who insisted that Gentile male converts be circumcised, as seen most clearly in his letter to the Galatians.)

God's Covenant was based more on the circumcision of the heart than the circumcision of the flesh.

Romans 2:28-29 (NKJV) "(28) 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."

God's Covenant is not based on physical requires obedience:

1 Corinthians 7:19 (NKJV) "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters."

Hebrews 10:16 (NKJV) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"

God's First Covenant was made for humanity:

Genesis 9:16 (NKJV) "The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* on the earth."

Think about the times you have neglected time with God because of more "important" matters. Why is this so easy to do, and how can we fight against it?

God's Covenant benefits the obedient:

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV) "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments."

God's Covenant changes our standing:

Exodus 19:5 (NKJV) "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and **keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.**"

God's Covenant is accompanied by everlasting blessings:

Isaiah 54:10 (NKJV) "For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you."

8 - GIANTS of Faith: Joshua & Caleb
Don't put God on your schedule, make a covenant.