

## Building Morale Before the Battle Joshua 5

### **A mark—Circumcision, 1-9**

- ❖ This sign of covenant (Gen. 17) hadn't been carried out for 40 years ("again" = 1<sup>st</sup> in Egypt). Why not? See Gen. 17:14 / Num. 14:33,34.
- ❖ Is this really the right time for this ceremony?! A fear-factor, that fulfills Ex. 23:27 explains the Canaanite non-response.

### **A meal—Passover, 10-12**

- ❖ This observance had not been carried out since Mt. Sinai (Num. 9) but is a must (Ex. 12:25). Why not? Ex. 12:48 reveals precondition.
- ❖ Gilgal (*circular / rolling*) is so named to signify Israel's embarrassing wandering is over, as viewed by the Egyptians (Ex. 32:12, Dt. 9:28).
- ❖ This ceremony inaugurates a new diet--manna-miracle ends now.

### **A meeting—Commanders of two armies, 13-15**

- ❖ Joshua is doing a recon of Jericho's formidable defenses and is surprised by a mysterious, sword-wielding figure--the *captain (prince, Dan. 10:12, 12:1) of the Lord's armies*.
- ❖ Who is this angelic and why the evasive / brief answer? Recall Ex. 3:1-4, 23:20ff.? Note that 6:2-5 is probably his fuller answer.



The "biblical circumcision" for us today = Col. 2:11, and our Passover lamb = I Cor. 5:7.

The church is in a war against a very formidably defended foe (Mtt. 16:18), but it is promised success as well.

How has God prepared us for what we face? See Eph. 6:10ff., II Pt. 1:3,4, I Cor. 10:13.