

**Psalm 100:4 “Enter his
gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless
his name!”**

I Will Enter His Gates

I will enter His gates

With thanksgiving

in my heart

I will enter His courts

with praise

I will say this is the day

That the Lord has made

I will rejoice

For He has made me glad

He hath made me glad,

He hath made me glad,

I will rejoice for

He hath made me glad.

I will enter His gates

With thanksgiving

in my heart

I will enter His courts

with praise

I will say this is the day

That the Lord has made

I will rejoice

For He has made me glad

He hath made me glad,

He hath made me glad,

I will rejoice for

He hath made me glad.

**Psalm 118:24 “This is
the day that the Lord
has made; let us rejoice
and be glad in it.”**

This Is The Day

This is the day

This is the day

That the Lord has made

That the Lord has made

We will rejoice

We will rejoice

And be glad in it

And be glad in it

**This is the day
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice
And be glad in it
This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord has made**

This is the day

This is the day

That the Lord has made

That the Lord has made

We will rejoice

We will rejoice

And be glad in it

And be glad in it

**This is the day
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice
And be glad in it
This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord has made**

**Psalm 95:2 “Let us
come into his presence
with thanksgiving; let us
make a joyful noise to
him with songs of praise!**

Come Into His Presence

Come into His presence

With thanksgiving

in your heart

And give Him praise

And give Him praise

Come into His presence

With thanksgiving

in your heart

Your voices raise

Your voices raise

Give glory and honor

and power unto Him

Jesus the name above all names

Come into His presence

With thanksgiving

in your heart

And give Him praise

And give Him praise

Come into His presence

With thanksgiving

in your heart

Your voices raise

Your voices raise

Give glory and honor

and power unto Him

Jesus the name above all names

Journey Into Success

How To Experience God

TEXT: Joshua 5:1-9;

**Please Open Your Bibles and Let Us
Read Together**

Joshua 5:1 “As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel. 2 At that

time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time.” 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. 4 And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they

had come out of Egypt. 5 Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. 6 For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they

did not obey the voice of the Lord; the Lord swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

8 When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. 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.”

Introduction:

God used the miracle of dividing the Jordan River to authenticate Joshua as His leader.

The miracle also sent a message to non-believers because...

"... and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel. (Joshua 5:1)



ARAMEANS

Damascus

Hivites

Israel
During
Joshua's
Time

BASHAN

The 7
Nations
of Canaan

Gergashites

Canaanites

GILGAL

Amorites

AMMONITES

JERICHO

PHILISTINES

Perizzites

Hittites

MOABITES

EDOMITES

Now would seem to be a good time to attack because the Canaanites are unprepared, demoralized, frightened, and in no condition to fight.

However, God knew the spiritual condition of the hearts of the Israelites was far more important than any temporary military advantage they might have.

**They needed to have a fresh,
personal experience with Him, not
just be a part of an impersonal
miracle.**

**In order to Successfully
Experience GOD**

There Must Be...

I. COMMITMENT -

The trait of sincere and steadfast fixity of purpose;

A. CIRCUMCISION - Joshua 5:2

"At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make **flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time."**

**This was the “bronze age”;
(3300-1200 BC).**

The Israelites would have had metal knives, but a flint knife was probably the way Abraham was circumcised.

Genesis 17:11 "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a **token**

of the covenant betwixt me and you."

Joshua 5:5 "Now all the people that came out were **circumcised**: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not **circumcised**."

It should be noted that when Abraham was circumcised it did not convey any special spiritual blessing and it did not save him, because we read in...

Genesis 15:6 "And he **believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."**

This occurred at least 13
years before Abraham was
circumcised.

Circumcision did not take place during the wilderness wanderings but death did.

**40 years wandering
X 365 days in a year =
14,600 days**

Exodus 12:37 "...about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children."

**600,000 (men) / 14,600 (days) = 41
deaths per day of men only.**

**Now add to that the possibility
that most of those men also had a
wife and you will see that the
wilderness wanderings for forty
years was one long funeral,
because of disobedience.**

So now Joshua is commanded to circumcise all the male children born during the past forty years.

Not a very good tactic to incapacitate your army in the very face of the enemy.

In later generations the Jews made this *sign of the covenant* into a means of salvation.

Circumcision did not make the Israelites the children of God; it was a sign they were the children of God and a sign of their obedience.

Likewise, the sign of God's people in the NT is baptism, our first step in obedience to the Lord's commands.

B. BAPTISM

Galatians 3:27 "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

Failure to be circumcised meant a person would be “cut off from his people” Genesis 17:14.

Willingness to be circumcised was outward evidence of inward faith.

Saving faith always has works to back up its claims.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

C. CONFESSION -

Genesis 17:14 "And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is **not** circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."

Therefore, if a person claims a saving faith in Christ and refuses to be baptized, does that indicate the absence of saving faith?

Circumcision and baptism give tangible evidence of saving faith and require people to identify themselves with the people of God.

Matthew 10:32-33 “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

Joshua 5:9 "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."

The first prerequisite for an experience with God is COMMITMENT.....then

II. COMMEMORATION -

Joshua 5:10-12 "And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. 11 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. 12 And the manna ceased on the

morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year."

A. Passover -

Exodus 11:5 "And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts."

Exodus 12:7,13 "And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.12. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

Exodus 12:24 "And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons **for ever."**

B. Lord's Supper

Luke 22:19-20 "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise

also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

The Lord's Supper is really the fulfillment of what the Passover pictured, the ultimate sacrifice for our sins that we might be freed from the slavery of sin.

The prerequisite for Passover was circumcision.

Likewise, baptism should be the prerequisite for participating in the Lord's Supper.

If we have not followed the Lord in Baptism, we have not obeyed the clear command of Christ.

**To Experience God, there must be
COMMITTMENT, COMMEMORATION
and...**

III. COMMUNION

**Joshua 5:13-15 "And it came to pass,
when Joshua was by Jericho, that he
lifted up his eyes and looked, and,
behold, there stood a man over
against him with his sword drawn in
his hand: and Joshua went unto him,**

and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."

Under the tremendous burden of leading God's people to take the Promised Land, Joshua walks out of the camp to view the seemingly impregnable city of Jericho with its invincible walls.


A. Lift Up Your Eyes -

Psalms 121:1-4 "A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

Then “...he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man...”

Jesus also refers to Lord's Army in the garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:53 “Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?”

A 3D schematic cross-section diagram of the fortification system at Jericho. The diagram shows a high stone wall on the left, a green grassy slope in the middle, and a deep brown trench on the right. A smaller stone wall is visible on the right side of the trench. In the bottom right corner, a small group of people is standing on a patch of green grass. The text is overlaid on the diagram in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Schematic cross-section diagram of the fortification system at Jericho based on DR. Kenyon's west trench. (1958)

The mound, or 'tell' of Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base.

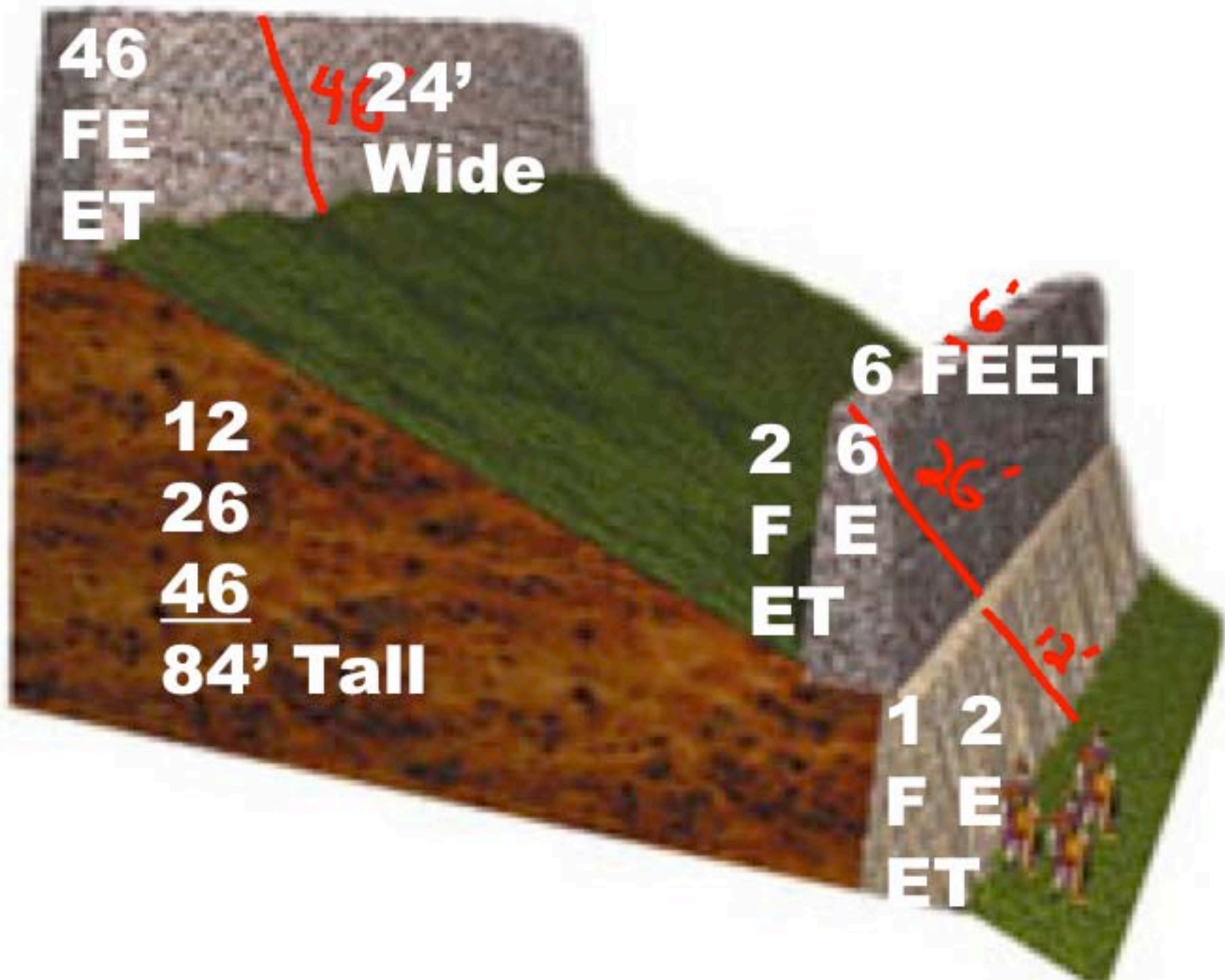
The retaining wall was some four to five meters (12–15 feet) high.

On top of that was a mud brick wall two meters (six feet) thick and about six to eight meters (20–26 feet) high.

At the crest of the embankment was a similar mud brick wall whose base was roughly 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground level outside the retaining wall.

**This is what loomed high
above JOSHUA as he
contemplated the
coming events and
destruction of this city.**

Humanly speaking, it was impossible for the Israelites to penetrate the impregnable bastion of Jericho.



46
FE
ET

46
24'
Wide

12
26
46
84' Tall

6
6 FEET
26'
6
FE
ET

12
FE
ET

B. Take Off Your Shoes

Joshua 5:15 "And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy..."

"...And Joshua did so."

Conclusion:

God had promised to be with Joshua as He had been with Moses.

Joshua followed God's instructions for crossing the Jordan River, erecting the memorial stones, circumcising the people, and reinstating the Passover.

1 Samuel 17:47 "And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands."

John 14:21 "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. ..."

INVITATION



today is the day..
It's your move