

It had been about 255 years since God's people lived in the land of promise.

Joshua 5:2 – 6:5

Israel Prepares for Conquest

Cuts Like a Knife (5:2-9)

- Circumcision had not been practiced during Wandering
 - Why not?
- Thousands of grown men had to be circumcised
- Why was this so important?
- How was this risky? (recall Genesis 34)
- So why now? Why not on the other side of Jordan?
- “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you”



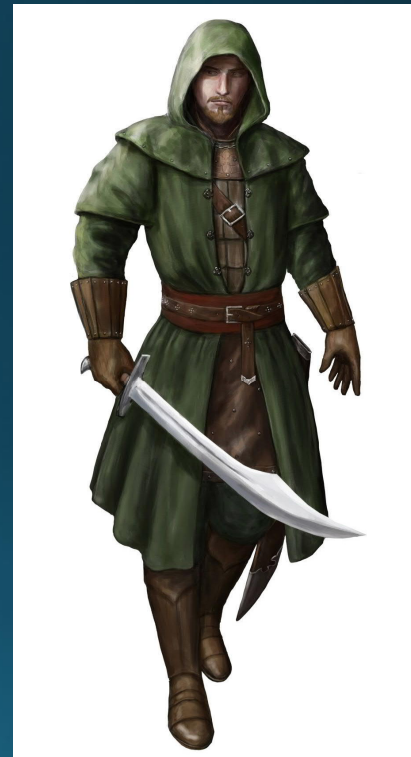
End of the Wandering (5:10-12)

- Passover observed on 14th day (crossed on 10th)
- Ate produce of the land on the 15th
- Manna stopped on the 16th
- What can we learn from these events?
- Any parallels to later events?
 - Spiritual gifts in first-century church (I Cor. 13)



O Captain, My Captain! (5:13 – 6:5)

- Joshua sees a man with drawn sword – and approaches!
 - What does this reveal about Joshua?
- “No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.”
 - Why does He say “no”? Is the Lord not for Joshua & Israel?
 - The Lord’s support is conditional
- Joshua bows in worship – captain has two options
 - Decline it (Acts 10:25-26; 14:15; Rev. 19:10; 22:9)
 - Accept it (what are the implications of this?)
- Who is this? Is this just a vision?



O Captain, My Captain! (5:13 – 6:5)

- Joshua ordered to remove sandals; he is standing on holy ground
- Joshua receives instructions for besieging Jericho
 - Days 1-6: march around Jericho one time
 - Day 7: march around Jericho seven times; trumpets & shouting
 - Walls will fall down on their own
- What was the purpose of this encounter?
 - To confirm God's endorsement of Joshua as leader
 - Captain had sword – the battle belongs to the Lord, not Joshua
 - To relay specific but non-military instructions for battle