

The background of the top half of the image is a textured, light brown stone wall. Scattered across this wall are several dark brown, irregular shapes that resemble stones or pebbles.

Joshua 5:1-12

The background of the bottom half of the image is a light green, textured pattern featuring stylized floral or leaf-like motifs.

Fresh Start

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.



Joshua 5:1-12

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.



Joshua 5:1-12

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.

¹⁰ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.



Joshua 5:1-12

The mark of the Covenant

Genesis 17

- ✓ Covenant was marked with circumcision
- ✓ New generation was not entitled to the covenant full blessings
- ✓ Had to be done for them to know they are accepted by God
- ✓ Mere rituals don't bring us to covenant with God
- ✓ Ritual without relationship is empty in spiritual battles ahead

The wait in the covenant vs.8

- ✓ Waiting is vulnerable
- ✓ God heals in our waiting
- ✓ Waiting can reveal our anxieties
- ✓ Waiting reflective - nursing hurt can lead to deeper reflection – relationship with God & others)- many times when we were hurt we ran to God

Isaiah 40:31, "...but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

The role of the covenant VS 9-12

- ✓ God dealt with their past
 - ✓ (rolled their reproach of Egypt)
- ✓ Reproach included – slavery, oppression, disobedience
 - ✓ Led to losing self worth, self confidence & confidence in God
 - ✓ Past standing as an obstacle to what God has promised
- ✓ God invited them to a fresh start

“Through the circumcision at Gilgal, God rolled away the cloud of guilt and fear that hung over these peoples head”.

Surrender your reproach

The past can stumble us from living the life God wants us to live

- ✓ **Doubt: God to clean and deliver us from the pas**
- ✓ **History of failure: leading to being afraid to accept success**
- ✓ **Fear that nothing will last: leading to not wanting to risk disappointment**
- ✓ **Guilt & shame: feeling like we do not deserve anything good**
- ✓ **Paralyzed by a broken past**

**Gilgal removed reproach –
The cross of Jesus brings eternal life**

The new covenant

Your past should inform you, not control you

Galatians 5:

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Set Apart (Colossians 2)

- ⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
- ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Next steps

- **What are the things in your past that are still controlling you from living the life God wants you to live?**
- **Where are you doubting Gods goodness?
Surrender.**
- **Share in communion**



Communion

*As demonstrated by Jesus on the night he was to be betrayed,
we eat the bread to remember how he broke and gave his body for us,
we drink the wine to remember how he poured out his blood for us to make us new,*

We take communion to remind us of what Christ did for us

All who believe in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus are welcome to partake