

Remembering God's Promises

(Joshua 5:1-15)

Yearly Theme: *"Joy is..."*

Series Title: *Joy in the Promise*

March 1st, 2020

Something to think about:

How would you feel if you knew that there was a 100% chance that you were going to win the next Powerball Lottery in Pennsylvania, totaling more than 400 million dollars? ... And, how would you feel if it was tax free and wouldn't be a burdensome thing for you to manage?

Now, imagine, there are a few things you needed to do in order to receive the money that you've just won. 1) You need to take your winning ticket to a certain location in order to verify your win, 2) Fill out some paperwork so that your win would be documented, 3) Get a tattoo of the Powerball Logo on your arm and then celebrate with a great feast?

Would you do it?

Similarly, the Israelites were offered a promise that was unbeatable; worth more than the lottery. Just after the Exodus from Egypt, the Israelites were brought to a land that God was giving them. It was bountiful, full of life and possibility, but there were certain things they had to do in order to acquire the land. However, they failed, and so, landed in the wilderness for 40 years not getting to cash in on the great prize that God had in store for them.

Now, flash forward 40 years. The Israelites are now on the edge of the Promised Land again. God is giving them a second chance to claim what He had promised them. Joshua is now their leader, and they finally cross over into the Promised Land and acquire the gift of a lifetime. But, again, there are a few things that they need to do in order to acquire all that God has in store for them? What will they do?

Let's take a look...

Turn in your Bible to: Joshua 5:1-15

Commitment to God means commitment to His promises, and remembering all He has in store for us.

The key point this morning is this...

Key Point: *"Remembering and returning to the promises of God reestablishes not only a foundation of hope, but a foundation of joy for the future."*

In order to have joy in God's promise, the people of the Promise had to *remember* certain things...

1. In order to receive the promise of God, the people of the promise had to have the mark of the covenant on their life.

For the Israelites, this was circumcision of the flesh, for Christians today, it is circumcision of the heart through a faith in Christ Jesus.

2. In order to grow in the promise, the people of the promise had to trust that God would continue to provide for them.

Though the Israelites no longer needed the provision of manna from God, they still needed God's provision. As they remained connected to the promise and purposes of God, faithfully trusting and following His lead, they would never be without; God would always watch over and protect and provide for their needs.

3. In order to continue to be people of the promise, the Israelites had to remember that they were on God's side, not Him on their side.

Remember what the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua when Joshua asked him if he was a friend or a foe?... "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the LORD's army."

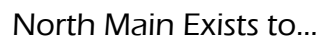
Something to take home:

The foundation of hope and joy in a person's life comes from, not only remembering the promises of God, but also living in the promises of God through a relationship with Jesus.

The Promised Land which we are called to today is Heaven. And, like the Promised Land in the Old Testament, it is a land flowing with milk and honey. It is bountiful, full of prosperity and promise. It is a land of hope and a place of pure love and joy. It's a land where there is no death, only life. There is no loss, only gain. There is purpose in everyday in this land, and our dwelling there is not in vain, nor is it boring. It's a place where we can experience and do what we were created for without complication or difficulty. It's a land of peace, where there are no wars or rumors of wars. There is no political system there, no one vying for our vote, and no one slandering or putting anyone else down in order to make themselves look better.

This is the land for which we were created. And the winning lottery number for everyone who would receive it is salvation through Jesus Christ. However, not many people will cash in on this promise of hope. How about you?

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Know Christ intimately,
Grow in Christ continually, and,
Go for Christ daily;

Copyright © 2019 North Main Street Church of God, Inc.

Lesson 1:

“Remembering God’s Promises” (Joshua 5:1-15)

Remembering God’s Promises

(Joshua 5:1-15)

Series Title: “Joy in the Promise”

KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ What is a “promise?”
- ⇒ What is it like when someone doesn’t fulfill their promise to you? What is it like when someone fulfills their promise to you? Explain...

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

Joshua 5:1-15 (NLT)

¹ When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed (melted) with fear because of them.

² At that time the LORD told Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites.”
³ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the entire male population of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth (or, “The Hill of Foreskins).

⁴ Joshua had to circumcise them because all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died in the wilderness. ⁵ Those who left Egypt had all been circumcised, but none of those born after the Exodus, during the years in the wilderness, had been circumcised. ⁶ The Israelites had traveled in the wilderness for forty years until all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died. For they had disobeyed the LORD, and the LORD vowed he would not let them enter the land he had sworn to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷ So Joshua circumcised their sons—those who had grown up to take their fathers’ places—for they had not been circumcised on the way to the Promised Land. ⁸ After all the males had been circumcised, they rested in the camp until they were healed.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt.” So that place has been called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month. ¹¹ The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain harvested from the land. ¹² No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land, and it was never seen again. So from that time on the Israelites ate from the crops of Canaan.

¹³ When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, “Are you friend or foe?”

¹⁴ “Neither one,” he replied. “I am the commander of the LORD’s army.”

At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. “I am at your command,” Joshua said. “What do you want your servant to do?”

¹⁵ The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did as he was told.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. After wandering in the wilderness for 40-years, a new generation of Israelites under the leadership of Joshua finally enter into the Promised Land. The first few chapters of the Old Testament book of Joshua, describe the next steps and processes that the Israelites did in beginning the conquest of the land. Briefly explain what is going on in this specific passage of Scripture:

2. After the Israelites crossed through the Jordan River into the Promised Land, what do the kings west of the Jordan do (v. 1)? Why did they react this way? How would you have reacted?

3. What is one of the first things that GOD told Joshua to do once they entered the land (vv. 2-3)? Why was this necessary (vv. 4-8)?

4. After circumcision of all the male Israelites, how did they celebrate (vv. 10-11)? What disappeared on the day the Israelites ate from the crops of the land (v. 12)? Why is this significant?

5. Soon after the Passover celebration, Joshua encounters a person with a sword in hand near Jericho. Who does he encounter, and what conversation proceeds between the two (vv. 13-14)?

6. What does the commander of the LORD’s army tell Joshua to do (v. 15)? How is Joshua’s experience similar to Moses’ experience at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-6)? What/where is “holy ground” and how should we respond?

7. As the Israelites entered into the Promised Land for the first time, they were experiencing the fulfillment of a promise that GOD had made to their ancestors (Genesis 12:1-3). Why is it important to remember the promises of GOD? What happens when we forget GOD’s promises?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **THE PROMISED LAND** which we are called to today is Heaven. And, like the Promised Land in the Old Testament, it is a land flowing with milk and honey. It is bountiful, full of prosperity and promise. It is a land of hope and a place of pure love and joy. It’s a land where there is no death, only life. There is no loss, only gain. There is purpose in everyday in this land, and our dwelling there is not in vain, nor is it boring. It’s a place where we can experience and do what we were created for without complication or difficulty. It’s a land of peace, where there are no wars or rumors of wars. There is no political system there, no one vying for our vote, and no one slandering or putting anyone else down in order to make themselves look better.
- ⇒ **HEAVEN IS THE LAND** for which we were created. And the winning lottery number for everyone who would receive it is salvation through Jesus Christ. However, not many people will cash in on this promise of hope. How about you?
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Joshua 5:13-14* and *2 Corinthians 1:20*.