

## Journey into Freedom

Lesson 21

Joshua 4:1-24, 5:1-12, 5:13-6:27

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bible Text</b> New International Version</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Observations</b> What does the text say?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interpretation &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?</p>
<p><b>Joshua 4:1-24</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup> “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup> and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”</p> <p><sup>4</sup> So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, <sup>5</sup> and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup> to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>7</sup> tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”</p> <p><sup>8</sup> So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. <sup>9</sup> Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been<sup>[a]</sup> in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, <sup>11</sup> and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. <sup>12</sup> The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. <sup>13</sup> About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.</p>		

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<p><sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>16</sup>“Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.”</p> <p><sup>17</sup> So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.”</p> <p><sup>18</sup> And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. <sup>20</sup> And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. <sup>21</sup> He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>22</sup> tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ <sup>23</sup> For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea<sup>[b]</sup> when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. <sup>24</sup> He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”</p>		
<b>Application</b> What does it mean to me?		
<p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Joshua 4:9 Or <i>Joshua also set up twelve stones</i></li> <li>b. Joshua 4:23 Or <i>the Sea of Reeds</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>		

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<p><b>Joshua 5:1-12</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they<sup>[a]</sup> had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.</p> <p><b>Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal</b></p> <p><sup>2</sup> At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” <sup>3</sup> So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.<sup>[b]</sup></p> <p><sup>4</sup> Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. <sup>5</sup> All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. <sup>6</sup> The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>7</sup> So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. <sup>8</sup> And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal<sup>[c]</sup> to this day.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. <sup>11</sup> The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna stopped the day after<sup>[d]</sup> they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.</p>		
<b>Application</b> What does it mean to me?		

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<b>Footnotes:</b> a. Joshua 5:1 Another textual tradition b. Joshua 5:3 <i>Gilbeath Haaraloth</i> means <i>the hill of foreskins</i> c. Joshua 5:9 <i>Gilgal</i> sounds like the Hebrew for <i>roll</i> . d. Joshua 5:12 Or <i>the day</i>		
<b>Summary:</b>		
<p><b>Joshua 5:13-15</b></p> <p><b>The Fall of Jericho</b></p> <p><sup>13</sup> Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"</p> <p><sup>14</sup> "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord<sup>[e]</sup> have for his servant?"</p> <p><sup>15</sup> The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.</p> <p><b>Joshua 6:1-27</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."</p>		

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<p><sup>6</sup> So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” <sup>7</sup> And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.”</p> <p><sup>8</sup> When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD’s covenant followed them. <sup>9</sup> The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. <sup>10</sup> But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” <sup>11</sup> So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. <sup>14</sup> So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! <sup>17</sup> The city and all that is in it are to be devoted<sup>[a]</sup> to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. <sup>18</sup> But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. <sup>19</sup> All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.”</p>		

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<p><sup>20</sup> When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. <sup>21</sup> They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.</p> <p><sup>22</sup> Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” <sup>23</sup> So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.</p> <p><sup>24</sup> Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD’s house. <sup>25</sup> But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: “Cursed before the LORD is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: “At the cost of his firstborn son he will lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest he will set up its gates.”</p> <p><sup>27</sup> So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; text-align: center; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <b>Application</b>                      What does it mean to me?                 </div>	
<b>Footnotes:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Joshua 5:14 Or <i>lord</i></li> <li>b. Joshua 6:17 The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them; also in verses 18 and 21</li> </ul>		
<b>Summary:</b>		

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## Following God's Instruction

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### Scriptures:

Proverbs 13:13

1 Thessalonians 4:8

### Question:

How has God provided guidance in your journey? Has there been a time when you have written your own "instruction book" in your journey? How do these experiences differ?

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Lecture Notes

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Prayer Requests

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