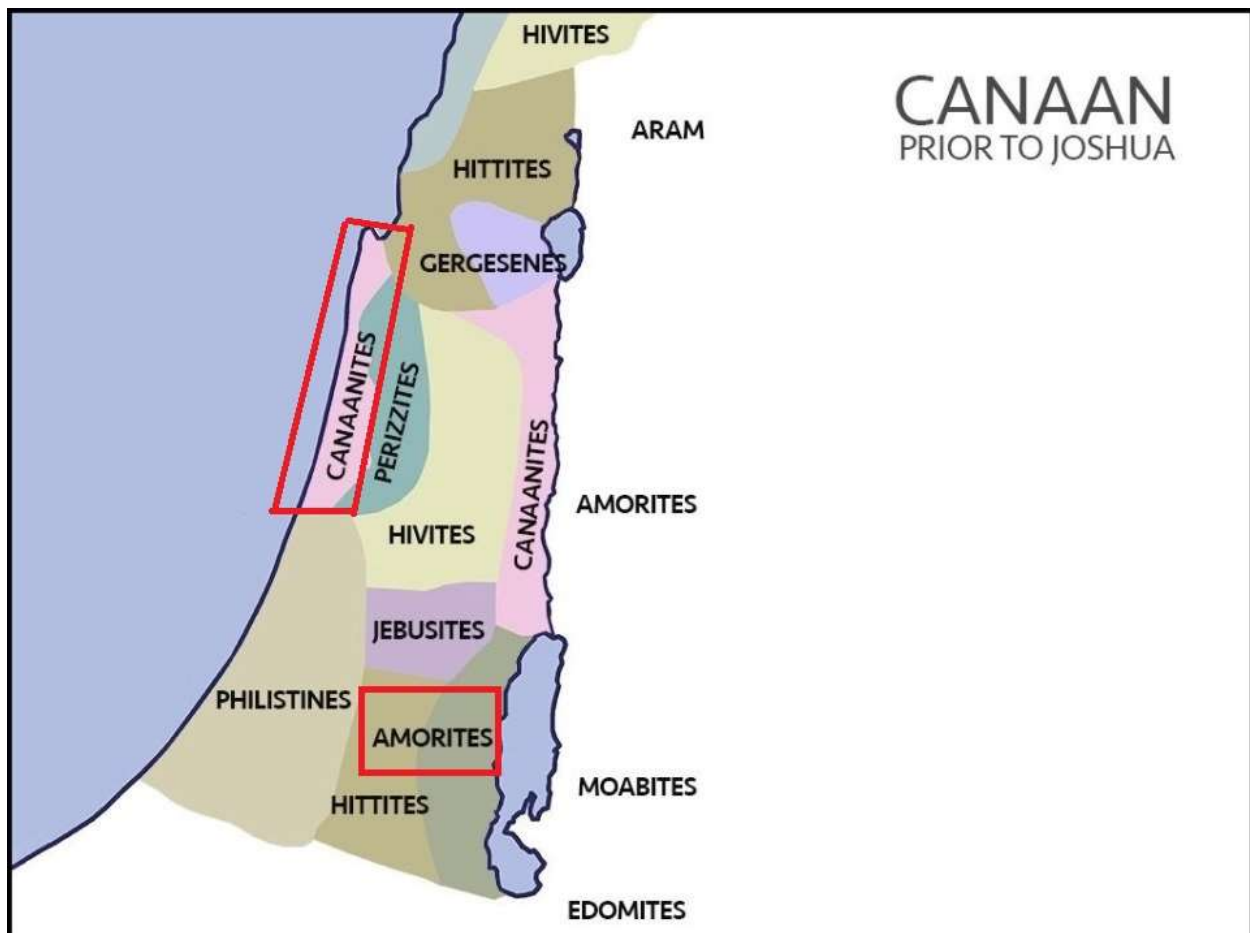


Joshua 5

Verse 1

Now it came about when 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 how the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the sons of Israel until they had crossed, that their hearts melted, and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the sons of Israel.

See map 505



The people of Canaan were already weary of Israel because of the Red Sea miracle and how Israel had defeated the people west of the Jordan.

But then, when God dried up the Jordan River so Israel was able to cross over during the spring flooding, panic set in quickly.

Verses 2 - 9

² At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time.” ³ So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. ⁴ This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, died in the wilderness along the way after they came out of Egypt. ⁵ For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. ⁶ For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, *that is*, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished because they did not listen to the voice of the Lord, to whom the Lord had sworn that He would not let them see the land which the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷ So their children whom He raised up in their place, Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them along the way. ⁸ Now when they had finished circumcising all the nation, they remained in their places in the camp until they recovered. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the shame of Egypt from you.” So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

² At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time.

Flint knives are knives that are made out of stone.

⁵ For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised.

Any male born in the wilderness (newborns to 40 years old) was not circumcised.

This amounted to 2/3 of the male population of Israel at this point in time.

But why was circumcision omitted in the wilderness?

The honest answer is.....we don't know why.

But it does seem odd considering the fact that this was the sign of the covenant between Abraham and God.

⁹ Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the shame of Egypt from you.” So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

Gilgal was the first place that the Israelites camped at in the Holy Land. The camp site was named Gilgal because God had rolled away the shame of Egypt.

We are not told what the shame of Egypt entailed and commentators are divided on this question. However, the Lord said this right after the Israelites entered the Promised Land and it makes sense that this is a clue to what God meant.

They had lived in Egypt for 260 years but it was not their home. Once they crossed the Jordan River they were finally home. Like Dorothy said, “there is no place like home”.

Verses 10-12

¹⁰ While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. ¹¹ Then on the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted *grain*. ¹² And the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.

¹⁰ While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho

The lamb was killed shortly (1/2 hour) before sunset (7pm) on the 14th

It was cooked for 4 or 5 hours and then eaten before midnight on the 15th

¹¹ Then on the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted *grain*.

The day after Passover was the first day of The Feast of unleavened Bread, but there is no indication from the text that this week long feast was observed other than the mention of the unleavened cakes that were eaten on the 15th. However, this could have been Joshua’s way of summarizing the feast in just a few words.

¹² And the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.

The manna stopped on the 16th when the people could start providing for their own needs from the crops available in Canaan.

See chart 510

Chapter	Event	Year	Other
3:14-17	Crossing the Jordan	1-10-1406	See 4:19
4:1-3	12 stones at Gilgal	1-10-1406	
5:2-7	Sons of Israel circumcised	1-11 thru 1-13	Time for healing
5:10	Passover	1-14-1406	
	The Feast of Unleavened Bread	1-15 thru 1-21	Was this feast observed?
5:11	People eat produce of the land	1-15-1406	
5:12	Manna ended	1-16-1406	
6:6-21	The march around Jericho	1-22 thru 1-28	
	If it started after the Feast of Unleavened Bread?		
7	Israel defeated at Ai	1406	
8	Ai destroyed	1406	
9	Gibeonite Deception	1406	

Verses 13 - 15

¹³ Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, he raised his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

¹⁴ He said, “No; rather I have come now as captain of the army of the Lord.” And Joshua fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” ¹⁵ And the captain of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

¹³ Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, he raised his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand,

This is reminiscent of the 3 travelers that came to Abraham in Genesis 18.

² When he raised his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed down to the ground

It turned out that the 3 men were in fact the Lord and 2 angels.

Here in Joshua it is also the Lord.

¹⁵ And the captain of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

This is reminiscent of the account in Exodus 3 when God speaks with Moses.

⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

In verse 14 the Lord said, "I have come now as captain of the army of the Lord"

The Lord wanted Joshua to know this was His war! That Canaan was going to be punished for their sin and this judgment was from God. They had reached the point of no return and God would use Israel to destroy them.