

CONQUER IN CHRIST

First Love

FIRST LOVE



WARNING

- ^{NAS} **Revelation 2:1** "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ² 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; ³ and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. ⁴ 'But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

CONQUERORS IN CHRIST

- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 2:14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.



CANAAN CONQUERED

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 5:1** 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.



COVENANT RENEWAL

THE PROMISED LAND

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 1:3** "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. ⁴ "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory.
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 15:18** On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: ¹⁹ the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite ²⁰ and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim ²¹ and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite."

THE SIGN OF THE COVENANT

- ^{NAS} **Genesis 17:10** "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹² "And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. ¹³ "A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ "But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

THE PROBLEM

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 5:2** At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time." ... 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.

POOR LEADERSHIP

- **NAS Exodus 4:24** Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. ²⁵ Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet, and she said, "You are indeed a bridegroom of blood to me." ²⁶ So He let him alone. At that time she said, "You are a bridegroom of blood "-- because of the circumcision.
- **NAS Genesis 17:14** "But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

THE SOLUTION

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 5:4** And 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...
7 And their children whom He raised up in their place, Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them along the way.

A large rectangular area with a blue, slightly blurred background. In the center, there is a solid black rectangle containing white text.

**WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT
VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED**

FIRST LOVE

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 5:3** So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth...⁸ Now it came about when they had finished circumcising all the nation, that they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed.
 - Gibeath-haaraloth, lit., *hill of foreskins*



DELIVERED AT LAST

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 5:9** Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.
 - Gilgal – lit., *wheel*.
- Deliverance was not the exodus, not the Red Sea crossing, not the Jordan crossing, but the mass circumcision
 - Sign of the Abrahamic Covenant

TRUE SIGNIFICANCE

- **NAS Romans 2:28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.
- **NAS Colossians 2:11** and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;
- **NAS Philippians 3:3** for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,



CELEBRATING DELIVERANCE

THE THIRD PASSOVER

- First: In Egypt
 - Exodus 12
- Second: In the wilderness exactly on the first anniversary
 - Numbers 9
- Third: Gilgal
 - ^{NAS} **Joshua 5:10** While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal, they observed the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho.

TRUE SIGNIFICANCE

- **ESV 1 Corinthians 5:7** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
- **NAS 1 Corinthians 11:23** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



PLEDGE OF INHERITANCE

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

- ^{NIV} **Joshua 5:11** The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. ¹² The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 1:13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

APPLICATION

THE PROMISE

- ^{NAS} **Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."

THE RESPONSE

- ^{NAS} **Acts 2:41** So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

FIRST LOVE

- ^{NAS} **Acts 2:42** And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.



CONCLUSIONS

RECOGNIZING FIRST LOVE

- ^{NAS} **Acts 2:42** And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... ⁴⁷ praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

GUARDING FIRST LOVE

- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 12:2** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- ^{NAS} **Colossians 3:1** If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.