

## **Joshua 5:10-15- Provisions for Dominion: Food, Guidance**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Every soldier knows the importance of nutritious food and wise leaders if he has to go to war. Today you will see how God provided both for his redeemed people.

Our headings are:

**God Provides Grain**

**God Provides a General**

Our goals are: That you will **know that God will provide everything you need** to help you in your war to bring the world under Christ's dominion, and that **you will learn to use his gifts to you wisely**.

### **God Provides Food to Israel**

10 Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho.

#### **1. After Joshua circumcised all the uncircumcised males in Israel, he and all Israel properly**

**celebrated the Passover for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 40 years.** Israel roasted the lamb and ate it together. Because Israel received the Passover by faith, their bodies (by the meat) and souls (by their faith) were strengthened. They could fight their enemies.

Exodus 12:47 "All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 "And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.

Israel celebrated the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the year, Abib (Nisan).

**2. Today, the bloody Passover has been replaced by the non-bloody Lord's Supper.** You no longer have to kill and roast a whole animal because Jesus was your Passover Lamb who went through the fires of the cross – one time for all time. Now when you receive the promise of the Lord's Supper you are strengthened in your soul. It is real spiritual food. Those who receive the signs of the covenant receive grace for their souls. They can fight and conquer the world. Those who reject it, rob themselves.

11 And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched炒过的grain, on the very same day.

**3. After Israel were circumcised and celebrated the Passover they enjoyed more physical fruit of the land.** God mentions this on purpose. After you are saved the Lord continues to provide what you need so you can fulfill your obligations义务to him. You have his word and teaching. You have his discipline. You have his Spirit. You have brothers!

12 Then the manna(奇迹般地供以色列人在旷野的食物) ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

**4. Consequent to this earthly provision, manna stopped.** There was no need for supernatural provisions when ordinary means were available! God provided this food for them mostly likely from the barns 粮仓 of the Canaanites who fled when they saw Israel crossing the Jordan on dry land.

### **God Provides a General to Israel**

13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that **he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood 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 adversarie对手s?**" 14 So He said, "No, but as **Commander of the army of the LORD** I have now come." And Joshua **fell on his face to the earth and worshiped,** and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

**1. Even the Lord Jesus took time to reflect思考 on his great work and to meditate沉思 on God's Word, so** it is not surprising that **Joshua also took some time to reflect.** It is true that Joshua was a great, godly, and powerful man. He was trained by **Moses. He was taught by the Lord directly. He commanded the priests in their duties.** But Joshua was not the General of Israel. The task of leading a group of slaves' children to capture the mighty Canaanite nations was beyond his ability. So God did not leave Joshua in his worries. God sent someone to encourage Joshua.

### **2. The appearance of a strange man with the sword did not put fear into Joshua because**

**a. Joshua had his trust in God and his promises that "he would enter Canaan with Israel and capture it."**

**b. Joshua knew that God had promised be to ever-present with him** even in their battles.

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage;** do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, **for the LORD your God is with you** wherever you go."

**Notice that "I will be with you" was attached to "be strong and of good courage."** **Joshua received the "Immanuel promise that is "God with us,"** and so he could be bold and daring!

**3. Indeed, your Joshua's name was "Immanuel," meaning "God with us." So you too must be bold.** Face any giants in this world. Jesus is the right man at your side, the Man of God's own choosing! This Word will fell any tree. Joshua knew that if God were with him no one could be against him! Paul wrote similar words of courage:

**Romans 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." **37** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**4. So Joshua confronted the man and asked: “Are you for us or against us?”** This is worth examination. By this question Joshua was making it clear that **there was no neutral中立ground** with God. You are **either for God or against him**. You are either for his people or against them. Can you imagine such a question today in our age of political correctness? If you say that adulterers奸夫 will go to hell you are charged with hate speech. If you say that only Christianity is true and all other religions are false (which is the only thing that makes sense, for how can all religions be true?) you are accused of intolerance不宽容! If all religions are equal, then all are equally bad. Could you ask someone: Are you for Christ or against him?

**5. Now who was this Man who stood with the sword in hand?** This man had a drawn拔出的sword, meaning he was a warrior. Obviously he was not one of Joshua’s men or he would have recognized him. No, this man was **the Lord Jesus Christ in his pre-incarnate预化身form**. The man claimed to be the **Commander of Israel and Joshua understood that the Commander of Israel was the Lord Jesus**. Look how Joshua bowed down and worshipped and the Lord received his worship. Angels are never worshipped and they refuse worship. (Revelation 19:10.) This Man, the same Lord, had appeared to Jacob and wrestled with him. Jacob held on to him until he blessed him but left him with a limp跛行. Now the Commander was with all His people! General Jesus was there to protect them.

**6. Jesus Christ is frequently described in military terms as the conqueror of sin, death, hell, and all your earthly enemies.** (Genesis 3:15-16)- all you spiritual and mortal enemies.

**a. He was the Chief Commander of Israel’s army and salvation.**

Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to **make the captain of their salvation perfect** through sufferings.

**b. He was the same Lord described in Revelation 19** who would protect his saints from the frightening beasts.

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a **white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.** <sup>15</sup> Now out of His **mouth goes a sharp sword**, that with it He should strike the nations. And **He Himself will rule** them **with a rod of iron**. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

**c. He was the protecting angel that that Joshua might have recalled from 40 years before.**

Exodus 14:18 "Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." 19 **And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel**, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

**d. He was the “Angel of the Lord” – the Commander - who appeared and stopped Balaam** who wanted to curse God’s people. As the song writer said, the Lord was about to part Balaam hair with his sword if he tried to curse God’s people.

**e. He was described as a consuming fire.**

**7. Will you now continue the work of the Great General – the one with the sword in his hand?** Your sword is **the Word of God**. The battle is the same between the Seed of the Woman and the seed of Satan. I know there is much talk in Christian circles in Canada about keeping or making laws against sexual immorality, witchcraft, euthanasia, etc. But Canada really needs to use the Sword of God to destroy all of these horrible sins in the hearts of man, not just stop these sins outwardly! Are you using the Word of God to fight? **You are more than conquerors through him who loved you!** These indeed are the days of vengeance...when, equipped with the power of the Spirit, you go and fight sin in every area! Wasn't it for this that the Father told the Son to ask through David?

**Psalm 2:8** Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

**You have the Lord and his powerful Word, how well are you using these gifts?** If you don't use them well, you are treating the Lord's gifts with contempt. If you are using the gifts well, you will bring much glory to Christ.

**8. And notice that the Lord Jesus made it clear that he came for the defense of God's people.** He was not for the enemies. Jesus is not for all men. **He doesn't love all men.** The idolaters could expect hell. **There are many today** who pretended to be good but aren't, can expect hell. **Those who argue that private thoughts don't dictate their public policy can expect hell. They lack true faith.**

**2Kings 6:17** And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Let this encourage you. It may not always seems that you are able to win...and that the church might be taking a few steps backward, **but there are more for us that those who are against us.**

15 Then the Commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "**Take your sandal off your foot**, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

**9. Then General Jesus showed Joshua (not just spoke) who the real leader of God's people was by ordering him to take off his shoes.** Joshua did what Moses had to do when he met the Lord for the first time in the Desert in the burning bush. Why did he have to take off his shoes? He had to take off his shoes to symbolize **that where God is there must be nothing dirty.** Shoes were for outside. Do you willingly and with a pure heart follow and worship and follow General Jesus?

### **Conclusion:**

**God provided food for the hungry stomachs of his soldiers.** He provided in abundance. He gave a great variety. **God provided spiritual food for their hungry souls in the sacrament of the Passover.** **He also provided a general, the Lord Jesus, who would go before them into battle and destroy their enemies.** Can you imagine what great comforts this was to Israel and her warriors?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Jesus is with you. He is your Immanuel** – wherever you may go and whatever trouble you may experience. **Since Christ is with his church,**

who can stand against his church? Don't fear Muslims. Don't fear the Toronto District School Board or Premier Wynne. Don't fear sickness. Don't fear the future. Don't be afraid, the Lord said, I will be with you wherever you go! Your Joshua, Immanuel, will come again to judge the living and dead. So fight for the hearts of men and women! Fight for Christ's kingdom!

Finally, if you are not a Christian, hear these words: "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense 补偿 with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood." To avoid this judgment, ask God to count Jesus life and death as yours!