

GILGAL, THE PLACE OF GETTING RIGHT AND BEING RESTORED

Joshua 5:1-10

Introduction: God promised Abraham a nation of people and a land of their own someday. For several hundred years the descendants of Abraham lived in Egypt and multiplied into many thousands and were enslaved by the Egyptian government who became afraid of so many of the Israelites. Finally they were delivered from their bondage by Moses and Joshua and for many years they were lead through a wilderness as God taught them of Himself and His ways. Finally they were ready to inherit the land promised to their forefathers. They had arrived at the Jordan river and under God's instructions were preparing themselves to cross the river. Under miraculous conditions the entire nation of Israel crossed the flooded Jordan river into the area of Gilgal in the promised land. Before proceeding to conquer the land they were to take time to remember God's promises and to cleanse themselves.

I. GILGAL WAS A PLACE OF RENUNCIATION

1. They were ordered to circumcise all males.
 - Circumcision was a sign of the covenant between a man and God, ordered by God.
 - Unbelief and disobedience caused it to be stopped during the wilderness wanderings.
 - Now Israel had finally come to their promised land.
 - All of the original men coming out of Egypt had died off and none had been circumcised that had been born during the 40 years of wilderness living.
 - The sign of God's promise and grace and their obedience must be renewed by this act.
 - Gilgal was the place where Israel renounced all other gods except Jehovah.

2. *Colossians 2:10-11* - The Christian is Spiritually circumcised.
 - One by one believers stand before the King of kings to surrender heart, soul and mind, thus total renunciation.
 - *Romans 8:1* - Positionally, the believer is free from all claims and holds of the law through the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - Every believer will have his/her acceptance of Jesus tested at one time or other.
 - One's walk and talk reveals the true heart and one's true sincerity.

3. Is God withholding a blessing from your life?
 - Have you been worshipping and serving God more as a spectator?
 - Have you never led someone to the Lord Jesus?
 - Have you refused to submit to the hand of the Lord?
 - Has the Lord been calling you to serve Him full time?

4. Do not be afraid of the "spiritual" knife of the Great Physician.
 - Allow Him to do His work in your life.
 - Let Him cut away all that He does not want in your life, let Him circumcise that which should not be there. Renounce all but Him.

II. GILGAL WAS A PLACE OF RESTORATION

1. Israel was ordered to resume the Feast of the Passover, immediately after circumcision.
 - It, too was stopped in the wilderness after only a couple times.
 - The original passover was at Mt. Sinai but disobedience and unbelief stopped it.
 - The new generation of Israel had proven itself in the wilderness and were now on Holy Ground, the Promised Land, had obeyed and been circumcised.
 - They were now allowed to resume God's other rituals for they had been RESTORED.

2. Disobedience prohibits fellowship with God for the Christian as well as it did for Israel.
 - Worship means little, nothing is gained in Bible reading and disobedience is the cause.
 - God can never bless a disobedient person or Church.
 - There are some "cold" churches and it's because they are disobedient to God's Word.
 - At the moment of OBEDIENCE the Lord restores and reveals Himself.
 - One cannot do the Lord's work without the Lord's "bread" and that is given only upon obedience.
 - One cannot witness for the Lord with only 1/10th spiritual life.

3. How much time do YOU give God in prayer? In Bible study? In Worship?
 - Have you renounced all except the Lord God, Almighty?
 - Have you been cleansed and restored?

CONCLUSION:

1. Gilgal was the place for renunciation and restoration for Israel.
2. There is restoration for the believer also but only after there has been renunciation.
3. When the Christian gets "serious" about his/her relationship with God, so does God.