**Renew Your Allegiance to God**

**(Joshua 5:1-12)**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

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 had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites. At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

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. All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. 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. 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. And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 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 the produce of Canaan. (Joshua 5:1-12)

# Introduction

Proverbs 13:22

“A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children.” (NIV 2011)

“A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren.” (The Message)

**Big Idea: The best thing we can leave behind is that our children love God.**

It is not a mushy kind of love, but a love that is action-oriented.

John 14:15 – If you love me, you will obey what I command.

John 14:21 – Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.

John 14:23 – Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Joshua 5:1 - 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 had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

Follow me, you win. Leave me, you lose.

Obedience brings blessings. Disobedience brings curses.

We are children of God, we are not defeated. The enemy is fearful of us.

God’s ways is not our ways. When the Israelites’ enemies were afraid, instead of telling them to go ahead and attack them, God told Joshua to circumcise them.

# A Commitment to God – Circumcision (v2-9)

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gilbeath Haaraloth. (Joshua 5:2-3)

Israel was to be a model and example to the world

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” (Exodus 19:5-6)

The Church is to be a model and example to the world

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

The Lord your God will ***circumcise your hearts*** and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. (Deuteronomy 30:6) (emphasis added)

Even in the old testament, it was mentioned about the circumcision of the heart. We are to be different, set apart.

The church is the salt and light of the world.

Why aren’t we different?

1. We want to conform. It is difficult to be different.
2. We think it is “holier-than-thou”.
3. We don’t understand what it means to be holy.

Circumcision symbolises holiness. Holiness is not about perfection but being set apart for a purpose.

How are we to be different?

1. Think differently
* What you think will be what you are. Read the Bible to think differently. God’s Word can renew your mind.
1. Live differently
* By being different from the world. Live simply so others can simply live. Learn to live the way God instructs us to live.
1. Love differently
* Love one another genuinely. Love people for who they are. Love others who are not like us.
1. Talk differently
* Whether spoken or written (type-written) words, may our words be gracious and kind.

# A Celebration of God – Passover Feast (v10-11)

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. (Joshua 5:10-11)

Third Passover the people has kept – Egypt (Exodus 12:1-28); Mount Sinai (Numbers 9:1-5); Gilgal

Relive their deliverance out of Egypt, look forward to other victories – Canaan and also to what will be accomplished in Jerusalem on Calvary.



“Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

We are to learn to celebrate God and live the victorious Christian life.

The joy of the Lord should be upon us as followers of Christ.

# A Confidence in God – Manna (v10-11)

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 the produce of Canaan. (Joshua 5:12)

Manna was a supernatural gift from God for the desert journey but it was not food for the land of promise. God will provide for us what we need exactly when we need it. He is always on time.

Manna is the gift. God is the Giver. Sometimes we seek the gift and not the giver and we miss the point. Manna is not just material provision but grace in times of need.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

# Conclusion

Loving God means all three – that we are committed to Him, we celebrate Him and we have confidence in Him.



Sermon summary contributed by Anthea Tan.

Prayer items by Ngui Yuen Loong.



SERMON: Renew Your Allegiance to God

**Pray:**

* As Christians, we will be committed to God, willing to be set apart for His purposes.
* We will deliberately think, live, love and talk differently from the world.
* We will celebrate God in our daily living, bearing testimonies of His goodness.
* We will put our faith in God, we will trust and obey.
* We will leave a legacy of loving God.

***A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children. (Proverbs 13:22)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Volunteers**

**What do we see? Do we believe we can make a difference?**

**Pray:**

* While we faithfully attend celebrations and cell group meetings, we will avail ourselves as volunteers in the many ministries in the church.
* We will find joy serving and not be discouraged by circumstances.
* We will encourage one another in our serving.
* We will be willing to put to good use the gifts and talents God has given us.
* Together we will serve with humility, unity and love.
* The more resources we pool, the more we can do for the Kingdom of God.

***You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. (Galatians 5:13)***

MALAYSIA MY NATION: Sports

**The duo of Pandelela Rinong and Cheong Jun Hoong won a silver medal in the synchronized 10m platform event in the 2016 Olympics.**

**Pray:**

* Let the success inspire more athletes to compete in the regional and world stages.
* Those still competing in the Olympic games to strive for excellence.
* Athletes will learn the value of hard work and persistence and will not take short cuts.
* Athletes will display both the spirit of excellence and sportsmanship.
* The church will play its role and influence Sports, as one of the eight domains of the society.

***An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (2 Timothy 2:5)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Bombings in Thailand**

**On 11 and 12 August, 5 provinces of Thailand was hit by a total of 11 bombings, killing 4 and injuring 36.**

**Pray:**

* Family members and friends of those died or injured in the bombings to remain strong.
* The church with the message of love will be able to comfort those in pain.
* Authorities to apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice.
* Tighter security by the authorities and the people will help prevent this from happening.
* Travelers and local citizens will be protected.

***God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)***