

A DEEPER DIVE

February 1, 2026

Micah 6:8—He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. – NIV.

Prayer Focus – Each day this week as you meet with your savior. When you do, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war and little hope, also the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading– Joshua 5:1

Consider this– Fear the Lord

Word has spread about the nation of Israel crossing the Jordan. What was the response of the kings of the Amorites, and the kings of the Canaanites? The NIV says that these people “no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.” The NKJV puts it this way, “their hearts melted, and there was no spirit in them any longer.” This is more than just fear of another army, isn't it? What role do you think the Lord had in creating this fear?

The Bible, according to AI, instructs us to “Fear the Lord” over 300 times. The Kings mentioned in verse 1 had good reason to fear the God of the Israelites. Does the fear of the Lord differ for us, or is it basically the same thing as described in verse 1? What are the similarities, and what are the differences? Do you think we, in the church, in our present day, and you, in your life, have a proper “fear” of God?

Tuesday: Reading– Joshua 5:2-8; Genesis 17; Exodus 4:18-26

Consider this– Recommitting to the Lord

Here we have an accounting that should remind us of Genesis 17. What was the purpose of circumcision? Why did Joshua have to repeat what Abraham did in Genesis?

In the New Testament there was a conflict about whether converts to Christianity needed to be circumcised. Read Acts 15 if you are unfamiliar with this. Also consider Galatians 5; Romans 2:28-29.

Wednesday: Reading– Joshua 5:9

Consider this– A new legacy

This section ends with the Lord making an important statement to Joshua about the nation.

What do you think the, “reproach of Egypt” means? How is this phrase connected with the actions taken in verses 2-8?

Thursday: Reading– Joshua 5:10-11

Consider this– Passover

Why is it important that the people here celebrated Passover? How different do you think this celebration would have been compared to previous, pre-Jordan crossing, celebrations? During this celebration, what were the people finally able to eat? What do you think their reaction to this was?

Friday: Reading– Joshua 5:12; Exodus 3:8.

Consider this– The fruit of the earth.

As if signaling the end of the previous 40 or so years post-exodus, the appearance and eating of mana had ended. The people were now able to eat, “of the fruit of the land.” Read Exodus chapter 3 and see how this is a fulfillment of a promise God made to Moses.

Saturday: Reading– Joshua 5

Consider this– Meanwhile...

Often in books or movies there is a section where some backstory is filled in. These verses in Joshua, chapter 5, strikes me as serving this purpose. After the amazing feats on the Jordan River, and leading up to the exciting story of Jericho, we have this little interlude where we see the faithfulness of God. So, the Bible hits a pause button here, and reminds us of what is really of utmost importance. What is it? What is more important than conquest, power, wealth, and winning battles? We see the provision of manna as a gracious act of the Lord, but do we see our daily bread, our journey to the market and having stocked shelves and enough money to make a purchase also as a gracious act of the Lord. We often see interviews with people who have survived one disaster or another give thanks to God; we even see athletes give thanks to God for their victory. But Dale Davis, in his commentary, warns us that we must, “beware of thinking that God is only in the earthquake, wind, and fire; of thinking that manna, but not grain is God’s food. Most of God’s gifts to his people are not dazzling and gaudy but wrapped in simple brown paper. Quiet provisions of safety on the highway, health of children, picking up a paycheck, supper with the family—all in an ordinary day’s work for our God.” And is this any surprise coming from a God whose son came to earth in a manger and swaddling clothes without pomp or circumstance? So be thankful, be generous with what God has given you, serve the church, and love your neighbors.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.