

1 ☐ **Studies in Joshua**
Study #7

“If God Is For Us ...”

[Joshua 5:13-15]

2 ☐

■ ***“Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.”*** Joshua 3:9 & 10

3 ☐

■ ***“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 [“manifest”] myself to him.”***

John 14:21

4 ☐ The evidence that this person was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself in a preincarnate appearance

■ Joshua 5:14 - This individual identifies Himself as *“Commander of the army of the Lord.”* - Then Joshua immediately *“falls face-down on the ground in reverence”* and asks, *“What message does my Lord have for his servant?”*

■ James Boice comments: *“Can we doubt who this individual is? He is none less than Jehovah, appearing here perhaps in a preincarnate manifestation of the Second Person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

5 ☐

■ A. W. Pink commented: *“Had this visitor been only an angel, he [would have] rebuked Joshua for worshipping him [cf. Rev. 19:10; & 22:8-9]; but this person accepted it, thereby evincing His Deity!”*

■ If this individual were a mere man, he would also have rejected such worship from Joshua, as did the Apostle Paul and Barnabas in Acts 14:8-20.

6 ☐

■ In Joshua 5:15, the Commander of the Lord’s army says:
“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.”

■ It should also be noted, as A. W. Pink says:
“There is nothing whatever here to intimate that Joshua beheld this man in a vision, but rather that He appeared before him objectively and tangibly.”

- 7 ☐ **Also, this is not the only preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old testament!**
- In Genesis 3:8, we are told that the Lord was “... *walking in the garden in the cool of the day*” when Adam and Eve hid themselves from Him.
 - Also, we are explicitly told in Genesis 18:1-2: “*The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.*”
- 8 ☐
- James Boice suggests one other likely preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ in Genesis 32:24. In this passage, we are told that Jacob wrestled with a man at the river Jabbok the night before his reunion with Esau.
- 9 ☐ **The significance of this appearance for Joshua**
- Various commentators identify the primary forces which this “commander of the Lord’s army” headed up as armies of angels!
 - F. B. Meyer said: “ ‘The Lord’s host’ does not primarily allude to those Israelite armies encamped all around on those heights, ...” Rather, he says “... troops of harnessed angels were the hosts of which this wondrous warrior was Captain.”
- 10 ☐
- James Boice comments: “... the army [or hosts] of the Lord’ often means something quite different in Scripture. It refers to armies of angels. Thus we are probably right to think of this figure as the commander of this greater army, which is standing behind Israel and assisting in her battles.”
- 11 ☐ **There are a number of references in Scripture to the presence near at hand of hosts of angels standing behind the redeemed ready to assist them**
- Genesis 32:1 “*Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, ‘This is the camp of God!’ So he named that place Mahanaim.*”
 - II Kings 6 - re. Elisha the prophet
- 12 ☐
- Psalm 34:7 says, “*The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.*”
 - Psalm 91:11 says, “*For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*”
 - Matthew 26:53 - “*Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*”

- 13 **But, if it is true that there are hosts of light in the spiritual realm, there are also hosts of darkness!**
- Eph. 6:12 - Behind the darkness of this world, the Bible teaches us to look for evil spirits who rule it from “the heavenlies.”
 - Scripture teaches that there are demons who rule men through idols [I Cor. 10:20].
 - Scripture teaches that these evil powers will in some sense occupy these positions of power in the heavenlies until the second coming of Christ, when He will cast them down [Dan. 10:13; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 20:2-3].
- 14 **It is amazing to contemplate the spiritual insight which Joshua and Caleb had [back at Kadesh Barnea, Numbers 14:9b], when they spoke these words to the Israelites:**
- ***“... do not be afraid of the people of the land [i.e. the Canaanites], because we will swallow them up, their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”***
- 15 **The significance of this appearance to the Church**
- F. B Meyer says Christians need to view the conquest of Canaan as: “...not only an ancient historic record, but a page torn out of the chronicles of heaven, telling of that mighty conflict which has been in process since the introduction of moral evil, and shall last till the Son of God has destroyed the works of the devil.”
 - Heb. 2:10 - KJV - Jesus is the “*captain of our salvation!*”
- 16
- Col. 2:13-15 Says that Jesus “... *disarmed the powers and authorities;*” and that He “... *made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*”
 - Eph. 1:18-20 Paul prays that the eyes of our understanding might be opened to have understanding concerning the power of God which is at work toward us, which is the same mighty power which raised Christ from the dead!
 - Unfortunately, the church often fails to appreciate this truth [cf. John 15:5]!
- 17 **The significance of this appearance to ourselves**
- The text seems to warn us against the danger of running ahead of God and taking matters into our own hands.
 - We forget, “*The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong.*”
Eccl. 9:11
 - We forget, “*It is not by strength that one prevails.*” I
Samuel 2:9
 - We forget, “... *the battle is not yours, but God's.*” II
Chronicles 20:15b
- 18 **The lessons this text teaches us:**
- “It is when faith allies itself with omnipotence, and becomes the channel along which the might of God can pass, as the electric current along the wire, ... “ ... it

is then we will begin to see the walls of our Jerichos begin to come crashing down!

F. B. Meyer

- Like Joshua, we need to get off alone, sensing and confessing our own helplessness and utter dependency upon the Lord! [John 15:5 & Rom. 8:31]

19 ☐ **We must also learn from this text that if this is to happen, we must be holy!!!**

- Joshua 5:15 - *Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy!*
- II Tim. 2:19-21
- *“Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: ‘The Lord knows those that are his,’ and, ‘Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.’*
- *“In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”*

20 ☐ **We must actively put off the old man**

- *“For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.” Deuteronomy 23:14b*
- cf. also Ephesians 4:29-32!!! - Esp. verse 30 - *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*
- **Be aware of this: He will not ally Himself with the unfaithful or unclean, or have any association with us so long as we harbor sinful attitudes, actions and behaviors!**