

Recap of 12/31/23 message by Pastor Joe (Joshua 5:1-15):

1. Biblical priorities from “Building a Happy Home” by Dr. Stanley Toussaint:

- Persons before things
- Home before occupation
- Partner before children
- Children before friends
- Partner before self
- Spiritual before material

2. Joshua 5:1-15 finds Israel ready militarily to conquer the promised land, with the added benefit of a fearful, demoralized enemy. Yet as Donald Campbell writes: “...this was not God's plan. He is never in a hurry though His children often are. From God's point of view Israel was not yet ready to fight on Canaan's soil. There was some unfinished business—and it was spiritual in character.”

3. “Although this would seem to be the best time for Israel to strike, important spiritual matters (circumcision and the Passover) had to come first.” (Ryrie)

4. The Israelites had to be spiritually renewed before the conquest of Canaan could be attempted. Though the enemy was ripe for attack—the people of God were not spiritually ready. Like the Israelites, before we can conquer the land called “2024,” we must take care of the spiritual before the material/temporal aspects of our lives. We must put “God first.” Why? “Unsurprisingly, faithlessness in the spiritual arena is accompanied by faithlessness in marriages and the home. (D.A. Carson)

5. We must wait for God's timing; we must put off sin; we must remember that God redeemed us made us a new creation in Christ; we must trust God's timing and provision; and above all we must remember that we are second in command over our lives; Christ is first!