

Entering a new land #4

- *Are we totally given over to God's way of doing things, and to taking direction from his commander?*

Introduction

- Less specifically around the issues of entering into new territory, I think
 - though the challenge is certainly applicable in that area...
 - ...it is a more general one too...

Devoted to the Lord (v.1-9)

- *(Incidentally, did you notice the first person account slipping in in v.1? This was written down by someone who was there!)*
- Circumcision thing
 - tangible, physical, (visible?) sign of where allegiance lay
- Required conscious decision
 - call to stand out
 - painful!
 - call to obedience in an area where that had slipped off the agenda
 - invitation to fresh start...
- Challenge for us: [are we devoted to the Lord?](#)
 - where do we need to listen to what God is prompting us to remember to obey him in...?

Provided for by the Lord (v.10-12)

- *(This is taking place 4 days after they've crossed over)*
- First thing to note here is the testimony to God's providence over 40 years in the desert
 - as promised, he'd never let them down...
- But that special provision was for the special context of the desert wanderings
 - the promised land was a land of milk and honey, itself the embodiment of God's provision
 - God's people were to move into the place God had called them to, and begin to taste of the promise and provision he had in store for them...
 - unleavened bread and roasted grain - change is as good as a rest?
- **God provides:**
 - sometimes miraculously...
 - and sometimes - and perhaps routinely - in the normal providence of life, wages, crops, in our culture the welfare state...
- [Are we looking to God for provision?](#)
 - and remembering that **all** provision truly comes from God?

Led by the Lord (v.13-15)

- Standing in hostile territory and an armed stranger comes up to you...
 - what do you do?
 - Joshua goes for "us or them"!
 - *my camp/not my camp, my theology/not my theology, my church practise/not my church practise, my background/not my background, a friend of my friends/not a friend of my friends...*
- Stranger asks something else of Joshua:
 - to recognise God's presence in the situation, his presence in the stranger...

- and to recognise not just God's presence, but his holiness when he comes
- demanding of us repentance and a dealing with our sin through Christ's blood...
(the sandals coming off here, the outward sign of that repentance of heart)
- Do we recognise the Lord when he comes to us?
 - including his holiness?
 - are we then ready to follow God's lead into new territory?