

# Joshua 5:1-10 and the authority of circumcision renewed

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**THIS NEED TO BE REVIEWED**

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## Introduction – laws, contracts and *quo warranto*

As someone who is passionate about the law<sup>a</sup>, one of the key things I look for is the answer to the question *quo warranto*?. *Quo warranto* means by what authority. I claim that all authority ultimately must come from a contract, and the contract for which none is higher or prior is the Mt. Sinai Contract/Covenant.

Another one of my claims is that law = contract and contract = law. The contract forms the law i.e. it brings it into existence (think law form). When a legal determination, for example, about a dispute is brought up and an adjudication is needed to interpret the law for the purpose of dispute resolution, then a review of the contract is required. For me, these two terms, law and contract are interchangeable and one without the other makes no sense.

The legal determination *quo warranto* is also determined by the contract. This is because the offices along with the authority of the office holder is defined in the contract. If someone is being challenged with the question *quo warranto*, and they can't show evidence in the contract to justify their actions, then their actions are unwarranted. These actions are outside the contract and because the terms law and contract are interchangeable they are outside the law, i.e. outlaws. If there is no contract then there is no law so these actions are lawless.

The first ten verses in Joshua chapter 5 give me an opportunity to exhibit what I'm talking about. Another claim I make in my approach to studying the bible is that it brings great clarity and there is confusion about what's going on with this "second" circumcision. People might ask "weren't they doing circumcision in the desert for the last forty years"?

Here's the verses from the King James with slight modification..

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<sup>a</sup> See my rules found in my foundational article "Shomer Habrit", article #[2](#)

## Jos 5:1-10 – circumcision is renewed

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which *were* on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which *were* by the sea, heard that YHVH had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel. <sup>2</sup> At that time YHVH said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. <sup>3</sup> And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins *haaralot*. <sup>4</sup> And this *is* the cause why Joshua did circumcise<sup>mal</sup>: All the people that came out of Egypt, *that were* males, *even* all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people *that were* born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, *them* they had not circumcised. <sup>6</sup> For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people *that were* men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of YHVH: unto whom YHVH swore that he would not shew them the land, which YHVH swore unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. <sup>7</sup> And their children, *whom* he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. <sup>8</sup> And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole <sup>b</sup> *chayah*. <sup>9</sup> And YHVH said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day. <sup>10</sup> And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

### Comments – Circumcised a second time, what does this mean?

As a result of the Evil Report given by the evil congregation, they lost her ticket into the promised land. It was 40 years prior to Joshua 5 when this event happened and YHVH's judgment was made against them who were of age (20 and older). These events occurred in Numbers Chapter 14...

### Num 14:29-37 – The wicked generation of the Evil report is judged to die in the wilderness

<sup>29</sup> Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, <sup>30</sup> Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, *concerning* which I swear () to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. <sup>31</sup> But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. <sup>32</sup> But *as for* you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness. <sup>33</sup> And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. <sup>34</sup> After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. <sup>35</sup> I YHVH have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die. <sup>36</sup> And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, <sup>37</sup> Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD

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<sup>b</sup> “they were made whole” in the Hebrew uses the word **חַיִּים** *chayotam* <sup>H2421</sup> *chayah* a word that is found 274 times and is usually translated as live(d), alive etc. and only once (Jos 5:8) is it translated as whole.

I view these people as zombies, dead men walking, a pathetic generation just waiting to die. For the sake of explanation, let's call this cherry lot Group 1.

Those who were not of age did not receive this punishment but would have already been righteously circumcised because they couldn't have participated in the original Passover if they had not been circumcised (see Exo 12:44-48). That specific people did not get circumcised a second time, why would they? They got their ticket/passport into the promised land, they only had to wait the forty years to actually use it.

Let's call these patient ones Group 2.

After the judgment of the evil report was given, the wicked generation didn't stop having children, but they were, in the eyes of YHVH, not only dead to him, but so was their children. Spiritually speaking we could view them as bastards because their Heavenly father cut them off from the blessings of keeping the Torah.

Let's call them Group 3.

### A Question of Quo Warranto.

I said that the wicked generation (Group 1<sup>c</sup>) didn't stop having children (Group 3), so a question might be asked what if they were circumcised before Joshua chapter 5? My answer would be, 'how could this happen and who would perform this act?'. If they did so, they did so without authority. Circumcision is performed only by those who are under covenant with YHVH. Why go through the pain and agony of circumcision if YHVH is not going to respect it? Further, why would the Levites, who execute YHVH's statutes, perform this act and recognize and record that it was done?

YHVH's only obligation to the wicked generation is like that of a warden of a prison full of people who have been given a life sentence without possibility of parole. Prisoners get bread and water, not the meal you get from feasts.

Because the wicked generation was given a *de facto* "Bill of Divorce", YHVH has no authority to bless them or their children (Group 3). He shows mercy towards them and keeps them alive until it's time (40 years later) to enter the promised land.

### Akrobusia

The commentary of Rabbi Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky (R. MYK) regarding Paul's (Shaul) view of circumcision requires a word study of the Greek word *Akrobusia*<sup>d</sup> which is translated as uncircumcised. R. MYK defines this term to mean

"The previously circumcised Efrayimites, or those who counted their covenant circumcision as something to be tossed away and not treasured."

Substituting wicked generation (Group 1) for Ephramites, you get

"The previously circumcised ~~Efrayimites~~ Wicked Generation, or those who counted their covenant circumcision as something to be tossed away and not treasured."

By not treasuring it, they didn't enter into the promised land and died in the desert.

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<sup>c</sup> Joshua and Caleb are the only two exceptions to Group 1. They weren't circumcised again because they, like Group 2, never lost their authority to enter into the promised land.

<sup>d</sup> See H6190-Orlah-LXX-of-G203-Akrobusia <http://MyHebrewBible.com/Article/119>

## Summary

In Jos 5:8 it says that after the circumcision they were made whole (NIV “until they were healed”). As my footnote points out I don’t think this a very good translation a better translation would be that they were given life. The Hebrew word is *chai* as in *adonai chai* (God lives). The circumcision, which represents the covenant with YHVH, gives them, Group 3, life! I think this is a great contrast from Group 1 which was judged for giving the Evil report and died in the wilderness.

Although this wicked generation had been circumcised at the beginning of the Exodus, they did the “akrobusia” thing and tossed their foreskin away as if it had no value or meaning.

## Related Articles

- Word-Study-H4135-Mool-H4139-Mulah
- Word-Study-H3772-karath-cut-made-covenant-confederate-league-loose-freed
  - Make this a series on one’s legal status from a biblical point of view.