**LEAVING LIMBO**

*7 So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. 8 And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. 9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.*

Joshua 5:7-9

I. Leaving Limbo

A. The 40 year wandering of the children of Israel in the wilderness represents limbo.

B. The people of God must break out of the circularity of limbo in order to enter the land of promise.

C. After crossing the Jordan River within sight of the city of Jericho, Joshua will now temporarily disable every male in the nation, and in their weakness God’s strength will be made perfect.

D. There was one more great surgery required before the people could enter in to the promised land.

II. An intimate approach / Four facts about circumcision
(Genesis 17:10-11)

*10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.*

A. Circumcision was a unique mark of ownership.

B. Circumcision demonstrated that there was no recourse to privacy.

C. Circumcision dealt at the deepest level with personal identity and fruitfulness.

D. Circumcision removed all nonessential and unnecessary coverings.

III. A glorious remnant entering in.

A. An entire generation died in limbo. You will live!

B. Unusual remnant people and things survived 40 years in limbo.

C. Caleb and Joshua survived limbo.

D. The Ark of the covenant and the bones of Joseph survived limbo.

E. You will survive limbo.