

## TROUBLE IN-BETWEEN

<sup>2</sup> *At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.”* <sup>3</sup> *So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.* <sup>4</sup> *Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt--all the men of military age--died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt.* <sup>5</sup> *All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not.* <sup>6</sup> *The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.* <sup>7</sup> *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.* <sup>8</sup> *And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.* <sup>9</sup> *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 5:2-9

<sup>8</sup> *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,*

1 Peter 1:8

## I. Thresholds

- A. A threshold is a transition space between one place and another.
- B. Examples: the threshold of the door frame from one room to another; the bank between the land and the flowing river water; a bridge across a deep canyon. Airports and stairwells are places of passage, not dwelling.
- C. Crossing a threshold is to enter into transitional space.

## II. Satan hates liminal people.

- A. Satan's intent is to kill in the womb. He can't allow liminal masters to emerge into the world.
- B. Tricksters thrive in liminal space - the space in between.
- C. The collapse of any former security can spawn a Hitler, a Stalin, a Mussolini, a Lennon, or a Mao.
- D. We always encounter tricksters during periods of change and transition.
- E. Tricksters enter when we are most vulnerable, by mimicking normal behavior.
- F. Tricksters are marginal entities that seek to be the center of all things.
- G. When we are in between, we look around for someone to imitate.
- H. Tricksters thrive on disorientation and perpetual chaos; they don't come to resolve liminality. Their goal is to perpetuate instability by fueling dysfunction.

- I. Tricksters don't resolve liminality. They want you to die in the wilderness in the womb.
- J. Individuals trapped "in-between" are not able to react rationally, because the structures on which objective reality is based are gone; and due to the emotional nature of liminal crises, people look for concrete individuals for guidance.
- K. Enter the trickster. Liminal seasons, extended, have no "master of ceremonies"
- L. Tricksters are marginal beings. They are essentially homeless, and so they are comfortable in chaos and homelessness. They have no natural bonds and no interest in solving a crisis.
- M. All addictions are circular in nature, designed to meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way. This is the deadly nature of addiction. It's the wrong answer to the right question.

### III. Three traits of Gods' liminal children.

- A. In-between people learn to follow God in a fog.
- B. In-between people follow God when he disappoints them.
- C. In-between people will finish no matter what comes against them.