

Joshua Chapter 6

Jericho Lesson

Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. ² And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

City shut up. Can't get out, can't get in. No flow, closed. Not moving forward or back. In a place, situation, and circumstance where there was nothing happening. Why, because of Israel, they heard how God was delivering them. Afraid of them. When the spirit of God is with you, things that you used to be afraid of should really be running from you.

Now instead of surrendering....it was obvious that they saw the trends and what was coming, they decided to fortify themselves and try to defend their position.

The defense was out of fear. In the spiritual realm, if you see God at work, it is in vain for us to try and defend our position for the purpose of trying to retain power or status quo.

People who will not surrender will also close their doors to you when they see you arrive. God can still pull down walls and open doors that are closed to enable to fulfill your destiny in Him. It is part of the process of receiving God's best.

Verse 2 – God tells Joshua this is a done deal and that he already has the victory before it is a reality. Notice, God tells Joshua see what is happening around him.

- Application – it is important to see how God is moving things in your favor. God wants you to see it in the works.
- Even though the victory still seems far away, what God has already done is the blessed assurance that the victory is on the way.
- God wants Joshua to know that he already has it before he actually enjoys it. This allows him to act like it is already done...this is faith.
- It is not a blind faith because Joshua has the word of promise from God in the earlier chapters and now he can also see some evidence, so his faith is in a God who will finish what He started. He is standing on the promises of God. We can stand on His promises also and based upon the word and what He has done so far.

Didn't say He will, said He had already given the victory to him, even though he hadn't received it in the natural yet. Tell him to see or observe. There was something he could see that provided evidence that



the victory was going to be his, in fact, based upon what he saw, he should have had confidence that it was already a done deal.

God has to tell him or show him to look so he can see victory too.

This thing is a done deal. Do you see it yet in your own life? Notice it is not Joshua who gets this victory....it is God who gets the victory and He gives it to Joshua. How can you fail when God is fighting the battle for you?

Key application point: The people inside of Jericho had heard the testimony and knew about the God of Israel, but this they didn't believe like Rahab did nor did they turn (repent) from trusting in the world and instead turn to trusting in God. Is it possible that Christians who do believe may have some Jericho instances and areas in their life? The answer to that question is yes! Jericho is that place in your life where you know the word of God but you just don't believe it will work for you and so you hold out trusting in your own strength hoping that things will just turn out okay without fully trusting in God in that particular situation. For example, you can be a Christian and believe in God for your salvation, but still not trust Him in your finances. You may know scriptures related to financial blessings, but you just don't trust God that His word will work in your situation....so you hold out in Jericho, trusting in other things. You cannot win in Jericho....eventually it will all fall down and what you are trusting in outside of God will certainly fail you.

³ And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. ⁴ And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. ⁵ And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

God gives him directions for how the victory should be achieved. Surround the city. Go around one time for six days. Let them see you out in the open for six days. Just had to march and obey, it wasn't that hard. Doing it this way brings God the glory.

After 6 days, circle on the 7th day, 7 times, blowing the shofars with 7 priests. Ark symbol of God's presence is involved in this process.

I have often wondered why God waits for seven days before destroying the city; why not do it on the first day? I have come to conclude that the method and process is a picture of end time prophesy. I see it also as a picture of God's wonderful grace and mercy because Jericho has six days to repent and surrender before time runs out.

- So too God is merciful and not slack concerning His promises, but is long suffering not willing that any should perish so He gives all the chance and hope for life; but time will run out and judgement will come.
- This is also a test of the faithfulness of God's people; they still must follow directions in order to receive and enjoy the victory.

7th day at the trumpet blast, it will be time to shout, and when they shout, the wall, what was keeping them out and blocking them would fall down flat.

When you shout, get ready to go up. They ascended. Before you can go up, something's got to fall down or be destroyed. God's plan for His people in the story works the same way for us. The process is the same. God will bring us further along and closer to our destiny but there may be barriers and obstacles in the way. God will give us instructions (a Word) to show us what to do. So there is a role we must play to participate in the victory. At the end of the battle....we ascend or rise up in victory...amen!

Notice the scripture seems to say every person will ascend one behind the other. Application -- someone may go up before you and but then you will be next. Follow the path of people who are going up in front of you. Follow the right people. Don't be discouraged if you see other going up before you do.....instead of hating...rejoice because your time is coming when you are standing on the promises and following the word.

⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. ⁷ And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD. ⁸ And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. ⁹ And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rearward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. ¹⁰ And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

Joshua got the instructions from God and then passed them on to the priests. Noticed, He told them what he got from God. However, he didn't tell them everything, only what they needed to know for right now, today.

Why do you think Joshua didn't tell them about what to do on the 7th day? They needed to follow the instructions for the first six days first before they get further instructions. God will often provide the vision to the leader, but not everyone is ready or able to receive all the instructions at one time.



Armed people in front of the Ark. God has your back as you get ready to go forward into battle. Moving while the covenant and promises were behind them. The foundation of what you do and how you move should be based upon the covenant.

Order of the movement. Armed people went first; priests went next, Ark followed next and then the rear guard. Some people move forward with God behind them and pushing, others move with God leading or eyes on His presence. Not sure it really matters as long as you are powered and motivated by the Spirit and presence of God....He better be in the middle of your actions.

¹¹ So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. ¹² And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. ¹³ And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. ¹⁴ And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

Circled the city once, then went into the camp. Started out early in the AM. Took up the covenant before they started anything else. We should do the same. Get up early and start with the promises of God. Went on continually, didn't stop obeying.

Repeated this 6 days as instructed. It may not happen the way you expected it, so just do it God's way. Why 6 times?

- Repentance opportunity.
- Six is the number of man and on the 7th day we rest and God provides for us.
- To let the people know it was only the Lord and not what we do/did. Each time they go around they see the magnitude of what they are up against.
- Teaching the people patience. We want things done sooner, but He wants to teach us to have patience, to keep on going even if it seems difficult.

¹⁵ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. ¹⁶ And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.



There was a time to be quiet and a time to shout. You gotta know what time it is. Teaching disciple and self-control. Hold your peace because God will fight for you.

Every day, they surround the problem with the presence of God (the Ark). The last day they have a much longer march. Marching around Jericho wasn't a short walk in the park. They were required to do more as they went further along in the process.

Application – just hang in there standing on the promises and as you go, you will be able to do somethings you didn't have to do before. Don't be discouraged when it seems harder; if God is still with you, in your obedience, you are probably closer to your victory than ever before....Amen!

Now I don't know what they shouted, but I imagine praise must have been involved in it. Obedience to the Word and instructions of God and abiding in His presence (the Ark), and a shout of praise and victory are needed and required before you receive your break through. Praise is always necessary.

Notice the reason for shouting that Joshua gives....shout because the Lord has given you the victory even before you receive. So I will praise Him before my victory gets here....so that my victory gets here. I praise and thank God in advance by faith.

If Joshua is giving these instructions to the people, what do you think God wants us to be doing as we pursue the Promise Land and His very best?

God gave them this victory.

¹⁷ And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

City/place cursed. That place defiled everything in it except Rahab. Death sentence on everything except her. Why, because she protected the servants/messengers of God's people. Notice she was saved before the judgement came. So many others could have also been saved if they had only believed and not continued to rely on their own strength and defense.

You are doing a good thing when you protect or cover God's messengers. It might save your life.

¹⁸ And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. ¹⁹ But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

Don't get connected with those things that you are destroying or that God tells you to take completely out. Problem is we get connected to those things that we may have already defeated. Getting connected to cursed things and put their curse on you and make you accursed.



When you take it up, connected to it, curse gets on you, and causes trouble for the people connected to you and where you live. Talk to me. Some of us hiding some stuff from Jericho and it may be causing you and those around you some trouble.

Application – don't take up the things you previously defeated. For example, I don't drink any more. I already defeated and kicked my drinking problem so I don't need to pick up again what I defeated before.

What is it you have overcome but you are still tempted sometimes in your victory to pick it up again? It is important to note that Joshua gives them this warning. If it wasn't a real danger to them, then he would not have to have warned them. **Question, is there still a danger for us today that we should still heed this warning?**

²⁰ So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. ²¹ And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

When the people did as instructed, they got the results they were promised. I believe the same formula works today. When we follow the instructions of God....not just one day, but every day, and praise Him in advance....we will get the same results and overcome our circumstances in the end.

Cannot just practice faith one day only.....they were faithful in that they followed the instructions the entire week. How has your week been going after your Sunday is over?

Destroyed everything. Don't leave anything alive that's part of that curse. One commentary I used (David Guzik) points out that while the actions seem harsh, this was a judgement against the spiritual wickedness that existed.

²² But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. ²³ And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

Rahab saved and all that she had, because of what she did while still in that place. Her faith in the God of Israel saved her alive. Her turning from trusting in her people and their ways and this great wall and



turning instead to God and placing her trust and hope in Him through faith allowed her to keep what should have been lost. This was not only about Rahab....her whole family was saved.

Notice that when she was saved, they didn't bring her directly into the camp of Israel. Instead, she is left just outside the camp. The spiritual relevance appears to be that while saved through her belief, she still needed to go through the process of being cleansed and learning how to live as one of God's people.

Application – we have a responsibility as believers and the church to not just bring people into a saving knowledge, but to make disciples and followers of Christ so they can be truly new creatures and learn the new and living way. Rahab's best was not just being saved, she has a much greater role and brighter future....which is the plan of God for us....to prosper.

²⁴ And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

²⁵ And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

God provided them rules for how to handle the stuff they would obtain. Silver, gold, valuables are dedicated to God. They come to the Lord.

We should be careful to bring an offering from the spoil back to the Lord.

Again, we see Rahab receive favor and an inheritance. Nothing belonging to her of importance was lost. This is all because she helped others and protected the message. How do you support the work of the Kingdom? We will see later in the Book of Matthew that Rahab is in the direct line of Christ. How awesome that her legacy is not as a harlot but as a direct relative of Jesus! See also, Matthew 21:31.

²⁶ And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.

²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.

That place cursed, and curse upon those who try to rebuild upon that foundation. There are some places that don't need to be used as foundations or built up ever again. Some stuff you just have to let die. Dangerous thing to rebuild in places that God has previously destroyed.

In our relationships, God can still knock down walls but be careful in the flesh not to building back up again.



My commentaries refer to 1 Kings 16:34 where someone did rebuild the city and came under the curse.

Joshua had the Lord with him and that brought him favor and fame. People were talking about the things he was doing. There was evidence of God's presence with him. When you obey the Lord, He will elevate you among others.

Other observations pertaining to end time prophesy:

Mt 21:31

Joshua means Yeshua or salvation. 10 nations (Gen 15 in the promised land that shouldn't be there). This is a picture of end times. Joshua 3:10, 10 nations in Genesis, only 7 in Joshua, Daniel 7 – 10 horns coming out of the beast or 10 nations. Three nations wiped out by the others. 10 horns, but a little horn comes out and three of the first horns plucked up by the root. By the time Joshua gets there, there are only 7 left, same thing happens in the future. 2 spies or witnesses save Rahab, 2 witnesses in Rev 11. Before the trumpets are blown, there is silence...see Rev 8:1, then the trumpets blow (8:6), Rev 11:15 – when the last trumpet sounds, there is a shout and the kingdoms of the world are defeated. Also note, they are marked with circumcision as servants, same as the sign/seal of the servants (Romans 4:11) see also Rev 7. Whole book of Revelation can be seen in this story. When Jericho falls, the Gibeonites make a treaty. They become servants but are protected. Rev 6:16, kings hide in the caves like they do in Joshua 10.