

“Jericho”

Joshua chapter 6

Scripture Ref: *Heb 11:30; 2 Cor 10:3-5; Deut 18:9-14; Heb 11:31; 1 Kings 16:34; James 4:10*

1. **PAY ATTENTION: What was revealed....**
 - a. ... about God?
 - b. ... about yourself?
 - c. How will you apply what you learned?
2. **One thing to keep in mind was that Joshua was an experienced military leader. He had several victories under his belt.**
 - a. I'm sure that when he sized up Jericho, one or more plans began to form in his mind –
 - b. Looking for weaknesses, possible points of entry, walls that might be scaled, trees that might be felled to build ladders
 - c. But regardless of what he was thinking of what *might be possible*, he heard from the Lord.

The Destruction of Jericho

6:1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! **I have** given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

3 **You shall** march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 **It shall** come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the **people shall** go up every man straight before him."

6 **Then Joshua** the son of Nun called the priests and said to 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 to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD." 8 So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. 9 The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. 10 Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout." 11 So he had the ark of the LORD

circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

3. **Key words: “I have” – “You shall” – “Then Joshua” – declarative statements**
 - a. **“I have” – this is what God has done (notice it is in the past tense)**
 - i. **The part that God does that man cannot do...**
 - b. **“You shall” – this is what Joshua is to do... future tense**
 - i. **If we are wanting the result that God has planned, we must take action as God has ordained**
 - c. **“Then Joshua” – again my favorite thing about Joshua – he hears, and he does... exceptional quality!**
4. **Sounds pretty simple – and in fact – IT IS! Simple – but no always what we do...**
 - a. **To live our lives with the perspective that God has already done great works – in the eternal realm –**
 - b. **things that are coming down the stream of time towards us, things that we cannot see**
 - c. **But God has already seen, and has already done the work**
 - d. **Our role – HEAR and OBEY**
 - e. **Because we do have a choice – there is free will – the outcome can be changed**
 - f. **Instead of God’s perfect will and the work he has planned, we sometimes receive LESS than what He has for us**
 - g. **... because we have not heard and obeyed as God has directed.**
5. **ALSO - Establishes – WHO is responsible for the fall of Jericho – GOD!**
 - a. **Not just wiped out – but “given Jericho into your hand”**
 - b. **Strong metaphor – God has put this city as a GIFT into the hands of Israel – but they still have to do something with it...**

12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. 13 Then 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 rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. 14 And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

15 But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. 16 And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! 17 Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the

harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

6. Two things that the men are specifically instructed on...

- a. **ONE – don't take any souvenirs from the idolatrous artifacts**
- b. **TWO – all of the gold, silver, bronze, and iron are "set apart" to the Lord.**
 - i. **Jericho is the "firstfruits" of the cities that they will conquer. The firstfruits belong to God.**
 - ii. **PRINCIPLE – Tithe...**

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then 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, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

7. NOTE – had they not obeyed, the walls would not have fallen!

Heb 11:30 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.*

8. God broke down the walls of the enemy

2 Cor 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God

9. The severe judgment that is brought against Jericho, and all of Canaan didn't come because they were in the "way" of God's people.

- a. **It came because this was a people who were in total rebellion against God and in league with the occult, as the artifacts recovered from this period demonstrate**

Deut 18:9-14

"When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass

through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

22 But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." 23 And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel. 24 But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

10. Picture of salvation –

- a. She wasn't the most respected person, or the most moral,**
- b. But she acted on faith**

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

- c. all of Jericho had heard about the Lord, but only Rahab responded**

26 Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

11. This was fulfilled in 1 Kings 16, which tells us that during the reign of Ahab (Jezebel)...

1 Kings 16:34 "In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun"

27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

James 4:10 *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

12. This account is a beautiful picture of *faith, obedience, courage, and endurance*:

- a. ***Faith***: Joshua and Israel believed the battle plan.
- b. ***Obedience***: Joshua and Israel followed the battle plan exactly.
- c. ***Courage***: Israel followed the battle plan despite danger.
- d. ***Endurance***: Israel followed the battle plan over a period of time, even when it seemed that nothing was happening.

13. SO WHAT???

- a. When God gives says “I have” and “you shall” – what will **WE DO?**