

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON LESSON 5

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move On!

Lessons 5-10: Conquest of Canaan Josh. 5:1-12:24

Lesson 5: The Fall of Jericho Josh. 6:1-27

Today's Study: Josh. 6:1-27

1. Strategy Vv. 1-5
2. Submission to God Vv. 6-11
3. Serenity and Endurance Vv. 12-16
4. Separation Emphasized Vv. 17-19
5. Supernatural Manifested Vv. 20-21
6. Saved! Rahab and Family Vv. 22-23, 25
7. Sempiternal Desolation/Fame Vv. 24-27

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

Introduction

1. Summary of Joshua 6

In this chapter we have the commencement of the military campaign of Israel to conquer and possess Canaan. Obviously, although Jericho was considered a great city with mighty warriors they were nevertheless overtaken with fear and disillusioned people. You will observe, no attempt was made to confront the potential invasion outside their great walls; they simple barricaded themselves and most likely felt confident that such was adequate to deter the invasion by the Israelites. So many do the same today, feeling secured by their accomplishments, etc. yet the Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12 ESV). See also **1 Thess. 5:1-3**; Rom. 6:21; Phil. 3:19.

I have noted seven main pointers in this chapter (Josh. 6).

- (a) **Strategy:** The directions and assurance the Lord gave to Joshua (Vv. 1-5).
- (b) **Submission:** The continued obedience of faith by Joshua and the people (Vv. 6-11)
- (c) **Serenity and Endurance:** There was a cool composure and endurance with which they followed instructions encompassing the city (Vv. 12-16).
- (d) **Separation Emphasized:** There was a charge to abstain from the spoils of Jericho, it was a call for purity (Vv. 17-19).
- (e) **Supernatural Manifested:** We witnessed once more the miraculous manifestation of God as He works on behalf of His people (Vv. 20-21).

- (f) **Saved! Rahab and Family:** While all the other residents of Jericho were destroyed, Rahab and her family were secured as promised (Vv. 22-23, 25).
- (g) **Sempiternal Desolation/Fame:** A curse was pronounced upon the city, and upon anyone who would attempt to rebuild it. Joshua, the faithful servant, was divinely exalted.

2. **Brief Overview of the Military Campaigns**

God was leading Israel to occupy the Promised Land (**Gen. 17:8**; 50:24; Ex. 6:8; etc.); it was promised centuries earlier as will be observed noting the references above to the time of Joshua. The land was promised to them but was now occupied by the Canaanites nations, who were blatantly evil and corrupt. Before Israel could occupy the Promised Land these nations, who were deeply rooted in their ways, had to be expelled.

(a) **Three major campaigns were conducted.**

(1) **Central Campaign**

This was to secure a strong position in the enemy's territory and from there they would advance other attacks (Josh. 6:1-8:35).

(2) **Central Campaign**

This campaign was to strike the closest, the weakest and least numerous before moving on (Josh. 9:1-10:43).

(3) **Northern Campaign**

This campaign was to focus on those enemies farther away (Josh. 11:1-12:24).

(b) The following is a quote from The Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible.

"It took seven years to conquer the promised land (Josh. 14:7, 10). Seven long years of warfare had to be waged before the enemy was defeated. In applying the message of Joshua to the lives of believers today, Warren W. Wiersbe gives an excellent statement that is well worth quoting in full:

'You are but a poor soldier of Christ if you think you can overcome without fighting and suppose you can have the crown without the conflict.'
The courageous Syrian preacher and martyr John Chrysoston (347-407) said that, and he was right; for the Christian life involves challenges and conflict whether we like it or not. Our enemies are constantly waging war against us and trying to keep us from claiming our heritage in Jesus Christ. The world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph. 2:1-3) are united against Christ and His people just as the nations of Canaan were united against Joshua and the Jewish nation. ...
The main theme of the Bible is God's holy warfare against Satan and sin. In Gen. 3:15, God declared war on Satan, and one day He will declare the victory when Jesus Christ comes as Conqueror to establish His kingdom (Rev. 19:11-21). If you eliminate the militant side of the Christian faith, then you must abandon the

cross; for it was on the cross that Jesus won the victory over sin and Satan (Col. 2:13-15).

The Christian's warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual realm (Eph. 6:10-18); and the weapons we use are spiritual (2 Cor. 10:3-6). Satan and his demonic armies use people to oppose and attack the Church of God; and if we don't take our stand in Christ, we've already lost battle. In the army of Jesus Christ there can be no neutrality. 'He that is not with me is against Me,' said Jesus; and He spoke those words in the context of spiritual warfare (Matt. 12:24-30). Since the Apostle Paul often used the military image to describe the Christian life, we dare not ignore the subject (Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:1-4; Rom. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:8)."

3. Selected Verses from Josh. 6

Josh. 6:2, 11-17, 27 Amplified Bible

"And the Lord said to Joshua, See, I have given Jericho, its king and mighty men of valor, into your hands.

So he caused the ark of the Lord to go around the city once; and they came into the camp and lodged in the camp. Joshua rose early in the morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord passed on, blowing the trumpets continually; and the armed men went before them and the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, the priests blowing the trumpets as they went.

On the second day they compassed the city enclosure once and returned to the camp. So they did for six days On the seventh day they rose early at daybreak and marched around the city as usual, only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. And the city and all that is in it shall be devoted to the Lord [for destruction]: only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

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So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land."

A. Strategy Josh. 6:1-5

1. Secured City (Josh. 6:1)

(a) "City"

(1) In ancient times any walled town was called a "city" and generally its headman was called "a king".

(2) The city of Jericho although well-fortified was a small city; note in Josh. 6:15-16, Israel marched around it seven times in one day.

(b) Due to the imminent invasion the city was on a lockdown and the alert system at its highest level.

(1) Full security was now in place and soldiers were placed on a “ready for action” mode.

- Josh. 6:1 (KJV): “Now Jericho was **straitly** shut up ...”
 - “Straitly” has the meaning of “tightly” or “strictly.”
 - The term conveys the idea that the gates were heavily barred.
- At the outset, the city of Jericho seemed impenetrable and impossible to be conquered.
 - This was Israel’s first experience with a fortified city in enemy territory (in Canaan).
 - It was a new experience especially because this generation grew up in the wilderness wandering (Num. 32:10-13)
 - The walled cities were one of the discouraging factors that contended the previous generation (Num. 13:28).
- A fortified city! (*As noted, before ...*)
 - The thickness and height of the walls vary among scholars.
 - The thickness, some say between 4’-9” to 6’-6” (one source says 20’).
 - For the height some say between 11’-8” to 17”, some say 20’ (one source says 30’).
 - It is believed that soldiers could stand on top of the walls and see for miles around.
 - It also had a tower that was about 28’ high and 30’ wide at the base.
 - Most likely with the impending invasion they had extra bars on the gates and anything else that they believed would help to ensure added security.

(2) There were several contributing factors regarding Jericho’s security, for example:

- It was strategically located as a fortress to guard against invading armies coming across the Jordan River. In fact, the Jordan River was considered a deterring factor to the enemies on the east side of Jordan especially during the flooded period.
- The city was considered a mighty fortress, impenetrable, invincible (indestructible); a city that was impossible to be conquered.

(3) **“Jericho stood as a picture of power, the enormous strength of the enemy that God’s people confronted as they sought to conquer the Promised Land.”** (The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible).

(c) Humanly speaking, the idea of conquering Jericho was impossible!

(1) In ancient times there were five possible ways to conquer a walled city.

- By using ladders or ramps to go over the walls.
- By digging tunnels underneath the walls.
- By either using battering rams to smash the gates or smash a hole in the walls of the city.

- By surrounding the city until basic supplies were depleted and for those inside to avoid continued starvation the city would surrender.
 - By means of some form of deception or an ambush.
- (2) With Israel's limited experience in countering walled cities . . .
- Of the five methods, Israel was not acquainted with the first three.
 - Unlike their predecessors who doubted (Num. 13:31-14:12); this generation (Josh. 6) displayed no fear, anxiety or doubt. They were fully confident that their God, who reigns supreme in their lives, is able!!

2. Solemn Assurance (Josh. 6:2)

(a) Joshua's concerns

- (1) As noted in previous lesson, Joshua needed time to reflect, to be alone with God as he prepares for his first military encounter in Canaan.
- (2) The LORD, Jehovah, met with him as recorded in Josh. 5:13-6:5.

(b) Confirmation of success was given.

Josh. 6:2 NKJV

"And the LORD said to Joshua: see I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor."

(1) Note carefully: "**See I have given Jericho into your hand ...**"

- "I have given ..." not "I will give."
- "I know that you have seen the city still intact, but they are already defeated!"

(2) Joshua was to know that victory was guaranteed by the LORD (*Yahweh or Jehovah*) Himself!

- No matter how impregnable or invincible (indestructible) the enemy seemed to be, victory for Israel was assured!!
- God had already delivered Jericho in the hands of Israel; victory over the enemy has been accomplished!!

(c) Israel was to operate on the assurance that the LORD had "given Jericho into your hand ..." (v. 2 NKJV).

(1) Joshua was to go in battle with confidence that the enemy was already destroyed.

(2) **Christians also fight against a defeated enemy!!**

- Our enemy, Satan, has been defeated by Christ (Rom. 8:37-39; Heb. 2:14, 15; 1 John 3:8).
- Although we still fight battles every day and sin runs rampant in the world, we have the assurance that the war has already been won!
- We do not have to be paralyzed by the power of a defeated enemy; we can overcome through Christ's power!!
- **John 15:4 Amplified Bible**
 "Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you, [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless **you abide in Me.**"

- See also Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:20; 3:3.

3. Strategy

(a) The LORD gave direction how the city should be besieged.

(1) They were to march around the city once for six days.

- Ahead of the procession were the soldiers (v. 3)
- Followed were seven priests blowing their trumpets made of ram's horns and behind them followed the Ark of God carried by priests (v.4).
- Followed by a rear guard (v.9) ("*rear guard*" briefly explained below)

(2) On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times blowing their trumpets (v.4)

(3) After marching around the city seven times, on the seventh day the people were commanded to shout when they hear the long blast of the trumpets and Joshua's command (v. 5). The walls of the city would then crumble (v. 5).

(4) The soldiers would then invade the city and conquer the enemy (v. 5).

(b) **This is the work of God!!**

(1) The people were not asked to display any human might or wisdom; however, **they were directed to the assignment God's way!**

(2) **Zech. 4:6 ESV**

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of host."

(3) Our victories are experienced through God; He is the God of battles!

- **Ex. 14:14 Amplified Bible**

"The Lord will fight for you, and shall hold your peace and remain at rest."

- See also Ex. 2:27; 2 Sam. 5:24; 2 Chron. 20:29; 32:8.

(c) **It was God's way!!**

The strategy to conquer Jericho was designed:

(1) That God's power might be exalted **in His strength** and not in the strength of His instruments.

- **Psa. 21:13 NKJV**

"Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We sing and praise Your power."

(Read Psa. 20 and 21, they are companion Psalms).

- When we remember God's strength to help us, we can only offer praise.
- In this account (Josh. 6) we witness once more God's mighty acts; Israel would be encouraged and the Canaanites terrified and confused.

(2) That He would place honor upon **the Ark**, a symbol of His presence.

- God's abiding presence was always evident among His people (Ex. 13:17-18, 21-22; **25:8**; Josh. 1:5-9; etc.).
- It would be an act of desecration to have the Ark with them without God's orders (1 Sam. 4, NB v. 3).

- Here (Josh. 6, see also Josh. 3, NB Vv. 7,8) the Ark was to be with them by God's directives ... it was an honor to the Ark of God and a great encouragement to the faith of Israel.
- (3) That He would put honor upon **the priests**.
- They were appointed to carry the Ark and sound the trumpets for this attack.
 - Ordinarily, the priests were excluded from war ... here is one of the times their involvement was meant:
 - To be an endorsement by God that this and other services rendered by the priests were of Him and they (the priests) were not to be resented.
 - That all Israel would realize the blessings that the priests are and that they are worthy of all God has conferred upon them.
- (4) That this strategy was to test **their faith, obedience and patience**.
- Here was a strategy that humanly speaking did not make sense, it had no military strategy, at least to the human eyes!! (**See 1 Cor. 1:27-29**).
 - It was for the Israelites to prove whether they could patiently bear the reproaches of their enemies and persevere until the victory was realized.
 - This strategy was basically teaching: Faith is not by force; God's ways are beyond our comprehension; the walls of Jericho will crumble!! "... be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]" (Eph. 6:10 Amplified Bible).
- (5) This strategy was also meant to encourage **their hope**.
- Such uplift in aspiration was necessary because there were great challenges ahead.
 - The living and true God was with them and He would abide with them (Josh. 1:5).
 - No negative story should distract them from the possibilities of God (Deut. 1:28).
 - God has already given the assurance of His presence and guaranteed victory (Deut. 2:24-25; Josh. 1:1-9; etc.)

B. Submission to God Josh. 6:6-11

1. **"Commander of the Army of the LORD"** (Josh. 5:14 NKJV)
 - (a) The LORD was there for action (Josh. 5:13-6:5) ... "His sword drawn in His hand (Josh. 5:13 NKJV)
 - (b) The fate of the unrepentant was at stake.
 - (1) God has a design for all **who will not repent**.
 - (2) The Commander of the army of the LORD (5:14), issues the orders and Joshua was to execute them!

- (3) Irrespective of how well fortified a city, or individuals may seem to be; everyone must realize that even then those situations or conditions upon which they feel secure cannot withstand God's judgment!
- (4) The following is a quote from Beacon Bible Commentary
 "Vain worldlings think their ramparts and barricades can keep out the vengeance of God; their blindness suffers them to look no further than the means: the supreme hand of the Almighty comes not within the compass of their fear. **Every carnal heart is a Jericho shut up; God sits down before it, and display mercy and judgment in the sight of the walls thereof; it hardens itself in a willful security, and saith, 'I shall never be moved.'**"

2. Complementary Leadership

- (a) Joshua was an exemplary leader ... They are **Honored Servants** (*Note a few highlights regarding "Honored Servants"*)
Reading the Book of Nehemiah will assist you with the following: you may also have to read the context of other references for a deeper understanding. The following is ONLY A LISTING.
 - (1) Honored servants are willing to lead by example (Neh. 11:1; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Cor. 10:23).
 - (2) Honored servants are committed to seeking God's will (Neh. 11:2; Acts 1:15-26; Psa. 25:4-5, 9).
 - (3) Honored servants are willing to obey the Lord's command (Neh. 11:1-2; 1 Sam. 15:22).
 - (4) Honored servants are willing to sacrifice and be uncomfortable (Neh. 11:1-2; Luke 9:57-58).
 - (5) Honored servants are committed to building God's house (Neh. 11:10, 12, 16-17; Haggai 1:1-15).
 - (6) Honored servants are willing to serve without glory here on earth (Neh. 11:6-12; Matt. 23:11).
- (b) As it relates to Joshua, we have been noting his outstanding leadership qualities throughout this series.
 - (1) There was a cohesiveness that was very much evident throughout his leadership.
 - (2) Outstanding also was the continued effective communication, collaboration and composure, etc. of which all these exemplary features were centered and focused on his compliance to Jehovah and how refreshing to note that these permeated his entire period of administration.
- (c) We will briefly note again some of Joshua's characteristics:
 - (1) He was a man of faith (Num. 14:6-8)
 - (2) He was entirely consecrated (Num. 32:12)
 - (3) He was spiritually minded (Josh. 3:5; 8:30)
 - (4) He displayed godly reverence (Josh. 5:14)
 - (5) He was courageous (Josh. 10:25)

- (6) He was obedient (Josh. 11:15)
- (7) He made wise decisions (Josh. 24:15)

3. Communicating and Compliance/God's Directives (Josh. 6:6-11)

(a) Joshua obeyed God (Vv. 6-7)

- (1) He commanded the priests to take up the Ark, and he assigned seven others to march in front each with a trumpet.
- (2) He also gave command to the soldiers. They were going to march around the city, leading the march.

(b) The priest and soldiers obeyed Joshua (Vv. 8-11).

Let us review the format and highlight a few pointers:

- (1) The march was led by armed (soldiers)
- (2) Followed by the priests, seven with trumpets and another set carrying the Ark of the Covenant.

The priests were God's ministers and as a result in God's name . . .

- They proclaimed war with the Canaanites, and so struck a terror upon them.
- They proclaimed God's gracious presence with Israel, and put life and courage into them

(3) Note the emphasis on the Ark.

- The Ark has been mentioned six times in Vv. 6-11 and three times in Vv. 12-13, a total of nine times.
- God's presence and guidance in the conquest of Jericho are stressed throughout this passage of Scripture.
- **Victory was to be achieved through God's presence and guidance alone.**
- Moses knew the necessity of God's presence and earnestly pleads for such (Ex. 33:12-17)

(4) The trumpets used were not the silver trumpets but those made of ram's horn (Vv. 4-6)

- These trumpets were made of a lower standard material and produced a duller sound.
- Lesson here: By the foolishness of preaching might be of God (1 Cor. 1:18-21), and although despised in the eyes of men in comparison to the glittering carnal weapons, ours may be ridiculed "but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds" (2 Cor. 10:4b Amplified Bible ... read Vv. 1-11)

(5) All the people were commanded to be silent not to speak a word, nor make any noise (v. 10).

- That they might be more carefully attended to the sound of the sacred trumpets, which would be regarded as symbolic of the voice of God.
- It is also closely acquainted with their reverent expectation of what is about to take place.
- **Zech. 2:13:** "Be silent, all flesh before the Lord."

- Ex. 14:14: “The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”
Both references taken from the NKJV.

C. Serenity and Endurance Josh. 6:12-16

There was a cool composure and fortitude with which they followed instructions for the duration of the entire process.

1. Tenacity (Josh 6:12_16)

- (a) I will close this third main point, “Serenity and Endurance” on the note of persistence . . . see “: True Grit” ... below.
- (b) Much is involved in the subject of endurance, but it is one we have discussed in so many ways therefore at this time we will be brief.
- (c) The questions have frequently been asked: “How can a Christian conquer?”
“How do we maintain a victorious life?”
 - (1) The answer: “By faith in God.”
 - **However, as a reminder, we noted before that true faith in God results in action.**
 - If we have faith in God, we will do as He says!! Be what He wants us to be! Etc.
 - How do we know His will? We do so through His Word, (Psa. 119, NB Vv. 9-16; John 15:3; 17:17; 1 Peter 1:22; etc.). Note also the Holy Spirit teaches us (Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:13; 1 John 2:27)
 - Unfortunately, too many do not spend time with the Word; but we know the Word by **spending quality time in the Word of God** (Psa. 1:1-3; 19:8; 2 Tim. 2:15; etc.)
 - We must get away from the external display that is consuming the Church (Universal) and practice “Practical Christian Living” (James 1:19-27, NB Vv. 25-27).
 - (2) Oh beloved, we have received God’s instructions!!
 - Now we must live as required because faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26).
 - Trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
 - (3) Oh Beloved!! **May He abide in us and we abide in Him!!** (John 15:1-17), allow Him to work out His perfect will in us that we may daily live victorious lives (Gal. 2:19-20; Col. 1:21-29, NB v. 27)
 - (4) Etc.
- (d) Israel’s example (Josh. 6)
 - (1) If Joshua and the people obeyed the LORD, they would conquer the enemies.
 - The fact remains, if Israel did not obey, then they would be defeated and driven out of the Promised Land.
 - Simply marching around Jericho, seemingly, was not an effective way of defeating the enemy but those were God’s orders and Israel simply had to **TRUST AND OBEY!!**

- (2) In today's world, the Church (Universal) in so many ways have forsaken the undiluted, uncompromised Word of God and adapting to the sinful environment in which it serves; how much we need to take heed!! (Rev.2:1-7; 3:14-22; 2 Chron 7:12-22, NB Vv. 13-14; etc.)

2. Thoroughness (NB 6:12-20)

- (a) The attention they paid to detailed instructions must not be ignored.
- (b) Most likely they were scoffed at and regarded as being totally meaningless.
- (c) To the occupants of Jericho, the strategy was mystified and just didn't add-up.
- (1) But the obedient Israelites knew what they were doing and for who they were doing it.
- (2) The Israelites may not have fully understood the strategy in detail, but they were neither inordinately inquisitive nor doubtful.
- (3) Despite any negative feedback from the enemy, the Israelites were **fully persuaded** that God would bring them victory.!!
- (d) **There are possibly several insights the enemy might have gained by the seven days object lessons displayed before them. (Briefly noted).**
- (1) They could have recognized the danger which threatened them by the armed soldiers in the procession.
- We can apply this as a sign that its God's will that ALL MEN should be warned.
 - God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (**Ezek. 33:11**; 18:23, 32; 2 Peter 3:8-11; etc.).
- (2) The certainty of victory for God's people was clearly demonstrated by the trumpet blowing priests (v. 8)
- It was as if these men were making no pretense in celebrating a victory which had not yet occurred (at least as seen by the human eyes, but we walk by faith not by sight 2 Cor. 5:7).
 - These priests with their trumpets were calling attention to the foundation of their faith, symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant.
- (3) Another important lesson portrayed before the Canaanites was the presence of the Ark itself
- The nations knew that God kept His covenant with His people, acting on their behalf.
 - The residents of Jericho had a ringside seat in seeing God's faithfulness demonstrated to His people.
 - They heard of the Red Sea crossing, the victories in the wilderness and the parting of the overflowed Jordan River. This covenant keeping God was being manifested before them for evaluation and they must have realized that it was a mistake to keep their gates closed on Him!
- (4) There was a great cloud of witness following the Ark (v.9) . . . note **"reward" (v. 9 KJV)**.
- **"Reward"** can carry the idea of "gathering" or "host."

- It is also defined as “rear guard.”
 - Note the NKJV of its use:
 - “... and the rear guard came after the Ark.”
 - This group is believed to have been unarmed people who were desirous to be spectators of the awesome event.
 - Some scholars believe they were people who had come up through the many testing of the wilderness and were recipients of God’s grace.
- (5) They circled the city thirteen times ... once for six days and seven times on the seventh day.
- God could have had the walls crumbled without the processions or even upon their first march around, yet they had to go around thirteen times before the walls came down.
 - This taught them the importance of waiting on God.
 - They had much ahead of them to be done in this new land, yet they must remain steadfast and hopeful with the expectation to defeat Jericho.
 - Victory was assured by God, but it would be done His way and in His timing.
 - See Isa. 40:31; Psa. 25:5; 27:14; etc.

3. Time appointed (Josh. 6:15-16)

- (a) As noted above, deliverance would be done God’s way and in God’s timing.
- (b) They were marching around and around but nothing seems to be happening.
- (1) Most likely, their procession around Jericho was done at a safe distance from the city walls whereby they would not be in danger of being hurt by arrows or any other objects that could be hurled at them.
- (2) Possibly the Israelites were ridiculed but it is either they didn’t hear, or they simply ignored and remained focused.
- Nehemiah, in his restoration project, was opposed and ridiculed, etc. (example see Neh. 4, NB Vv. 2-3) but he refused to be distracted and finished in record time (Neh. 6).
 - Scoffers will continue to oppose the work of God, but we must stay focused (Jer. 17:15; Acts 17:18; 2 Peter 3:3; etc.).
 - The fact remains that when so many thinks all is well, and they are safe and secured it will be sudden destruction (1 Thess. 5:1-3).
- (3) The commendable factor is Israel patiently obeyed the given strategy.
- As noted, before; there was a cool composure and fortitude with which they followed the instructions for the duration of the entire process.
 - Then came that moment of the long-awaited blast of the trumpets, the time for them to shout!! For the LORD had given them the city!!
 - **A Time to Shout!!**
 - It was a shout for mastery (superiority)!
 - It was a shout of triumph!

- Balaam made a magnificent statement concerning God—one that we should remember.
 - He declared that the source of Israel’s strength is to be found in God Himself (**See Num. 23:21**)
 - It was a shout of prayer!
 - Echoing up to heaven that God would remember them.
 - Yet God did as He promised! His Words are sure!!

 - **Another great shout is to take place!!**
 - See 1 Thess. 4:13-18
 - Are you ready? Are you ready?
- (c) On this note of “Time Appointed,” we have more to the subject than can be discussed at this time.
- (1) “Time Appointed,” as it relates to Jericho.
- Their fate was already determined, judgment was certain, unless reconciliation is made with God!!
 - The people of Jericho felt secured and safe in their well-fortified city guarded by their mighty men of valor.
 - Though somewhat bewildered by the continued procession of the Israelites around their city they thought it was a waste of time.
 - They must have had fun mocking the Israelites in their seemingly foolish and futile display.
 - I am regarding the thirteen processions around Jericho as a period of warning and an open invitation for the Canaanites to give up their evil. It was more like a call to repentance!!
- (2) **I am using this account (Josh. 6:6-16) as an allegory of the call to repentance for the world.**
- The Canaanites had sufficient time to take heed and amend their evil ways.
 - They all knew of the power and might of God and that He was the living and true God (Josh. 2:10-11).
 - One person was receptive and sought God. She not only secured salvation for herself but for her family! (Josh. 2:12-14, 5:22-23).
 - We have seen similar situation throughout Scriptures (***Time available for only two examples ... briefly noted***).
 - The gross wickedness of the antediluvian world was judged ... **only Noah and his family** were saved (Gen. 6-8, NB 6:8-13; 7:1-10).
 - The destruction of Sodom, **only Lot and his two daughters** were saved . . . unfortunately his wife became a pillar of salt ((Gen. 19:26). (See Gen 18:16-33; 19:1-29).
 - We could list so many instances of **Israel’s rebellion** and their captivities, but I will quote just one other reference at this time:

Jer. 6:16 Amplified Bible

“Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads and look; and ask for the eternal paths, where the good old way is; then walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. **But they said, We will not walk in it!** [Matt. 11:29]”

- This world will be judged, and we are not without adequate warnings and opportunities to amend our ways (Jer. 7:3, 5; 26:13; 35:15). Despite God’s wooing and His outstretched arms of mercy and grace many are on a complete “lock down,” well secured in their own way just like Jericho!
 - Yet the fact is, despite how secure man may think that he is, he is still susceptible to the judgment of God (Isa. 30:12-17, NB v. 13; 47:7-11, NB v. 11; 2 Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Peter 3:1-7).
 - Currently, March 2020, the world has been besieged by the deadly COVID19 Pandemic.
 - Unfortunately, and sadly noted, so many have immensely suffered including fatalities, worldwide and these facts are heart rending!! **Some of these fatalities were experienced because the facts and guidelines were ignored.**
 - The Word of God has similarly been ignored, thrown out, etc. but irrespective of man’s response God’s Word remains unchanged ... **there will be a day of accountability!!**
- We do need to move on! However, allow me to briefly note:
 - Man will be held accountable (**Heb. 9:27**; Matt. 25:31, 32; Jude 14, 15)
 - To ignore God’s call will lead to ruin and destruction (Prov. 1:24-32; Rom. 1:18-32; etc.).
 - Etc.
 - **Absolutely!! “There is a Great Day Coming”**
The Refrain:
 Are you ready? Are you ready?
 Are you ready for the judgment day?
 Are you ready? Are you ready?
 For the judgment day?
- Man’s ONLY way of escaping the imminent judgment is through Jesus Christ, washed in His blood!! **“The Blood Covers!! “Guarantees Salvation!!”**
 - It made the Israelites homes **“Homes of Safety”** (Ex. 12, NB Vv. 7, 12-13).
 - It made Rahab’s home a **“Home of Safety”** (*Symbolically the “red rope” was symbolic of the Paschal Lamb*) (Josh. 2:18-19; 6:22-23).
 - **This world will be judged; the ONLY means of security is the precious “blood of Jesus Christ”; poured out for our sins!!**
 - See Isa. 53:7; **John 1:29**; 1 Cor. 5:7; 1 Peter 1:9, 18-19; etc.

- **“When I See the Blood!”**

The Refrain

When I see the blood

When I see the blood

When I see the blood

I will pass over you.

See: Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:9; Heb 9:14; 1 Peter 1:18; etc.

- Jericho remained closed!! No room for anyone to enter!! Oh! Beloved, let us all stay accessible to God, yielding our all to Him. If you are a believer and living an inconsistent life in comparison to the **Word of God**, won't you make it right with God? He is ready and willing to help!! DO NOT WAIT UNTIL TOO LATE!! (Jer. 35:15; Ezek. 33:11; Hosea 6:1; Matt. 22:3; Rev. 3:20 ... Isa. 43:25; 44:1; 55:7; Micah 7:18; John 1:9).

4. True Grit!!

I will be able to present only limited highlights due to volume presented above and taking in consideration the remaining pointers to be discussed.

(a) A brief explanation of “True Grit.”

(1) By “True Grit” we are referring to: Carry on, to continue, to keep marching, whatever job or assignment you are involved in despite the difficulties, problems or setbacks you encounter en route your destination.”

(2) A few synonyms: courage, courageous, fearless, strength of will, etc.

(b) Beloved, we have all been there, irrespective of those who deny the facts ...

times when we felt it's all over, no use keep trying, I don't have the strength to continue; discouragements set in from every side, etc. . . .

(1) How do we conquer? How can we be victorious through life?

- It may sound too simple an answer; we will go on by faith in Jesus Christ the Author and Finisher of our faith!! (Heb. 12:1-2; Phil. 3:4; etc.).
- Paul learnt that even in the midst of his afflictions the source of his strength is in Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 12:8-9).
- Paul also affirms that in Christ we are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:28-39).
- Etc.

(2) We need a faith that is patient and that endures to the end!!

- This endurance was evident among the Israelites: six days they marched around Jericho and seven times on the seventh day!! The beauty of it all is that they endured to the end!!
- Beloved! You may have had or experiencing the adverse circumstance and yes others will certainly be experienced!! No matter what, keep your

eyes on Jesus!! **Do NOT focus on the problem; focus steadfastly on the “Problem Solver!”** (Matt. 14:22-333, NB Vv. 27-31; etc.)

(3) **Quitters never win and winners never quit!!**

- Irrespective of what, we must never give up our faith in God!!
- Victory will be ours if we persevere, endure, and obey God in everything all the days of our lives!!
- Irrespective of how great the struggle, no matter how large or strong the enemy, no matter any other relating factors, if we persevere, endure to the end . . . God will give us the victory!!

(c) **An old Gospel Chorus: “Press Along!”**

Press along saints, press along
 In God’s own way
 Press along saints, press along
 In God’s own way
 Persecution we must bear
 Trials and crosses in our way
 For the hotter the battle
 The sweeter the victory!

Yes, the hotter the battle
 The sweeter the victory!

(d) **Beloved! Do not lose heart!!**

The Word of God strongly exhorts you to endure!!

- (1) You may think that you are at the end of your rope, but we are NEVER at the end of our hope!! (2 Cor. 4:8-18, NB Vv. 8-12)
- (2) Regardless of any challenge or suffering, maintain your confidence in God!!
(2 Tim. 1:8-14, NB v. 12).
- (3) Etc.
- (4) See also Matt. 10:22; John 15:9; 1 Cor 15:58; Gal 5:1; 6:9; Heb. 12:1; 1 Peter 1:13; 5:8-9; 2 Peter 3:17; etc.
- (5) The following is a quote from an old Gospel tract. May you be blessed!
“Trust—in His timing
Rely—on His promises
Wait—for His answers
Believe—in His miracles
Rejoice—in His goodness
Relax—in His presence.”

D. Separation Emphasized Josh. 6:17-19

1. Credited to God (Josh. 6:16)

“Joshua said to the people, ‘Shout, for **the LORD** has given you the city.’ (v. 16b ESV)

- (a) Such realization of triumph was made possible by God.
- (1) He is the “El Shaddai: ... “God Almighty!”
 - (2) He is “The Overpowerer” ... a somewhat coined word but meaning “**God will do what He purposes to do overpowering ALL opposition!!**”
 - He is the “**All sufficient One,**” ... He is more than sufficient to meet all our needs.
 - Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 43:14; 48:3; etc.
 - (3) He defends and fights for His people: Deut. 3:21-27, NB v. 22; 20:4; Psa. 44:5; Matt. 10:28; Rom. 8:31.
 - (4) All along Joshua kept his focus on God and His promises (from the start to the finish of his leadership (Josh. 1:2-9; 23:8-10; 24:15).
- (b) The Israelites faithfully obeyed and endured during their marching around Jericho, now it was time for that special moment!!
- (1) Such command from Joshua (Josh. 6:16b) and their faith in God authenticate the fact that Jericho would now be delivered in their hands and such was about to be realized because of God.
 - (2) This great truth is applicable to all God’s people of all ages.
Gal. 6:9 Amplified Bible
 “And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not, loosen and relax our courage and faint.”
- (c) God had given Israel the city of Jericho, He was in-charge and He would set the governing rules.

2. Cursed (Josh. 6:17)

- (a) “The city (*Jericho*) shall be “**accursed**” (Vv. 17-18).
- (1) “Accursed” derived from the Hebrew “*cherem*” which means “to separate for destruction or to put under a ban.” (“**ban**”: *officially or legally prohibit ... disallowed, outlawed, censorship, etc.*)
 - (2) “**Cherem**” is also translated as: “to destroy or devote”
NOTE: “The city shall be accursed ...” (v. 17 KJV).
 - **RSV:** “... devoted to the Lord for destruction.”
 - **The Amplified Bible:** “... shall be under a ban [that is designated to be destroyed as a form of tribute to the Lord.”
 - (3) In essence, what is conveyed here is that the object or person was devoted to God either for judgment or for His service.
These facts has been and will be repeated ... but important, as it relates to the definition note above
 - Jericho was to be destroyed.
 - The precious metals and stones consecrated to God
 - Rahab and her family saved**“Cherem”:** *To be destroyed or devoted.*

(b) **All the people of Jericho and its contents were to be utterly destroyed (Deut. 13, NB Vv. 12-13, highlight Vv. 15-16).**

- (1) The principle of *cherem* teaches that our God, the Creator, may justly destroy those who are given to evil and unrighteousness (Jer. 18, NB Vv. 6-7; 45:4; Matt. 10:28; Luke 13:3).
- (2) As it relates to Jericho, this action taken involved death to the living, burning whatever could be burned, and bringing into the treasury of the Lord's Tabernacle precious metals and stones. ... **NOTE AGAIN Josh. 6:17a.**
NKJV: "Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD for destruction ..."
LASB: "Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed ..."
- (3) The only exception in executing the judgment of God on the city was Rahab and her family (v. 17b). *We will briefly present a few pointers on this exception below.*

(c) **Why Destroy the Canaanites?**

Details not possible ... note some highlighted pointers:

- (1) Before Israel entered the Promised Land, God gave strict instructions to completely destroy these nations (Deut. 20:16-17 compare with Num. 33:51-53). As a reminder, Canaan was promised to Abraham (Gen. 17, NB v. 8); at the time of Joshua the land was occupied by the Canaanites.
- (2) This command was repeated after the Israelites crossed over Jordan into Canaan (Josh. 6:2; 8:1-2; 10:8).
- (3) The destruction of Jericho is seen as an account of God's judgment on a desperately wicked people whose sin had now reached its full measure (Gen. 6:1-7; 15:16; Deut. 9:4-5).
 - Judgment was necessary because they had given themselves to gross moral depravity.
 - The Canaanites practiced all kinds of idolatry, cult prostitution, children sacrifice and spiritism (Deut. 12:31; 18:9-13; etc.).
- (4) Completely destroying the Canaanites was necessary to safeguard Israel from being influenced by their immoral and godless standards (Deut. 20:18; also 7:2-4; 12:1-4; etc.)
- (5) The Canaanites destruction reveals a basic principle of God's judgment when sin reaches its full measure, God's mercy gives way to judgment (Josh. 11:20; see also Gen. 6:5, 11-12; 18:20-23; 19:24-25).
- (6) Israel's history confirmed the importance to get rid of such evil nations. Unfortunately, Israel failed to completely expel these nations which resulted in them adapting to the very things that were forbidden, resulting in their apostate condition (Judges 1:28; 2, NB Vv. 2, 11-15, 17; etc. **Judges 21:25**)
- (7) The destruction of that age of Canaanites is a prefigurement (**prefigurement: foretelling, predicting, etc.**) and foreshadowing (foretelling, predicting, etc.) of God's final judgment on the unrighteous at the end of the age (Rev. 19:11-12).

- We are living in a time when gross immorality is **habitually** practiced within the Church (Universal). A famous signing group some years ago, noted in one of their songs: “We are not getting rid of the dark only getting use to the dark.”
- As seen in the situation with Jericho everything had been devoted to evil, and as a result everything was subjected to God’s judgment and destruction.
- Beloved! Despite the evil that prevails and man’s false sense of security, God will overthrow worldly powers and establish His righteous kingdom (Read Rev. 18-21, NB 18:20-21; 20:4-10; 21:1-4).

3. Cautioned and Consecration (Josh. 6:18-19)

(a) The warning has been issued!!

Josh. 6:18a NKJV

“And you by **all means abstain** from the accursed things ...:

(1) No spoil (trophy, loot, etc.) was allowed ... no plundering of the city for personal benefit was allowed because everything was devoted to God either for destruction or it was dedicated to His service.

(2) Let us note again

- **V. 17:** “And the city and **all that is in it shall be devoted to the Lord ...**”
- **V. 18:** But **you, keep, yourself from** the accursed and devoted things.”
Both verses quoted from the Amplified Bible.

(3) **A note of strong warning!! No Exemption!!**

- Take heed of meddling with that which is forbidden.
- **What has been devoted to God, if taken for personal use will result in the individual (s) being cursed!!**
- The Israelites were being warned to check themselves! Hold back!! Abstain from the desire or any inclination to disobey, because such an act would only result in a curse and trouble not only for the individual but for the entire camp of Israel!!

(4) God has always guided man as to how to live and we, His servants, must lovingly continue to warn the unrighteous. A few relevant Scriptures: 2 Chron. 19:10; Isa. 58:1; Ezek. 3:18; 33:9; 1 Thess. 5:14; etc.

(b) The necessity of consecration.

The subject of consecration has been discussed in many of my studies, it is not a new topic but remains one of great importance.

(1) Looking carefully at Josh. 6:18-19, we do observe that God demanded purity and separation from all defilement; from everything that was unclean and impure.

(2) God’s people were charged to keep away, abstain from the accused (the condemned, ill-fated, detestable, etc.) things!

(3) They would certainly suffer judgment and destruction if they either touched or take any of the accursed things of Jericho.

- (4) Despite the widespread compromise of worldliness within the Church (Universal) God is still demanding that we remain dead to the world and remain alive in Him (*One quick reference: Col. 2:13-23, NB Vv. 20-21*).

Col. 2:21 Amplified Bible

“Do not handle [this], Do not taste [that], Do not even touch [them].”

(c) **Another point of interest is “First Fruit.”** (*Briefly Noted*)

- (1) Just as the first born of man and cattle were sacred to the Lord (Ex. 13:1; 34:19; Lev. 27:26; etc.), so also the fruit of the ground (Ex. 22:19; 23:16; Lev. 23:10; etc.).
- (2) God is the Creator and sustainer of the world and its occupants (Psa. 24:1) and so everything belongs to Him. We ought to give Him our first and our best.
- (3) Jericho was the first fruit of the conquest of Canaan, and all that was in the city was God’s.
- (4) As noted earlier, the usage of “accursed” (v.17) is derived from the Hebrew “*cherem*” also refers to the fact that the person or object was devoted to God for judgment or for His service.
 - **Reserved for His judgment:** everything within the city (**Vv. 18-19**).
 - **Reserved for His service:**
 - The items that were consecrated to God. They would be dedicated to the Tabernacle’s use (v. 19).
 - All the valuable metals and stones were given as an offering to the place of worship, The Tabernacle of the LORD.
 - Beloved, God is still the owner of all (Ex. 19:5; Lev. 25:23; 1 Chron. 29:14; Psa. 24:1; 50:10; etc.)
 - Rahab and her family (Vv.17, 22-23 . . . see also Heb. 11:31; James 2:25; see also Lesson 2 pages 8-11).

4. **Crucial and Cannot be Ignored Factors** (*Briefly Noted*)

- (a) What we are witnessing here in Josh. 6, as it relates to Jericho’s judgment is unfortunately ignored by so many preachers or it is watered down or regarded by some as obsolete, etc.
 - (1) What is equally amazing is how pious and God conscious we all become when trouble is at our doors, or disaster is raging an awful havoc, etc.
 - (2) God forbid that we become callous and intimidating, etc. **but it must be known that God is not a convenience store. Far too many seek God ONLY when adverse situations arise but when everything is OK God is placed on the back burner or thrown out!!**
- (b) Please note two strong and most essential lessons:
 - (1) **The earth is subject to the judgment of God!!**
 - God will judge all that is unclean and impure, those who are unrighteous and ungodly, and upon all that is evil and wicked.

- Understanding the reality of the judgment of God will prompt a person to seek and secure victory over the evil that characterizes this world.
- A person who genuinely understands the judgment of God will give up the sinful way of living.
- This person will flee from sensuality and evil desire. With God's help and his obedience, he will "touch not, taste not, handle not" (Col.2:21).
- His ultimate objective will be to abstain from the very appearance of evil lest he becomes subjected to the judgment of God.
- Beloved, God's Word stands: This earth is subjected to the judgment of God!!
 - I know what the critics will say but **the Bible remains unchanged!!**
 - Man has been spurning the call of God to righteousness and feeling secured in his make believed fortified haven, but God's judgment will be poured out.
 - No one! Absolutely no one, will be exempted unless they have sought refuge in Jesus Christ, just as Rahab obtained God's grace and mercy.
 - See Matt. 25:31-46; John 3:19; 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:7-8; Heb. 9:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:7; Jude 14-15.

(2) **God demands separation from worldliness.**

- The Israelites were not even to touch the unclean things of Jericho.
- Likewise, God demands of the Church that we be NOT ENTANGLED with unrighteousness (Gal. 5:1)
 - We are not to partake of the worldliness, sin and shame of this evil and sinful world.
 - We have heard some preachers making mention of "sinning saints"; but beloved, such is contrary and totally inconsistent with the standards of God for His people (see for example 1 John 3:1-10, NB Vv. 8-10). While the compromise within the Church (Universal) continues, God requires distinctiveness, we are called to be salt and light (Matt.5:13-16).
 - Beloved, salt purifies and preserves; etc.
 - Light eradicates darkness and illumines the way of righteousness; etc.
 - See my study Book: The Righteous Pursues Holiness, Chapter 4, Lessons 1 and 2. Available on our website livingwaterstudies.com.
- God requires that we be separated from the world and be set apart for Him!
- See Luke 21:34; John 15:19; Acts 2:40; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 2:4; Heb. 11:24-25; etc.

E. Supernatural Manifested Josh. 6:20-21

The materials that we have in the remaining verses have been noted before; these remaining pointers will be presented with some repetition as briefly as possible.

1. **Sequence of Events ... A Listing (Josh. 6:20-21)**

- (a) Sounding of the Trumpets
- (b) Shout of Victory
- (c) Shattering of the Walls
- (d) Stormed by the Soldiers
- (e) Securing the Site

2. **Steadfast Faith/Source of Power (Josh. 6:20-21)**

(a) "The walls fell flat"

(1) They were instructed to shout, and they obeyed

- They obeyed because of their steadfast faith in God.
- He said it would happen and they believed
 - **Isa. 46:11b Amplified Bible**
"Yes, I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed it and I will do it."
 - God's Word is sure: 1 Kings 8:56; Psa. 111:7; Ezek. 12:25; Matt. 5:18; Luke 21:33.
- **As it relates to "Obedient Faith" we have seen it lived out by this generation of Israelites.**
 - Their pledge of loyalty and allegiance (Josh. 1:16-18)
 - The enthusiasm, assurance and good report of the two spies (Josh. 2:22-24).
 - Their walk of faith (Josh. 4, NB Vv. 14-17).
 - The work of faith is seen when they crossed the Jordan River and by erecting two memorials (Josh. 4, NB v. 9 and 20-24).
 - Their continued unswerving confidence and loyalty to God when they reenacted the Covenant of Circumcision, the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread (Josh. 5, NB Vv. 3-9, 10, 11-12).
 - The display of faith continues in their thirteen processions around Jericho and their shout of triumph and what a glorious outcome, all because of their "Steadfast Faith!!"

(2) The victory realized! The great walls crumbled!! (Josh. 6:20).

- Most likely some sections of the walls remained standing.
 - We know for example that Rahab's house was not destroyed although it was built in the wall (at least a portion) (Josh. 2:15; 6:22-23, 25).
 - This we do know that the assumed impregnable was breached, making it possible for the Israelite's army to invade and execute the orders given by God.

- We do not know how the walls fell, whether God used an earthquake or any other method but being God He is able to do as desired under any circumstance.
 - The crumbling wall most likely took some lives.
 - Undoubtedly, there were those on top of the wall observing the movement of the Israelites.
 - Others may have been standing near the wall and perished from the falling pieces.
 - We have read where thousands were killed by the fall of a wall (1 Kings 20:30 ... read the chapter for context).
 - With the crumbling of the walls we once more witnessed the power of God manifested on behalf of His people.
 - This we have seen through these lessons; not only liberating them (Israel) from Egypt, making a way through the Red Sea, being with them during the Wilderness Wanderings, crossing the flooded Jordan river but He guaranteed that He would always be with them! (Josh. 1:1-9; etc.).
 - God made a promise that Israel could always rely upon Him if they abide in His will.
Deut. 2:25 ESV (*Quoted repeatedly in these lessons*)
 “This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the people who are under **the whole heaven**, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.”
 - Oh! Beloved! He has not and cannot change!! We are in good hands!! Only for us to remain obedient and faithful, etc. always trusting Him!!
Rom. 8:31 Amplified Bible
 “What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side? Ps.118:6]?”
 - The city of Jericho was taken by the power of God and their **faith**, obedience and perseverance.
 - **Heb. 11:30 NKJV**
 “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.”
 - **1 John 5:4 NKJV**
 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—**our faith.**”
- (b) They (Israel’s army) utterly destroyed **all** that was in the city (Josh. 6:21a KJV).
- (1) For Israel it was an experience of complete victory and total destruction for the enemy.
 - (2) **We once more note and emphasize that victory can be realized for the people of God who maintain their faith and obedience to God!!**
 - (3) Absolutely! Definitely! It is no secret what God can do!!

- He will break down all antagonistic power that comes against His people (the Church). Even if these opposing forces are encircled with the gates of brass and iron, in God's sight they are straw and rotten wood!!
 - **Isa. 45:2 Amplified Bible**
 "I will go before you and level the mountains [to make the crooked places straight]; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut asunder the bars of iron."
(Read the chapter NB Vv. 1-9)
 - God will remove the obstacles: Isa. 40:4; Zech. 4:7; Matt. 21:22.
- (4) We explain above why such destruction of the Canaanites was necessary.
- See the pointer above entitled: "Why Destroyed the Canaanites?" (Page 18).
 - I will highlight a few reminders (from the pointer: Why Destroy the Canaanites?" ... maybe slightly worded differently).
 - God was carrying out severe judgment against the wickedness of the Canaanites.
 - The judgment of ban usually requires that everything be destroyed (Deut. 12:2, 3; 13:12-18; etc.) but certain items would be used for the work of God.
 - **Because of their gross evil practices and intense idolatry, the Canaanites were stronghold of rebellion against God. This threat to the living and true God made it necessary for them to be removed.**

3. Stand Fast in the Faith!

Practical lessons relating to "Stand Fast in Faith" . . . we have discussed the pointers that will be briefly addressed below but God has poured so much in my soul I do have to share some with you. Oh! My Beloved! Let us be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might!!

(a) Endangered but Secured

- (1) Throughout the Psalms we have so many accounts of the perils faced by the righteous, but God always deliver His people! With God's help, I will present study lessons based on a few of these Psalms. Two examples are:
- **Psalm 3**
 - I have entitled this as: "Victory in the Face of defeat."
 - This was David's experience when he fled from Absalom ... note carefully verse 2.
 - **Psalm 57**
 - I have entitled this as: "Peril and Prayer."
 - Written about David when he fled from King Saul in the cave ... carefully note Vv. 4-6.
- (2) It is Satan's nature and his objective to afflict believers, but it is our responsibility to . . .

“Be well balanced (tempered and sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times . . . withstanding him; **be firm in faith** [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable and determined] ...” (**1 Peter 5:8, Amplified Bible**).

(b) **Faith is the Victory that Overcomes!!**

(1) There are some who speak of faith in a manner that simply appeals only to the emotions, but the in-depth meaning remains unknown!

- We have made a brief coverage of faith in this series and if necessary, you are encouraged to review, for example, Lesson 3 Parts A and B.
- You have heard the theory: “Where (or when) the rubber meets (or hits) the road.” One of my dad’s sayings was “Easier said than done.”
- Regarding faith ... think:
 - How do we respond under pressure?
 - When nothing seems to go right.
 - Or it is one problem solved, and another erupts.
 - Or no matter what you do nothing seems to change.
 - Etc.
 - Indeed, easier said than done!!
 - It is so easy to quote Job’s statement: “Though he slay me yet will I trust him ...”(Job 13:15)
 - Or you may say like Paul: “None of these things move me ...” (Acts 20:24).
 - Etc.

(2) The fact remains: How do we conquer? How do we genuinely experience victory throughout life?

- We do so by possessing a faith that experiences victory through God’s power!!
 - There is something about faith that endures ... that holds on! That clings to God, no giving up!! No matter what!!
 - It is faith that is stubborn, it stays focus on God!! Keeps on believing, trusting, even in the midst of crises, as exemplified by Paul on his voyage to Rome (Acts 27, NB Vv. 14-25) or it may be the last moment of your physical life, but you are believing God (2 Tim. 4:4-8).
- **Beloved, we must go through the process in order to become the desired product (1 Peter 1:7)** ... See also Job 23:10; Psa. 66:10; Isa. 48:10)
 - **The song: Through It All** (*Noted before in another lesson*)
Refrain
 Through it all, through it all
 I’ve learned to trust in Jesus
 I’ve learned to trust in God

Verse 3

I thank God for the mountains,
 And I thank Him for the valleys
 I thank Him for the storms He brought me through
 For if I never had a problem,
 I wouldn't know God could solve them
 I'd never know what faith in God would do.

- Oh, beloved! He didn't promise us smooth sailing, but He guaranteed us safe landing!! (*Another of my favorite quotes*).
 - Your faith will be tested (Psa. 17:3; Zech. 13:19; Mal. 3:3; Luke 6:48; 1 Cor. 3:13).
 - We are partakers of Christ's suffering, but we should maintain faith amidst our afflictions (1 Peter 4:12-16, NB Vv. 12-13).

(c) Sustaining Faith by Israel (Josh. 6)

- (1) Noted several times: Israel obeyed, remained faithful, they were steadfast in faith and they endured ... as a result they experienced victory!!
- (2) Israel experienced complete victory and complete destruction of the enemy.
 - Complete victory was achieved by the phenomenal power and spectacular miracle of God.
 - The first enemies in the Promised Land were a people hardened by evil with no desire of repenting and turning to God.
 - Israel believed and trusted God to the very end; therefore, God gave them the victory.

(d) Faith in God is the Victory that Overcomes the World.

- (1) The Church (Universal) is not without enemies. (*Briefly Noted*)
 - Unfortunately, many (too many) believers do not genuinely know who the arch enemy of the Church is; the one who is in opposition to godly/righteous living (Eph. 6:12)
 - Satan is our enemy, he is the accuser, who oppose all that we are and ought to be in Jesus Christ (Zech. 3:1-2; Rev. 12:16).
 - He opposes God and God's work from the beginning (Gen. 3:15; Matt. 16:23; John 8:44; Acts 5:3; 2 Cor. 11:3; Jude 9)
 - Etc.
 - Beloved, there are opposers of the cross even within (Phil. 3:18).
 - Paul, himself was tested and tried to the full extent (2 Cor. 7:5; 11:16-32)
- (2) The Church (Universal) is not without its enemies!!
 - There are many geared up to deceive, defeat and destroy.
 - Many of us are confronted with irritating issues such as:
 - Disease and injury
 - Hate and hostility
 - Envy and consuming lust
 - Anger and malice

- Betrayal and loneliness
- Argument and division
- Discrimination and injustice
- Financial loss and bankruptcy
- Etc.
- Many are the challenges, but victory can be experienced in Jesus Christ.
 - There is victory over life's challenges (Psa. 34:19, NB Vv. 17-22; etc.)
 - As seen in our current study, we need that enduring, steadfast faith that perseveres to the end!!
 - Believing and trusting Christ!
 - Clinging to Christ!
 - Following Christ!
 - Doing exactly what Christ tells us to do!
 - This life of commitment will bring victory through Jesus Christ!!
 - Beloved victory is achieved only through the power of Jesus Christ; absolutely, ONLY through His power!! And that will be realized by **abiding in Him!!** (John 15:4).

1 John 2:28 Amplified Bible

“And now, little children, **abide (live, remain permanently) in Him**, so that when He is made visible, we may have and enjoy perfect confidence (boldness, assurance) and not be ashamed and shrink from Him at His coming.”

(3) The song: I have Decided to Follow Jesus

Partial Quote

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

No turning back, no turning back.

My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus

My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus

My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus

No turning back, no turning back.

- (4) See John 16:33; Rom. 6:13; 8:31-34, 35, 37-39; 1 Cor. 10:13; Eph. 6:12-13; Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16; 1 John 5:4-5.

F. Saved! Rahab and Family! Josh. 6:22-23, 25.

1. **Possession of Faith/Its Fruit** (Josh. 2:10-13; 6:22-23, 25).
 - (a) Note a few highlights from lesson 2 (Josh. 2)

- (1) Rahab's profession of faith is remarkable, coming from a woman with a pagan background.
 - (2) What she had heard led her to believe that the **One who** had done these astonishing achievements for the benefit of His people had to be the living and true "God in heaven and on earth beneath" (Deut. 4:39 NKJV).
 - (3) Rahab requested that she and her family be saved from death (Josh. 2:12-13)
 - (4) Rahab forsook her past, her country for the sake of the two spies. **She gave up everything and now seeks salvation for herself and her family.**
 - (5) Etc. (See Lesson 2).
- (b) As I have noted repeatedly, faith in Jesus Christ is not limited to mental assent ... it MUST go deeper!!

- (1) The following is taken from Lesson 3 Part B, Page 17.
"Faith includes our beliefs but goes deeper, in other words it is bigger because **faith requires action**. If our faith doesn't move us to do something or say something—actually take some action—it is not really faith at all" (James 2:17).
- (2) Rahab had faith in God and **secured salvation** for herself and her family.
- (3) A Scripture that I have frequently used is John 1:12 . . . Herein the penitent is seen doing three things:
 - He Believes!
 - He Receives!
 - He Becomes!
 This transaction results in the person becoming a new creature (2 cor. 5:17); **old things** are passed away and the **new life** experienced (Col. 3:1-17; Eph. 2:24; etc.).
- (4) Rahab and her family were rescued because they believed in the Lord God of Israel.
 - They turned away from (renounced) their old sinful ways and chose to become identified with God's people and the God they served.
 - They committed their lives to follow after the Lord God Himself.
 - See also Ruth 1:6-7.
- (5) **Mercy there was great, and grace was free!!**
 - There is mercy for anyone who will believe the evidence God gives of Himself.
 - Destruction looms over this sin-stricken world but His mercy is still available!! We pray that millions more will seek Him before it is too late (Isa. 55:6-7).

2. Promises Kept/Period of Purity (Josh 6:22-23, 25)

- (a) Promises Kept
 - (1) Joshua and his army were busy with the battle on hand, but he took effectual care to secure Rahab and her family.
 - (2) The same persons she had secured were assigned to secure her.

- (3) All her family was saved because like Noah, she believed in the salvation of her household.
 - (4) All of Jericho heard about the God of Israel (Josh. 2:8-11) but only Rahab responded positively in faith towards God.
 - (5) **God has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son (Heb. 1:1-2).** The unfortunate situation is that men loves darkness (evil) rather than light (righteousness) because their deeds are evil (John 3:19).
 - (6) **God is still reaching out in love (Isa. 1:18-19; etc.) but there will be a penalty for those who spurn (Isa. 1:20; etc.).**
- (b) Period of purity (Josh. 6:23)
- “So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel” (Josh. 6:23b NKJV).
- (1) If Rahab and her family had so desired, they could have escaped to a neighboring nation, but they made up their mind to become a part of Israel.
 - (2) They were placed outside the camp of Israel until they became ceremonially and ritually cleansed (Num. 5:1-4; 12:13-16; Deut. 23:9-14; etc.).
 - (3) In due time Rahab was incorporated in Israel and did remarkable well.
 - Rahab became the wife of Salmon, a prince of the tribe of Judah (Matt. 1:5).
 - Rahab and Salmon were the parents of Boaz (Ruth 4:21)
 - Rahab and Salmon were the great grandparents of David

3. The Power of Redemption

I will be briefly illustrating the meaning of redemption which has been so powerfully demonstrated in the deliverance of Rahab and her family.

- (a) I will first note the three statements from our text that relates with the definition of redemption. I will follow with the definition and possible limited comments followed with the illustration. May you be blessed!!
- (b) **The three statements from our text.**
- (1) Josh. 6:22, 23, KJV: “**Go into** the harlots house and bring out ...” ... “and the young men who were the spies **went in** ...”
 - (2) Josh. 6:23 KJV: “... and **brought out** Rahab ... and they **brought out** all her ...”
 - (3) Josh. 6:23 KJV: “... and **left them outside the camp of Israel.**”
- (c) **Defining redemption (Briefly)**
- (1) General Dictionary
 - The action of saving or being saved from sin, error or evil.
 - The action of regaining or gaining possession in exchange for payment ...
 - (2) KJV Dictionary

- Repurchase of captured goods or prisoners; the act of procuring (acquire, secure, etc.) the deliverance of persons or things from the possession and power of captors by payment
 - Deliverance from bondage, distress, or from liability to any evil
- (3) We can use a simple term to define “redemption”: **“To buy back.”**

(d) The experience of Rahab and her family shows the result of faith.

We have displayed in this account, faith that saves and rescues the believer from the judgment of God. We are saved by His mercy and grace!!

(1) Keep in mind that because of one man’s sin all have been alienated from God because of sin (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; etc.). Jesus Christ paid the ransom with His precious blood reconciling us to God (Isa. 53:6; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Eph. 2:16; etc.).

- **Originally, that is before man transgressed, we were God’s; sin separated us from God. Through the atonement of Jesus Christ, we were purchased in the slave market, taken out of the slave market then set free!!** That, beloved. Is the power of redemption!!
- **1 Cor. 15:22 Amplified Bible**
“For since [it was] through a man that death [came into the world, it is] also through a Man that the resurrection of the dead [has come]. For just as [because of their union of nature] in Adam all people die, so also [by virtue of their union of nature] shall all in Christ be made alive.”
- **Rom. 5:10 NKJV**
“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

(2) THE ILLUSTRATION

Please note the three statements” above: “The three statements from our text”. That is pointer 3b (1) Josh. 6:22, 23 (2) Josh. 6:23 (3) Josh. 6:23

Rahab and Family Josh. 6:22-23	The Slave Market of A Life Enslaved by Sin
V. 22: The spies went into Jericho for Rahab and family.	Jesus Christ entered the slave market to purchase us in the slave market .
V. 23: They took Rahab and her family out of Jericho.	Jesus Christ not only purchase un in the slave market, but He took us OUT!! Out of the slave market

V. 23: They took them to a place of safety and transition into the new life; **wherein they were eventually freed from the evil past.**

Jesus Christ purchased us **in** the market; **took us out of** the market and **set us free!! John 8:36**

We can also use the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11) to illustrate this great act of God's redemption.

(e) **The Hymn: Redeemed**

Refrain

Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child, and forever, I am.

G. Sempiternal Desolation/Fame Josh. 6:24-27

(sempiternal: eternal and unchanging; everlasting)

1. Discrimination Between Good and Evil (Josh. 6:24)

(a) The soldiers had a choice to obey or to disobey.

(1) Most likely some eye appealing items were being destroyed during the destruction of Jericho.

- Maybe some were tempted but refrained to keep something for themselves.
- One man caved in, which we will see in our next lesson.
- Beloved temptation itself is not sin but yielding is (James 1:12-15; Heb. 2:18; 4:15; etc.).
- As we saw before we must resist the devil (1 Peter 5:8-9); we must keep away from the very appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22-24).

(2) **Overall, the soldiers did excellent!**

- They obeyed God and did exactly what He commanded.
- They burned the city and secured the valuable items for the Tabernacle. ... Oh, the beauty of obeying God!!
- **1 Sam. 15:22 NKJV**
"So Samuel said, 'Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.'"

(b) Keep in mind also the "First Fruits" belong to God! Also, not only the earth is His and all that is within (Psa. 24:1) but He fought the battles and He makes the rules!!

(1) Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey!!

- (2) The city was to be completely destroyed and the assigned spoils dedicated to God's service.
- The things in Jericho that were misused will now be God used.
 - It was important for Israel to remember to whom all things belong!!

2. Discernment of Joshua ... Rahab Secured (Josh. 6:25)

This has been noted before . . . limited comments at this time.

- (a) The salvation of Rahab, who was a heathen, has become a type of the believer.
- (b) She heeded the warning, believed the promises, made the commitment and became a member of the great cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1 compare with Matt. 1:5; Heb. 11:31 and James 2:25).
- (c) The deliverance of Rahab and her family paints a wonderful picture of **"The Fruits of Faith."** Note the following:
- (1) Salvation for Self and Family (Josh. 6:22-23).
 - (2) Separation from the Old Way (Josh. 6:23-24).
 - (3) Settling in a New Community (Josh. 6:25).

3. Doomed Indefinitely (Josh. 6:26)

Josh. 6:26 ESV

"Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, 'Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and build this city, Jericho. At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and the cost of his youngest son he set up its gates.'"

- (a) The representation of wickedness that was so rampant in Jericho was not to be revived.
- (1) "Adjure" (Josh. 6:26) is "to charge, bind, or command an oath, or under the penalty of a curse."
 - (2) Jericho was "devoted to [God's] judgment by God!
 - (3) It was doomed for utter destruction because of the terrible evil that prevailed among the people.
- (b) **Jericho was condemned to a perpetual desolation and a curse was pronounced upon the man that, at any time, should try to rebuild the city**
- (1) God would make sure the curse remains, and there is no getting from under it; the city would remain in ruins, with no remedy or repair.
 - (2) God would have Jericho remain in its ruins, as a standing monument of His wrath against the Canaanites when their iniquity was overflowing; it would also be a witness of His mercy to His people upon their arrival to settle in Canaan.
 - (3) This curse was fulfilled as noted in 1 Kings 16:34 when a man, Hiel, rebuilt Jericho and consequently lost his oldest and youngest sons.

4. Divine Distinction (Josh. 6:27)

- (a) The result of Joshua's obedience was just what God promised: the presence and guidance of the Lord Himself and esteem of the people.
- (b) **A God—Centered0 Life Could Not Be Hidden!!**
- (1) Rarely had the world then witnessed anyone living such completely abandon life, wholly surrendered to God.
 - However, here is a man who gave God credit for every plan he used.
 - He sought for no one's favor above God's.
 - (2) Joshua's fame was to be spread through-out all the country as a result of the separated and dedicated life he lived.
 - (3) God magnified him and raised his reputation and made him not only acceptable to Israel but formidable to the Canaanites.

Dorothy Norwood's song: "Victory Is Mine"

Victory is mine,
 Victory is mine,
 Victory today is mine,
 I told Satan to get thee behind,
 Victory today is mine.

Joy is mine,
 Joy is mine,
 Joy today is mine,
 I told Satan to get thee behind,
 I know that joy is mine.

Happiness is mine,
 Happiness is mine
 Happiness today is mine,
 I told Satan to get thee behind,
 Happiness today is mine.

Victory is mine,
 Victory is mine,
 Victory today is mine,
 I told Satan get thee behind,
 Victory today is mine.

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.”

LESSON 5 REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Briefly note the military campaigns Israel conducted to conquer Canaan with references.

2. Complete the following:

“You are but a (a) _____ soldier of (b) _____ if you think you can (c) _____ without (d) _____ and suppose you can have the (e) _____ without the (f) _____.”

3. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“If you _____ of the Christian faith, then you must abandon the cross; for it was on the cross that Jesus won the victory over Satan (Col. 2:13-15).”

- (a) elevate the relaxing attitude
- (b) disliked the emotional outburst
- (c) emphasize the nominal side
- (d) eliminate the militant side

4. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.

“In the army of Jesus Christ there can be no neutrality.”

5. The following is a quote from our lesson. **Rearrange it correctly.**

“the promise land of the enormous strength confronted God’s people as they sought picture of Jericho that stood as a power the conquer enemy.” (Clue see page 2, 3 or 4?)

6. What assurance did God give to Joshua as noted in Josh. 6:2 and why was this significant?

7. What five things the strategy to conquer Jericho, given by God, was meant to accomplish (Briefly)?

8. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:
“ _____, God’s ways are beyond our comprehension; the walls of Jericho will crumble!”

- (a) Faith is to be complacent
- (b) Faith is not by force
- (c) Faith in God is changeable
- (d) Faith requires great emotional display

9. Briefly explain the following:
“Every carnal heart is a Jericho shut up.”

10. We made a brief listing noting the qualities of **“Honored Servants”**; (a) List all six qualities. (b) Briefly explain what is meant by any two of these qualities.

11. In Josh. 6:6-13 (a) how many times was the Ark mentioned? (b) What significant lesson taught?

12. In Israel’s conquest of Jericho, Israel was faithfully obedient; (a) what was the result of their steadfast obedience (b) What would have been the result if they had disobeyed?

13. What are some possible insights the inhabitants of Jericho could have gained from Israel’s processions around the city?

14. What important lesson was conveyed to Israel by the thirteen processions around Jericho before the walls of the city crumbled?

15. Israel made a **“SHOUT!”** on the seventh day after the seventh procession. What other **“SHOUT!”** is about to take place (by God’s timing) as indicated in our lesson ... briefly explain?

16. The Canaanites had sufficient time to repent before they were destroyed (Josh. 6) but they remained in their evil ways. Briefly note how this relates to the opportunity to repent offered to the world today.

17. In Josh. 6:17, 18, the word “accursed” (KJV); what does it mean and how was it applicable to Jericho?

18. Briefly list five reasons why the destruction of the Canaanites was necessary (*seven were noted in our lesson*).

19. Complete the following:

"Looking carefully at Josh. 6:18-19, we do observe that God demanded (a) _____ and (b) _____ from all (c) _____ ; from (d) _____ that was (e) _____ and impure."

20. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

"Because of their gross evil practices and intense idolatry, the Canaanites were a stronghold against God. This threat to the living and true God made necessary _____."

- (a) for them to be released.
- (b) for them to be pitied.
- (c) for them to be removed.
- (d) for them to be overlooked.

21. Briefly explain the following statement:

"Faith requires action."

22. Why were Rahab and her family left outside the Israelite’s camp after being rescued out of Jericho (Josh. 6:23)?

23. Briefly explain the three phases of redemption as noted in our lesson.

24. We noted the deliverance of Rahab and her family painted a wonderful picture of “**The Fruits of Faith.**” List the three pointers noted with references.

25. In regard to Joshua’s curse upon Jericho (Josh. 6:26); explain the meaning of the curse.
(b) Was this curse ever fulfilled, if so briefly explain?

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.