

JOSHUA 6-7 – The Destruction of Jericho; Defeat at Ai; The Sin of Achan!

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

OUTLINE OF JOSHUA

INTRODUCTION:

I. The Conquest of Canaan –

B. Conquest of Canaan (6:1 to 13:7)

1. Victory at the battle of Jericho (6:1-27) Hebrews 11:30
2. Defeat at the first battle of Ai (7:1-5)
3. The sin and punishment of Achan (7:6-26) Notice Joshua 6:18-19 and Hebrews 10:31. When God gives us our blessings we should not want to hold on to treasures of this world Colossians 3:1-5.

JOSHUA 6-7 – The Destruction of Jericho;

Jos 6:1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

Jos 6:2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

Jos 6:3 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.

Jos 6:4 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.

Jos 6:5 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."

INTRODUCTION – CHAPTER 6 – JERICHO TAKEN

This chapter is the continuation of the former. He which appeared to Joshua in the close of the foregoing chapter, begins in this to give directions, as captain of the Lord's host, how Joshua is to proceed in the conquering of Jericho. Here is the progress of the siege, and the event of it, in the overthrow of Jericho. Joshua pronounces a curse upon the builder of Jericho, whoever in after ages should attempt it.

INTRODUCTION – CHAPTER 7 - THE FIRST DEFEAT AND ITS CAUSE:

Israel was taught that victory is possible only where there are exact obedience and sincere consecration. We cannot cope with our foes, unless we live in unclouded fellowship with God. Our spiritual allies in the heavenly places cannot co-operate while evil is harbored. Canaan was a gift to faith, and a strong spiritual life was required. The gold and silver of Jericho were consecrated to God, so that Achan committed sacrilege as well as theft. Ai was a comparatively small place; but without God the smallest opposition is too great for us.

v. 1 Jericho was prepared for the attack of the Israelites. They did not think the Israelites would arrive as quickly as they did, but they shut up the city and prepared for attack.

v. 2 The language suggests that a purpose already formed was about to be carried into immediate execution. Although the king and inhabitants of Jericho were fierce and experienced warriors, who would make a stout and determined resistance, the Lord promised a certain and easy victory over them.

vs. 3-5 *around the city.. once* - At a convenient distance, out of the reach of their arrows. *Six days* - Every day once. This and the following course might seem ridiculous and absurd, and is therefore prescribed by God, that they might learn to take new measures of things, and to expect success not from their own valor, or skill, but merely from God's appointment and blessing. This plan of God's was so astonishing as it appears to human reason, was evidently intended for the glory of God, and the exercise of the faith of Israel. But as the ark, in this instance as in the former, at the fording of Jordan, formed the principal object, how sweetly when beheld and explained in a gospel sense, it does set forth the sure victory of God's people, before whom Jesus goes, leading His army to conquest. The Lord had promised Israel that His people should possess nations, whose cities were great and walled up to heaven. And here He graciously undertook to tear down those walls to the ground before them. Deu_9:1.

v. 1 Notice the people of Jericho are terrified – the city is shut up. How does fear affect you?

vs. 3-4 God lays out His battle plan. The priests are involved to show the enemy that this battle is not against the army of Israelites but the God of Israel is as well! He is going to defeat all their gods in the land. How do you fight your battles? God's commands are not to be questioned as to their reasonableness but to obey.

v. 5 God's plan always work, because it is His plan! God stands behind His plan. It's true what He did in Jericho and it's true with every battle He will lead you through. We only must obey, we discover the power to obey and those commands will prevail, no matter how great the strongholds are in our life! No matter what! Those walls those v. 6 2Co 10:3-4 *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, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, [6] and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Mat 22:28-29 *Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her."* [29] Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, (1) not knowing the Scriptures (2) nor the power of God. Cf. Heb. 11:30-31

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Jos 6:6 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."

Jos 6:7 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."

Jos 6:8 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.

Jos 6:9 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.

Jos 6:10 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."

Jos 6:11 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.

Jos 6:12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

Jos 6:13 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.

Jos 6:14 And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

Jos 6:15 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.

Jos 6:16 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!"

INTERPRETATION

v. 6 *the priests*,.... Not the Levites and Kohathites, whose business it was in common to bear the ark, but upon this occasion the priests; not all of them, but as many as were sufficient for the purpose: *take up the ark of the covenant*; by putting the staves into the rings of it, and so carry it. *Trumpets of ram's horns* - “trumpets of jubilee” (compare Lev_25:10 note). The instrument is more correctly rendered “cornet”

vs. 7-8 There must have been somewhat particularly animating when the When the trumpets were blown, they bid defiance to the enemy, but inspired courage to the Lord's people. The office of the priest was intended as encouraging also, because it promised the Lord's presence.

vs. 9-10 Though the armed men went before, yet their services would not be required. The victory God our Savior had graciously reserved to Himself. Silence throughout the camp intimated this, similar to what was said to Israel, at the Red Sea,

v. 11 *circle the city*,.... The priests carried the ark round the city; going about it once; on that day, and no more; keeping at such a distance, as to be out of the reach of stones or arrows cast from the walls of the city: and they *came into the camp*, and lodged that night, the priests that bare the ark, those that blew with the trumpets, and all the armed men, and the people.

vs. 12-14 The next day the Israelites did the same. The watchman on the wall cries out, "Here they come again." Then the Israelites march around the wall and go back to camp. Each day for six days they do the same thing. By the sixth day, the midnight oil must have burned long inside Jericho. The army on the outside was tired of marching around the wall. Maybe some of the children of Israel were saying, "What we are doing looks foolish!" If Joshua why he was doing this, he probably would have replied, "I take my orders from the Captain of the hosts of the Lord. This is what He has told me to do and I am doing it."

vs. 15-16 On the seventh day: This march took place over a period of seven days, meaning that Israel had to have marched on a Sabbath; but this would be a work of God's sovereign grace and power, not of human works. *Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!* The command was given for the people to *shout*. After the days of silence, this comes as a recognition that God would now given them what He had promised. *The LORD has given you the city!*

APPLICATION

v. 10 How difficult do you think it is for 1 million or so not to speak or make any noise. How are you with silence? Do you find it easy to keep your mouth shut?

"Joshua Fit The Battle" -

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho Jericho Joshua fit the battle of Jericho And the walls come tumbling down

Refrain: . God knows that.. Joshua fit the battle of Jericho Jericho Jericho Joshua fit the battle of Jericho

And the walls come tumbling down

Good morning sister Mary, Good morning brother John Well I wanna stop and talk with you Wanna tell you how I come along. I know you've heard about Joshua He was the son of Nun. He never stopped his work until Until the work was done. (Refrain)

You may talk about your men of Gideon You may brag about your men of Saul There's none like good old Joshua. At the battle of Jericho. Up to the walls of Jericho He marched with spear in hand. Go blow them ram horns, Joshua cried 'Cause the battle is in my hands (Refrain)

You may talk about your men of Gideon You may brag about your king of Saul There none like Joshua. At the battle of Jericho, They tell me, great God that Joshua's spear Was well nigh twelve feet long And upon his hip was a double edged sword And his mouth was a gospel horn. Yet bold and brave he stood Salvation in his hand. Go blow them ram horns. Joshua cried 'Cause the devil can't do you no harm. (Refrain)

Up to the walls of Jericho He marched with spear in hand Go blow them ram horns, Joshua cried 'Cause the battle is in my hands. Then the lamb ram sheep horns began to blow The trumpets began to sound Old Joshua shouted glory And the walls came tumblin' down (Refrain)

Down, down, down, down, down, Tumblin' down

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Jos 6:17 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.

Jos 6:18 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.

Jos 6:19 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."

Jos 6:20 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.

Jos 6:21 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.

Jos 6:22 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."

Jos 6:23 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.

Jos 6:24 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.

Jos 6:25 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.

v. 17-19 *Only Rahab the harlot shall live:* Joshua is careful to take care of Rahab. Her faith in the living God would find support by God's people. *Abstain* - Joshua had to command the people of Israel to stay away from the accursed things. By this he means the idols and things associated with the demonic and depraved worship of the people of Canaan. The severe judgment that is brought against Jericho, and all of Canaan 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. *But all the silver and gold, and vessels...are consecrated to the LORD:* All the valuables belong to God; Jericho is the “first fruits” city of Canaan, and so the valuables are set apart to the treasury of the LORD.

vs. 20-21 The walls come down and the city is destroyed. *wall fell down flat:* We are not told that Israel knew this would be the result of their obedient marching and final shouting. They may have been as surprised as the people of Jericho were at the way God decided to deliver Jericho into their hands. *They utterly destroyed all that was in the city:* Why was Israel commanded to practice such complete destruction? Because the greatest sins of the Canaanites were spiritual: *took the city:* They took, after God had given. It was clear that God gave, but that Israel had to take by obedient, persistent faith. So it is with all victory in the Christian life - God gives it to us in Jesus Christ; but we must take it from Him by obedient, persistent faith.

vs. 22-23 True to their promise, they saved Rahab and all her family that was with her in the house. Note also that Joshua pronounced a curse on anyone who would rebuild that city.

vs. 24-25 *burned the city* .. Joshua spared Rahab the harlot: In this, we see a contrast between judgment and salvation. All of Jericho heard about the God of Israel, but only Rahab responded positively in faith towards God with that knowledge. *she dwells* ..This shows that Joshua was written at the time of Joshua; not the fanciful re-construction of an imaginative writer working centuries after the fact.

v. 19 Notice the similarity to the First Fruit going to God? Everything was to belong to God!

v. 20 Israel was **taught that victory is possible only where there are exact obedience and sincere consecration.** We cannot cope with our foes, unless we live in unclouded fellowship with God. See 2Ch_15:2. Our **spiritual allies in the heavenly places cannot co-operate while evil is harbored.** Canaan was a gift to faith, and a strong spiritual life was peremptory. The gold and silver of Jericho were consecrated to God, so that Achan committed sacrilege as well as theft.

v. 21 Notice the brevity of the battle – only 2 verses! “We did it”! Every physical thing in our life, it's never the physical thing that's the big thing, but the biggest deal, the most important is not the physical thing, but it's the development of Godly character in our lives during the preparation from the time the promise is made until we receive the promise! Intimacy, dependence upon God. Jerichos come and go, but the spiritual things we develop during these times are for our lifetimes- are forever!

v. 25 Notice the faith that it must have taken for Rahab and her whole family to stay in the room, when the walls were falling down and the city was taken. What do you imagine you would have done?

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*Jos 6:26 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."
Jos 6:27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.*

Defeat at Ai:

Jos 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass (deliberate) regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.

Jos 7:2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

Jos 7:3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."

Jos 7:4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.

Jos 7:5 And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

Jos 7:6 Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.

Jos 7:7 And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!"

INTERPRETATION

vs. 26-27 Joshua curses the man who would re-fortify Jericho. Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho: Fulfilled in 1Ki 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.

This completes the story of Israel's victory at Jericho. We can learn from the things that marked their victory.

- Faith: Joshua and Israel believed the battle plan.
- Obedience: Joshua and Israel followed the battle plan exactly.
- Courage: Israel followed the battle plan despite danger.
- Endurance: Israel followed the battle plan over a period of time, even when it seemed that nothing was happening.
- Israel did not rely on carnal scheming and worldly methods; their trust was in the LORD, not in human ingenuity.

v. 1 This verse tells us that the children of Israel committed a trespass, but it was one man, Achan, who committed the sin. The whole nation had to suffer because of what Achan did.

vs. 2-3 The children of Israel were flush with victory. They had overcome Jericho. Although it was God's victory, in a short time Israel thought of it as their victory. Joshua sent some of his men to look at Ai. After looking the city over carefully, they said, "Ai is nothing compared to Jericho."

vs. 4-5 Israel was defeated by the men of Ai. You and I are defeated by the flesh. We cannot use the same tactics to overcome the flesh as we use to overcome the world. The Israelites did not recognize their weakness. We have no strength or power within ourselves. We cannot live the Christian life, and God never asks you to. God wants to live the Christian life through you. It is only when we are filled with the Holy Spirit of God that we can live the Christian life.

vs. 6-7 We have heard this song before. Joshua is singing the blues. He learned the lyrics in the wilderness with the children of Israel. Joshua did not sing this song in the wilderness, but he is singing it now. He cannot understand why he lost the battle. So he tears his clothes and cries out:

APPLICATION

v. 26 *The Lord was with Joshua.....But!* What do you learn from your Jericho victories? From defeats when we depend on ourselves? How do you handle victory! Defeat?

v. 1 **No one sins only to one's self – Your sin can affect us all!**

v. 2 **No record of praying!** Not even going back to Gilgal – but Joshua sent spies to Ai.

No greater danger of moving out on our own right after the Lord gives us a great victory!

v. 3 Notice the spiritual sin of the men here – not the specific sin of Achan of stealing what was the Lord's – but here they are stealing God's glory in the conquest of Jericho and claiming it for themselves – a WARNING for each of us!

v. 4 **sins of overconfidence (pride) and prayerlessness!** One victory and now they are the experts! The most healthy thing we can do after God gives us a great victory is to find some quiet place, thank Him and ask Him to continue to lead us. Do you go to prayer more quickly in defeat or in victory. Prayer is an expression of our dependence upon God for everything.

Absence of prayer is my dependence on my self confidence?

What about your prayer life?

v. 5 When was last time your heart melted like water?

vs. 6-7 Ai lay two miles north of Jericho, and was a comparatively small place; **but without God the smallest opposition is too great for us.** Joshua seemed more concerned for the disgrace brought on the divine name than for the disaster to his men. Let us always look at our failures from God's side! We must not lie too long in the dust of despair, but arise to detect and put away the hidden cause of our defeat, When we approach God in defeat, He will always meet us and show us! It's never Him who fails, but something is wrong with our circumstances based on what we do or have done!

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Jos 7:8 O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?

Jos 7:9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?"

The Sin of Achan!

Jos 7:10 So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?"

Jos 7:11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.

Jos 7:12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

Jos 7:13 Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

Jos 7:14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man.

Jos 7:15 Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.' "

v. 8 *What shall I say* - In answer to the reproaches of our insulting enemies. *when Israel* - God's people, which He has singled out of all nations for His own.

v. 9 *Your great name* - Which will upon this occasion be blasphemed and charged with inconstancy, and with inability to resist them, or to do Your people that good which You intended through them. The name of God is a great name, above every name. And whatever happens, we ought to pray, that this may not be polluted. This should be our concern more than any thing else: on this we should fix our eye: and we cannot urge a better plea than this, Lord, what will You do for Your great name? Let God in all be glorified, and then welcome His whole will!

v. 10 God's answer is given directly, and in terms of reproof. Joshua must not lie helpless before God; the cause of the calamity was to be discovered.

v. 11 Joshua did not know that Israel had sinned. He did not have the spiritual discernment that was in the early church. When Ananias and Sapphira lied about their property in Acts 5, the Holy Spirit brought it out immediately. The early church was sensitive to sin. God told Joshua that sin was in the camp and he would have to deal with it.

vs. 12-13 . *could not stand* ; Israel could not fight in God's power and presence unless they walked in obedience to God. Israel was under a covenant with God that promised blessing on their obedience, and also promised curses upon their disobedience. *doomed to destruction*: It is sobering to realize that a body in sin has no power before their enemies. It is wonderful to realize that once the sin has been dealt with, God's power can again flow in our Christian life. *cannot stand*: When God deals with a particular area of sin, and when we resist His work, His mercy makes us to fail in battle. We are most dangerous when we think we are "winning" battles with our own self-reliance.

v. 14 The tribe of Judah and the family of the Zarhites were found to be guilty.

v. 15 Once God dealt with the one sinning individual, blessing could come again on the whole nation.

v. 11 One believer's sin affects all the children of God because whoever sees the sin of one thinks that is the behavior of all of His children.

v. 13 God will not bless sin!

v. 15 Ai lay two miles north of Jericho, and was a comparatively small place; but without God the smallest opposition is too great for us. Joshua seemed more concerned for the disgrace brought on the divine name than for the disaster to his men. Let us always look at our failures from God's side! We must not lie too long in the dust of despair, but arise to detect and put away the hidden cause of our defeat,

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Jos 7:16 So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.

Jos 7:17 He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarahites; and he brought the family of the Zarahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

Jos 7:18 Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

Jos 7:19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

Jos 7:20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done:

Jos 7:21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

Jos 7:22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it.

Jos 7:23 And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

Jos 7:24 Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.

Jos 7:25 And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

Jos 7:26 Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

vs. 16-18 This must have been an excruciating experience for Achan. How much better to simply walk in obedience to God! All this time, Achan certainly remembered exactly what he had taken, and how he wished he had not taken it. But he - and we - should remember the regret of sin before we sin, not after. Sin does have its pleasures. Taking those things gave Achan a good feeling. But the penalty of sin, both within us and upon us, outweighs any of the fleeting pleasures of sin.

vs. 19-21 give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him: Even when we sin and try to cover our sin, we can still give glory to the LORD by openly and honestly confessing our sin. Hidden sin always has a special power over us. *Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver...* Measured against the lives of thirty-six men and the welfare of the entire nation, what Achan gained was pretty insignificant. Think of how Achan could have rationalized his sin: "No one will know." "I deserve this." The excuses can go on and on, but they all fall short. When we are at the terrible place Achan is, we all feel terrible about our sin, wishing we had never done it - may God help us to feel terrible about our sin before we do it! *vs. 22-23* Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent — eager to test the truth of the story and to clear Israel from the imputation of guilt. Having discovered the stolen articles, they laid them out before the Lord, "as a token of their belonging to Him" on account of the ban.

vs. 24-26 Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan — He with his children and all his property, cattle as well as movables, were brought into one of the long broad ravines that open into the Ghor, and after being stoned to death (Num_15:30-35), his corpse, with all belonging to him, was consumed to ashes by fire. "All Israel" was present, not only as spectators, but active agents, as many as possible, in inflicting the punishment - thus testifying their abhorrence of the sacrilege, and their intense solicitude to regain the divine favor. As the divine law expressly forbade the children to be put to death for their father's sins (Deu_24:16), the conveyance of Achan's "sons and daughters" to the place of execution might be only as spectators, that they might take warning by the parental fate; or, if they shared his punishment (Jos_22:20), they had probably been accomplices in his crime, and, indeed, he could scarcely have dug a hole within his tent without his family being aware of it.

vs. 16-17 **There's no hiding of sin.** When we sin, we're more concerned about what people will think than what God thinks! He puts Nadab and Abihu; Anaias & Sapphira before us — Here it's Achan! Num. 32:23 *But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out. Are you shocked when your sin is "found out"?*

v. 19 When you sin, do you struggle with His grace?

v. 21 Notice, first, "I saw", and then, "I desired [I coveted]", and then, "I took." Isn't that the way sin so often progresses in our life? First of all, we see it. And then we begin to desire it. And finally we take it. It all begins with the seeing. At what point do you? Do I? turn away from temptation?

v. 26 **But we have a better Joshua! Lesson for us — when some other Christian does what Achan has done. Our Joshua, says take Me and stone Me in his place. Let the stones fall on Me instead!**

1Jn 4:10-11 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Isa 65:8-10 Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, And one says, 'Do not destroy it, For a blessing is in it,' So will I do for My servants' sake, That I may not destroy them all. [9] I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, And from Judah an heir of My mountains; My elect shall inherit it, And My servants shall dwell there. [10] Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, And the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, For My people who have sought Me.

Hos 2:14-15 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her. [15] I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. (no doubt through the Messiah — all blood bought — no entitlements! — But you have to do it My way — let's go over the instructions again! — no tools in your box, not even a box! Shout, when I tell you. Don't touch anything, it's holy. If you do, you sin against everybody! He wants you to finish well! — When we come to our Jerichos, not by our might nor our power, but by Your Spirit!)

JOSHUA 6-7 – The Destruction of Jericho; Defeat at Ai; The Sin of Achan!

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

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7. strange battle plan! But they had confidence in Joshua.

Men try to explain why the walls fell down! Natural explanation – no! there is no natural explanation. This is the first battle of the land. They’ve seen the walls for some time.

But now they are going to walk around 6 days – they’ll get a close look.

Thirteen times around the city. Realizing the impossibility of taking this city.

Jerichos in our lives that mock solutions!!!! The Lord directs them and allows them. So that when he delivers us because of His great deliverance because of His love for us. A landmark or a memorial in our lives. No amount of ability, or work that can prevail, But His holiness prevails!

Set this experience aside in your hearts and in your minds.

8. Armed men, but will not use their arms in bringing the walls down.

But be quiet! Until the day I bid you shout!

Back to Gilgal, back to the stones, every day!

12 6 days – how strange

15

20-21 Note the brevity of the description of the battle.

The instructions go on and on; over and over.

The Lord said the battle is no problem w the victory. The problem is to listen to the simple instruction that He gives. But also notice all the spoils go to Him! He did it all!

We all have Jerichos in our lives. They’re all defeated the same way. We all have the final Jericho! When it comes down, it’s all mine!

All about instruction and obedience!

No description of the detail of the battle!

v. 26 interesting prophecy! Ahab Reigns in Israel

1Ki 16:29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

1Ki 16:30 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

1Ki 16:31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

1Ki 16:32 Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

1Ki 16:33 And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

1Ki 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.

V 27 The Lord was with Joshua.....But!

Chapter 7

Trespass – something deliberately stepping over a defined line!

Nobody sins unto themselves!

One little part of the body, can drastically affect the entire body! Every part is so important!

2 No record of praying! Not even going back to Gilgal – but Joshua sent spies to Ai.

No greater danger of moving out on our own right after the Lord gives us a great victory!

It’s not become you did anything so great, but He did it!

Don’t be flush be victory!

6 victory is always secondary. Primary is preparation - R=PRAY Nothing can come into my life unless You allow it to come!

11 God can’t bless rebellion; can’t bless sin!

26 But we have a better Joshua! Lesson for us – when some other Christian does what Achan has done. Our Joshua, says take Me and stone Me in his place. Let the stones fall on Me instead! *1Jn 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

1Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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Battles of the Bible are studied in the military academies today.

They are going to thrust into the land and the middle – “divide and conquer”. Taking away the strongest tribes from north and south to join together. First comes defeat of Jericho

Much of the Christian life in the Bible is given us in military terms.

I’m in a battle every day – the flesh and battle against the world!

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

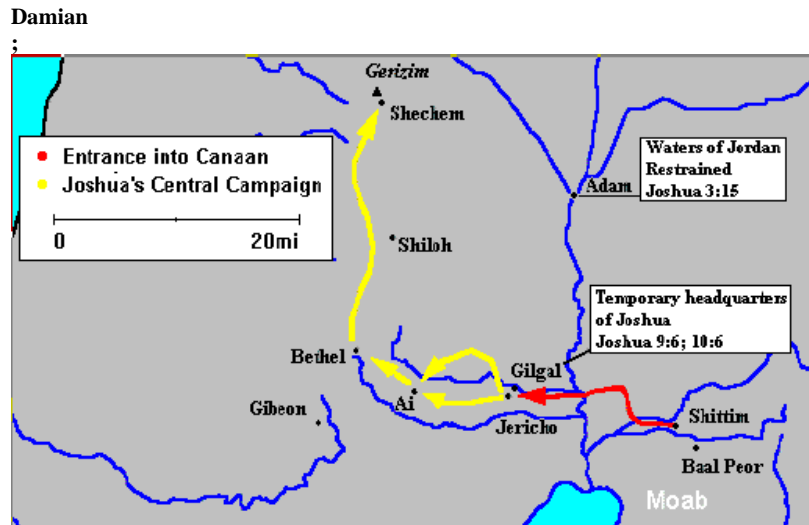
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INTERPRETATION

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Joshua Chapter 6-7

By Chuck Smith

Let's turn now to Joshua, chapter 6 - as the children of Israel have crossed over Jordan, and now begin to possess the land of promise. Again, we must point out, that their history is typical history. And the crossing over Jordan is typical: of our reckoning our old life to be dead, crucified with Christ; no longer in Romans chapter 7 but moving from Romans chapter 7 into chapter 8. Chapter 7 is the wilderness experience of the children of Israel: trying, in the flesh, to please GOD; coming to that helpless dilemma of realizing the perversity of my own nature. *When I desire to do good, evil is present with me. The good that I would do I do not: that which I would not, I do. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me?* ; but that deliverance in Romans chapter 8, as Paul begins to come to an understanding of the walk and the life in the Spirit. So Joshua, leaving now the area of the wilderness, coming through Jordan; death to the old man, reckoning him to be dead; and now beginning to possess their possessions. And the first city to be conquered is the city of Jericho.

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

JOSHUA 6-7 – The Destruction of Jericho; Defeat at Ai; The Sin of Achan!

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The fear of the children of Israel were upon the inhabitants of Jericho. So they shut up the city; though they were not really being besieged as such, yet for fear of the children of Israel, they had shut the city up.

And the LORD said to Joshua, See, I have given Jericho into your hand, Look Joshua, it's yours; I have given it to you.

Now, GOD said this concerning the entire land. *Every place that you put your foot I have given to you as a possession.* It was something that had already been given to them by GOD, but it was necessary for them to go in and to appropriate. GOD has given to us a glorious life of victory in Jesus Christ, an overcoming life in Christ, victory over those areas of the flesh that had defeated us for so long. I do not have to be a slave to my flesh any longer. Every place I claim, every place I put my foot, the LORD has given to me for a possession. I have to, by faith, go in and possess that which GOD has given to me. Though it was theirs, GOD had given it to them, yet it was necessary that they go in and possess it. They had to appropriate these promises of GOD, even as we do.

Look, I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, the mighty men of valour. Now you shall march around the city, all of your men of war, you shall go around the city once. And this shall you do for six days. And seven priests shall bear the 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. Then it shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the rams' horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all of the people shall shout with a great shout; and then the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall go up every man straight before him.

So GOD gave to Joshua now the battle plan: and it does seem rather different and unique. They are to march around the city: the priests bearing the ark of the covenant, once a day for six days, the priests going before them blowing these rams' horns. On the seventh day they are to encompass the city seven times while the priests are blowing the rams' horns, and then they are to let out a long blast on the horns, the people are to shout, the walls are going to fall; and from wherever they are positioned outside of the walls, they are to rush in to the city so that the city will be attacked simultaneously from all sides, as they come rushing into the city from whatever position they might be at.

Now, there are those who have difficulty with miracles. Their difficulty with miracles has to stem from their difficulty with GOD. If you have a proper concept of GOD, you should have no problem with miracles. But if you do not have a proper concept of GOD, then miracles can be a real stumbling block. And there are those who try to explain the miracle of the walls falling flat at the blast of the trumpets and the shout of the people as something of a natural phenomenon: that the daily marching around the walls sort of loosened the foundation of the walls. And that when they finally made the long blast on the trumpets and shouted, that was just enough to topple the things, - you know. I sort of feel sorry for these fellows who try so hard to rationalize the miraculous within the Bible. I've seen the walls of Jericho, I've seen the remains of the walls of Jericho, and surely it would take more than a blast on a rams' horn to bring them down.

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Now I heard that Enriquo Carrusso could put a glass on a table, and he can stand back 17 paces, and with that powerful voice of his, he could hit a note and the glass would shatter. Well, that’s a glass and not the walls of Jericho. There’s no natural explanation, the only possible explanation is that GOD worked a miracle and brought the walls down.

I’ve got here a rams’ horn: this is the kind of thing that they were blowing. And if you think that the sound of this thing could bring down a wall, I feel sorry for you. But here they were, marching around, blowing these things for seven days. And these things are not that melodious, you can only hit about three notes on this thing: [he then blows on the rams’ horn, the congregation applauds.] This is Rosh Hashanah: if they live in the neighborhood, they might think the Messiah is come! But you can see the folly of trying to bring a wall down with that thing.

So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said to them, Take up the ark of the covenant, let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the LORD. He said to the people, Proceed, march around the city, let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD. And 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. And the armed men went before the priests that blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued, blowing the trumpets. Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, You shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, nor shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you shout; then you shall shout. And 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. Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. The seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, blew with the trumpets: the armed men went before them; but the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. The second day they marched around the city once, returned to camp: and so they did for six days.

Now, don’t you suppose the people in Jericho at this point were wondering, “Just what in the world is going on?” Here these guys, with their armor, their swords and shields: marching. Behind them are these priests blowing the trumpets, behind them, the ark of the covenant, and behind them the rear guard coming up: the armed rear guard. Here, everyday, these guys make one circle around the city and go back to camp. These guys are just blowing on these trumpets. And this happens day after day. I am certain that there was just a lot of speculation within Jericho as to just what was going on out there. And I wouldn’t be surprised if some of the people of Israel didn’t wonder a little bit too of what was going on. You know, “Have we made a mistake in following Joshua? Now, this is a weird way to take a city.” Surely it points out the Scripture where GOD declared, “My ways are not your ways, saith the LORD. My ways are beyond your finding out.” It is not mine to question the ways of GOD, ‘tis mine to obey the voice of GOD. My problem is the desire for understanding: “GOD, how is this going to do anything? LORD, how is this going to bring the walls down?” And I want to understand, I want GOD to show me, I want to reduce the thing to my comprehension. But this, we must recognize, is a step of faith in obedience to the Word of GOD, though it doesn’t seem logical. I cannot understand the strategy. But they’re doing it in obedience to the command of GOD, and that is what is important: faith! Obeying the command of GOD, though I may not understand just what GOD is doing.

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So it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, they marched around the city seven times in the same manner: and on that day only they marched around the city seven times. And on the seventh time, it was so when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people, Shout; for the LORD has given you this city. This was a shout of faith. The walls were still up; but it was the shout of victory in faith. Now the city shall be doomed, by the LORD, it, and all who are who in it: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are in her house, because she hid the messengers that were sent. And you, the warning by all means keep yourselves 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.

This is the beginning of the conquest of the land. This is the beginning of the spoiling of the land. And this battle was so completely God’s, and in God’s hands, that God required that all of the booty from the battle come to Him. All of the spoils were to be brought to the house of the LORD. They weren’t to touch the spoils themselves. When they conquer the other cities, then the spoils will be divided: but not with Jericho. The word “accursed” can also be translated “devoted.” These things were to be devoted to God. *Keep yourselves from these devoted things, lest you become accursed, if you take of the devoted things, and you make the camp of Israel a curse.*

All of the silver, and gold, vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. So, the very specific warning of Joshua to the people. *So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets: and it happened, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, 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.*

Now, in the New Testament, in the book of Hebrews, chapter 11: is a book that is devoted to faith, the definition of faith, and the accomplishments through faith. And in one of the notable accomplishments, through faith, that are mentioned in Hebrews, the eleventh chapter, is the walls of Jericho falling. *By faith --Hebrews 11:30--the walls of Jericho fell flat, when they had been encompassed by the children of Israel [seven days.]* So it was a faith in God; it was a miracle that God wrought as a result of their faith and obedience to His commands.

Then the people went up, and took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young ox, sheep, donkeys, by the edge of the sword. But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot’s house, that is, Rahab’s, and from there bring out the woman, and all that she has, as you swore to her. And the young men that 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 of her relatives, and they left them outside the camp of Israel. But they burned the city, and all that was in it with fire: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put in the treasury of the house of the LORD. So 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, who Joshua had sent to spy out Jericho.

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At this point, again in Hebrews: chapter 11, the chapter of faith: Rahab is mentioned. *By faith Rahab was saved and all that were in her house.* So Rahab’s faith brought for mention. And the other place in the New Testament where Rahab is mentioned is in the gospel of Matthew, when you are dealing with the genealogy of Joseph, the husband of Mary: he happened, in his genealogy, that Rahab figures in that genealogy; which is interesting: here she was, not born as one of the members of the nation of Israel, brought into the nation, she was a harlot prior to her being brought into the nation, but yet became, in the genealogy of David, actually, and on down to Joseph. So, interesting that God’s grace is so manifested upon this woman. A woman of faith, and her faith is brought for special mention.

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

So here is sort of a prophecy of Joshua: the city has been leveled, it’s flattened; and Joshua pronounces a curse upon the man that would rebuild the city. And he tells them that he will lay the foundation of the city at the time of his firstborn son; and with his last son, he will raise up the gates of the city. Now, turn to I Kings, chapter 16:34 -- and you find this interesting prophecy of Joshua fulfilled, almost 500 years later. *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.* And so, over 500 years later, this fascinating prophecy of Joshua was fulfilled.

The city of Jericho was rebuilt by Hiel, it was again later destroyed, and rebuilt again just before the time of Christ. It was destroyed in around 68 AD. The city of Jericho at the time of Christ was built on a different site than on the ancient city of Jericho that was destroyed by Joshua. Today, you can go to Jericho and you can stand on the mound, on the top of the Tel, and you can look down, and see the remains of the city of Jericho: some of the walls of the houses that have been excavated. It’s a very interesting thing to stand there, and look at the ruins and realize, here is where this passage of Scripture was fulfilled: of God destroying the city, as Joshua obeyed the commandment of the LORD.

There is, next to the Tel, the modern city of Jericho, which is a typical Arab city. It is a city that is filled with fruit stands because the city of Jericho is a very verdant area, and a lot of citrus fruit is grown in that area: excellent citrus fruit, pomelo, and large oranges; a great place to get orange juice. For you that have been there, you remember all of the bananas, and all of the fruit that is sold around the city of Jericho.

Chapter 7

But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed or, consecrated things: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the devoted things: so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel. Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel,

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So, that would be on the Jericho side of Bethel. Bethel is on up the canyon from Jericho, probably 10 miles. Jericho lies at 1,300 feet below sea level - approximately 1,280 feet below sea level. By the time you get to Bethel you are probably 1,200 to 1,500 feet above sea level. On the way up, just at about at sea level is this city of Ai; it's on the east side of Bethel. It was just a small little city.

Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, to spy out the country. So the men went up and spied out Ai. You know, “Take a look at the area where we’re going to be going. Probably, not only to see what cities that are there, but to find out the best route, the best road to move all of these people up the valley. And they returned to Joshua, and said to him, Do not let all of the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai; don’t weary all the people there; for the people of Ai are so few.

Now, here they are coming flush from victory. One of the major cities was the city of Jericho. A major city because of the fact that this valley was so productive and could support a lot of people. When you get on up the canyon there, it's quite barren; it isn't nearly as productive as is the area of Jericho. And so, here is Ai: just a little city up the canyon. And these guys are flush with victory: “Look Joshua, we don't need the whole army to take this little place; just send two or three thousand fellows up there; let them wipe it out and take care of it; because we don't need the whole army for this.”

There was that self reliance that came in so quickly. As they began to conquer the land, they had an utter reliance upon God. In the conquest of Jericho, it was depending upon God: it was faith in God, obedience and faith in God. But now, flushed with victory, they feel: “Well, we don't really need the help of God anymore; we are able to do this. Just send two or three thousand”; and it is so immediately reverting to the flesh and the fleshly ways. And it is so typical of our progress in the walk and life of the Spirit. God gives me a victory over one of the big problems in my self life, and I have this glorious victory, I'm rejoicing in the LORD because I have such victory over the self life. And here's another little nagging area of my flesh, and the Spirit lets me see that also is not pleasing to the LORD: and I say, “Oh, fine LORD. I would be glad to take care of that: I won't do that again.” And that's just the area where I get wiped out, where I get defeated: when I turn from a total reliance upon the LORD to reliance upon myself, and in my flesh. And this is what we have to be careful about. You see, this idea of touching the accursed thing: GOD wanted all of the credit, and all of the glory, and all of the spoils for the victory of Jericho. “Don't you touch that.” When GOD works a victory in your life, He wants all the credit and glory for it. He doesn't want you touching that.

It's interesting that when I talk to GOD about my problems, I am in just a broken, helpless state: “GOD, I need Your help. GOD, I can't do anything about it; LORD, I'm just wiped out, LORD. Help me LORD; I'm miserable, LORD. Help me please”, and GOD helps me. And then when I tell someone else about how I stopped it, I say, “Well, you know I just felt that I shouldn't be doing that anymore: and so I set my mind, and figured, ‘well, I've got to be strong in this’, and I just really, you know, squared back my shoulders..” Interesting, isn't it: how that we like to take the credit and get the glory for what GOD has done? But there's a danger to that. Because GOD will let me stumble at the next little thing that comes along. And so, here's Ai: not much to it, just a little village. “We don't need the whole army: two or three thousand is all you need to send up there. Let them wipe it out, Joshua. Let's go, man.”

JOSHUA 6-7 – The Destruction of Jericho; Defeat at Ai; The Sin of Achan!

OBSERVATION

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

So about three thousand men went up: but they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai struck down about thirty six men: for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and they struck them down on the descent: as they were coming back towards Jericho, therefore the hearts of the people melted, and became like water. And Joshua tore his clothes, fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, both he and the elders of Israel, and they put dust on their heads. What a sight! They’ve been defeated by this little town of Ai, and Joshua’s lying there on his face, putting dust on his head, lying before the ark of the covenant. And Joshua - and he sounds much like the children of Israel at this point, and their complaints to Moses through the wilderness journeys. And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, - and that word “alas” is evidently a word of hopelessness.

When Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, woke up in the morning and saw that the city of Dothan was surrounded by the Syrian army, the chariots, he saw all of the chariots of the Syrian army, he went into Elisha, and said, “Alas, alas.” And so, it’s a word that probably means, “We’ve had it. It’s all over.” So Joshua said,

Alas, Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? oh that we would have been content, and dwelt on the other side of Jordan! Boy! that sounds like the people talking to Moses, doesn’t it? “Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Oh, that we would have been content and stayed in Egypt. Why did you bring us out here anyway? To destroy us?” And he’s sounding just like they sounded, and he’s talking to GOD about this:

O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turns its backs before its enemies! For the Canaanites and all of the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and will surround us, and cut off our name from the earth: and then what will you do for your great name? “GOD, You are in big trouble!” And I like God’s response to Joshua: So the LORD said to Joshua, Get up; why are you lying like that on your face? And GOD begins to deal with the problem. Israel has sinned, they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken some of the devoted things, and have both stolen, and deceived, and they have also put it among their own stuff.

Now, Joshua prayed second rather than praying first. A mistake that we often make. Had he prayed first, GOD would have revealed the problem, and they could have saved themselves the defeat at Ai. They could have corrected the problem before they ever went. But it’s that business of being flushed with victory: you go forth in self confidence, thinking, “Well, I don’t need the LORD’s help. I know how it’s done, now. I know how we have taken Jericho, I understand the principles of victory, and so I don’t need God’s help anymore: I can do it now on my own.” Never do we become independent of God’s help. GOD never brings you to that place where you don’t have to rely and trust in Him. In fact, the further I go, the more I find I must rely and trust in Him. The further I go, the more, with Paul, I realize that *in me [that is in my flesh,] there dwells no good thing.* And I realize my total dependency upon GOD.

So the LORD puts the finger on the problem: “There’s sin in the camp, Joshua.”

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Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, and turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction: and neither will I be with you any more, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

Jesus said to the church of Ephesus that unless they repented, he was going to remove the candlestick from its place. And of course, we remember that the place of the candlestick: Jesus was walking in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks. And now he is saying to the church of Ephesus, “Unless you will repent, and return to your first love, I am going to remove the candlestick out of his place.” And GOD is warning Israel, “Look, I’m not going to be with you anymore until you get things right.” Don’t expect GOD to compromise with sin in your life. Don’t think that GOD will peacefully coexist with sin. It is so abhorrent to GOD: that the presence of sin in your life, and the presence of GOD is mutually exclusive. GOD will not make a covenant or a compromise. And with sin in your life; He said, “*I’m not going to dwell anymore with you, until you get rid of it, until you destroy the accursed from among you.*”

Now get up, and sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow: because thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel: you cannot stand before your enemies, until you take away the accursed thing from among you. And in the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD shall take shall come according to families; the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; the households shall come man by man. And it shall be, that who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has: because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.

So God is going to reveal who the man is. And as we mentioned this morning, the Urim and the thummim were the oracles that were kept by the priest whereby they divined the will of God, whereby God would show them these things. And they don’t know exactly what the Urim and the Thummim were; they believe that maybe they were a white rock and a black rock in a pouch. And the priest would reach in, and the black rock would be rejection, and the white rock white would be acceptance. And so as the tribes went by, and he picked out the rocks, when the tribe of Judah came by, the black rock came out: and they would say, “Oh, it’s the tribe of Judah.”

And so Joshua rose early in the morning, he brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: And he brought the family of Judah; and the Zarhite family was taken: they brought the family of the Zarhites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: And then they brought the household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. So Joshua said to Achan, My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, make confession to him; tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.

Joshua’s tenderness with this guilty fellow: this fellow has brought, really, defeat to the people of Israel, he’s put them in a tremendously precarious position. And yet the tenderness of Joshua. The guy is sentenced to death: God said, “When I reveal the man, you are to burn him with fire”, so the sentence of death is hanging on this guy. But yet, Joshua is tender towards him, “*My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, now make confession; tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.*”

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And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: so the confession of sin: “I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel.” When I saw, and notice the progression of sin, When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I desired them [I coveted them], and took them;

Notice, first of all, “I saw”, and then, “I desired [I coveted]”, and then, “I took.” Isn’t that the way sin so often progresses in our life? First of all, we see it. And then we begin to desire it. And finally we take it. It all begins with the seeing. “Let no man say when he is tempted, that he is tempted of God: because God doesn’t tempt man with evil, But man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own desires, his own lusts. And lust when it is conceived - that is, when you take it, - brings forth sin.” So, this is it: he saw it, he desired it, he took it.

And they are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, the silver is under it. So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and, there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. And they took him from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua, and to the all the children of Israel, laid them out before the LORD. Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, all that he had: and they brought them to the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why have you troubled us? the LORD will trouble you this day. So all of Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned him with stones. Then they raised over him a great heap of stones that are still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Therefore the name of the place has been called, The valley of Trouble, to this day. “Achor” is the Hebrew word for “trouble”; because he troubled Israel with his sin.

Some wonder why they took the whole family. Because the whole family was probably a part of the whole thing. He probably drew his whole family into his conspiracy; they, no doubt, all saw him hide the gold, and hide the silver, and were, no doubt, a party to it.

Brian Yeager's Outlines
Joshua Outlined
I. The Conquest of Canaan

A. Preparation for taking the promised land (1:1 to 5:15)

1. The land was a gift from God (Gen 15:18; Deut 26:9)

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2. Joshua commissioned to lead the people (1:1-18)

- a. God appointed Joshua as leader of the people (1:1-9)
- b. Joshua commanded the people to enter the land (1:10-11)
- c. Instructions to the Gadites, Ruebenites, and Manasseh (1:12-15)
- d. The people accept Joshua as their leader (1:16-18)

3. Preparing to take the land God had given them (2:1 to 5:1)

- a. Two spies sent to Jericho (2:1-7)
- b. Agreement with Rahab (2:8-22) Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25
- c. Report of the two spies (2:23-24)
- d. Miraculous crossing of the Jordan on dry land (3:1-17) God always gives the way Jeremiah 10:23, Proverbs 14:12, and Ephesians 3:3-5
- e. Two memorials consisting of 12 stones each (4:1-24)
- f. Effect of crossing on the Kings of Canaan (5:1)
- g. Circumcision of the males in Israel (5:2-9)
- h. Passover observed (5:10-11)
- i. Manna ceased (5:12)
- j. Captain of the Lord's host appears to Joshua (5:13-15)

B. Conquest of Canaan (6:1 to 13:7)

1. Victory at the battle of Jericho (6:1-27) Hebrews 11:30

2. Defeat at the first battle of Ai (7:1-5)

3. The sin and punishment of Achan (7:6-26) Notice Joshua 6:18-19 and Hebrews 10:31. When God gives us our blessings we should not want to hold on to treasures of this world Colossians 3:1-5.

4. Victory at the second battle of Ai (8:1-35)

5. Conquest of Southern Canaan (9:1 to 10:43)

- a. King in Southern Canaan join forces to fight Israel (9:1-2)
- b. Gibeonites deceive Israel into making a league with them (9:3-27)
- c. Five Kings of the Amorites threaten war with Gibeon (10:1-5)
- d. Gibeonites call for Israel to help them (10:6-7)
- e. Defeat of the five kings - the sun stood still (10:8-27)
- f. Finishing the task in Southern Canaan (10:28-43)

6. Conquest of Northern Canaan (11:1-15) 11:6; be not afraid. God delivers victory I John 5:4

7. Summary of the conquest of Canaan (11:16 to 12:24)

8. Undefeated parts of Canaan (13:1-6)

II. Division of the Land of Canaan (13:7 to 24:33)

A. Possession of the land East of Jordan (13:7-33)

1. Total territory East of Jordan (13:7-14)

2. Portion divided to Reuben (13:15-23)

3. Portion divided to Gad (13:24-28)

4. Portion divided to the half tribe of Manasseh (13:29-33)

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B. Possession West of the Jordan (14:1 to 19:51)

1. Levites given no land, save cities to live in (14:1-5) See Joshua 18:7
2. Division to Judah and Caleb (14:6 to 15:63)
3. Inheritance of Joseph (Manasseh and Ephraim (16:1 to 17:18)
4. Israel moves to Shiloh and set up the tabernacle (18:1)
5. Twenty-one men, three from each tribe, describe the land (18:2-9)
6. Land divided by lot among the remaining seven tribes (18:10 to 19:48)

- a. Inheritance of Benjamin (18:11-28)
- b. Inheritance of Simeon within Judah (19:1-9)
- c. Inheritance of Zebulun (19:10-16)
- d. Inheritance of Issachar (19:17-23)
- e. Inheritance of Asher (19:24-31)
- f. Inheritance of Naphtali (19:32-39)
- g. Inheritance of Dan (19:40-48)

7. Joshua given his inheritance (19:49-51)

- C. Six cities of refuge (20:1-9)
- D. Levitical cities (21:1-42)
- E. Gad, Ruben, and Manasseh sent to their inheritance (22:1-9)
- F. Two and half tribes build an altar (22:10)
- G. Explanation that the altar was not for sacrifices but for a memorial that those on the East of Jordan were brethren to those on the West of Jordan (22:11-34).
- H. Joshua’s farewell speech to Israel, warning against idolatry (23:1-16) How does God feel about idols? Exodus 23:24

III. Joshua's Death

- A. The covenant at Shechem (24:1-25) 24:3 tie to Acts 7:2-3
- B. The law written in a book and a memorial stone set up (24:26-28)
- C. Death of Joshua (24:29-31)
- D. Bones of Joseph buried at Shechem (24:32)
- E. Death of Eleazar, the high priest (24:33)