

Entering the Promised Land in 2021
Victory at Jericho
Joshua 6
Wed, Jan. 13, 2021

- I. The Promised Land
 - A. The Promised Land, also known as Canaan or Canaan Land, is not a representation of heaven, as some songs would lead you to believe
 1. The Book of Joshua records the Israelites' entrance into the land, and it is replete with accounts of battles, defeats, sins, and failures – none of which will be present in heaven
 2. The believer does not have to battle in order to gain his heavenly home
 - B. The entering of the nation of Israel into Canaan is a picture of the believer entering into a life of victory through faith in Christ
 1. The victorious Christian life is a life of battles and blessings
 2. The events in the Book of Joshua illustrate for us how we can face our enemies and our spiritual battles and gain victory over them
 3. Some of the accounts also reveal dramatically how our lack of faith and obedience can lead to defeat and spiritual destruction
- II. Ch. 1-5 of the Book of Joshua recount Israel's preparation to enter into their new land
 - A. In ch. 1, we have God's promise of victory to Joshua – **1:2-3** and God's promise of His presence with him – **1:5**
 - B. In ch. 2, spies are sent to Jericho, that heavily-fortified, walled city
 1. The spies perceived the city as being impenetrable
 2. Inside the city of Jericho, the spies met a harlot named Rahab
 - a. She hid the spies, exercised her faith, and was promised deliverance when the city would be destroyed

- b. The promise that Rahab would be spared is a graphic OT picture of God's saving grace and the salvation He freely offers
 - C. In ch. 3 and 4, the Israelites miraculously cross the Jordan River on dry ground
 - 1. Once again, God proved Himself faithful to His children in carrying out His plan and purpose for them
 - 2. They made a permanent memorial of stones taken from the middle of the riverbed
 - a. To remind them of God's great power and faithfulness
 - b. To cause future generations to inquire about God's great work in bringing them into the land
 - D. In ch. 5, Joshua is favored with a personal visit by the Lord Jesus Christ – **5:13-15**
 - 1. Christ, Himself, revealed His overwhelming power and presence to Joshua
 - 2. In the same verse, when Joshua asked, "*What saith my lord unto his servant?*", Joshua was turning all of his plans over to his Supreme Commander, the Lord Jesus Christ
- III. Ch. 6 records the first battle in their new life in their new land – the battle of Jericho – **6:1-5**
- A. The city was straitly shut up
 - B. v. 2 – God assured Joshua that they would defeat Jericho
 - 1. NOTE: God speaks of their victory as if it had already been accomplished
 - 2. What Joshua and the people were yet to see, God had already completed
 - C. The Lord gave Joshua the exact orders for overcoming the city of Jericho
 - 1. What a strange way to fight a battle
 - 2. But, God's ways are not our ways
 - 3. I Cor. 1:26-31 – God uses what the world considers "foolish" in order to confound the mighty
 - 4. Each day, for six days the soldiers would march around the city one time
 - a. As part of the procession, 7 priests were to carry 7 ram's horn trumpets in front of the Ark of the Covenant

- b. The Ark of the Covenant = a portable box that symbolized God's presence with His people
 - 5. The 7th day would be different and would be the crucial day in the battle
 - a. The soldiers would compass the city 7 times and the priests would blow their trumpets
 - b. They would blow one long, prolonged blast of their horn and all the people would give a mighty shout
 - D. The Book of Joshua does not record any dissent or disagreement on the part of the people concerning God's instructions
 - 1. No one objected or questioned God's unusual battle plan
 - 2. No one offered reasons or excuses why they could not do what God was asking them to do
- IV. The people obeyed and did what God had instructed; they demonstrated persistent obedience – **6:12-16**
- A. For 6 days the procession marched around the city once
 - 1. Then, they returned to the camp
 - 2. The only sound on those days was the sound of the trumpets leading the armed men as they went
 - B. The role of the ark of the Lord was prominent
 - 1. It signified God's presence among His people
 - 2. The ark was positioned in the middle of the soldiers – God was truly in their midst
 - C. Each day's march ended uneventfully
 - D. Finally, the seventh day arrived
 - 1. They were to make 7 laps around the city
 - 2. When the 7th lap was completed, the priests blew their trumpets, and Joshua gave the command to shout
- V. The people reaped the victory when it came – **6:20**
- A. The moment of truth had arrived
 - 1. The people had obeyed the Lord's command in their marching
 - 2. Jericho's walls fell down flat due to a direct act of God and as a result of the persistent obedience of the people and the trustworthiness of God
 - B. Israel experienced victory
 - 1. The people went into the city

2. They took the city
 - a. Everything inside the flattened city walls was dedicated to the Lord and put into His treasury
 - b. God gave them victory because of their steadfast, persistent obedience

C. How about us?

1. Are we as determined to stick obediently to God's plan as the Israelites exhibited on those plains of Jericho?
2. Do we obey the Lord in both important and trivial matters, even when we do not fully understand where He is leading us or how our obedience will accomplish His plans?
3. Is there a challenge you have been facing for a long time?
4. Be assured that God will keep His promises
5. If we obey the Lord and follow His plan persistently, we will reap victories and receive blessings
6. Trust the Lord's promises and obey His instructions no matter how impossible the situation may appear to be

D. Victorious Christians

1. Know God's promises – they spend time meditating on God's Word
2. Believe God's promises – the Word of God produces faith in their hearts
3. Act on God's promises – they obediently do what God tells them to do

VI. Lessons/Applications

- A. God reveals to us what He wants us to do for Him
- B. We may not fully understand what God will do in the future, but we can follow Him because He is trustworthy and faithful
- C. God may call us to do something unusual that may see strange in our eyes and in the eyes of others
- D. God is the source of our victories in the battles we face in life
- E. Our obedience to God should be ongoing and persistent
- F. We should not always expect to see immediate tangible results in our service when we are following the Lord's leading