

Great Stories of the Bible — 2/13/22

Joshua Fought The Battle of Jericho

TEXT —Joshua 5:13-15 *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man . . .*

Joshua 6:1ff *Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.*

INTRO —Jericho was a military fortress built to defend the eastern approach to the high country. It could not be bypassed; to bypass Jericho would mean leaving a large military force at one's rear.

The first step in the preparation of the people for this climactic week was the command to keep silent.

The second step in the preparation of the people for the conquest of Jericho was obedience. Obedience is an essential part of true faith, which is why the actions of the people are cited in Hebrews as a demonstration of faith.

The third step in the preparation of the Jewish people for victory was obedience to the very end.

God's plan was for Israel to possess the land and worship Him in the land. It took them 40 years to get there and a new generation were to go in.

I. The Battle Ahead

A. Israel waited at Gilgal for God's direction

Isa 40:31 *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

They were waiting on the presence of god.

B. The need for consecration —The circumcision of the men.

We must pause before God to be sure we are consecrated.

The Passover was celebrated. It seems only In Egypt and Mt. Sinai was it kept.

C. The Battle is the Lord's (Joshua 5:13-15) The Lord of Hosts

1. God would fight for them

2. God's covenant would be fulfilled

D. The strongholds they faced — The city was deeply fortified.

They would never conquer the land until they defeated Jericho

2 Co 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

II. The Obedience Necessary

A. They had faith in God

Heb 11:30-31 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. 31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.*

B. They obeyed in every detail

Jos 6:2-5 *And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. 3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. 5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.*

III. The Victory Accomplished

A. The walls fell down - The horns sounded the alarm.

B. The Israelites went straight in — Everyone participated in the battle.

C. The people in Jericho were defeated

D. Rahab was saved alive

Jos 6:23 *And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.*

Heb 11:31 *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.*

Jas 2:25 *Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?*

This battle was significant and necessary for Israel to split the north from the south and possess all the land.

CONCL — The land was given to Abraham as part of a covenant. They were to possess it all. The land of Canaan is a picture of the victorious Christian life.