

Joshua, The Commander Who Obeyed the Commander in Chief (Hebrews 11: 30; Joshua 5:13-6:16)

Introduction

Joshua was at the threshold of his service unto the LORD. He has a historic service to be rendered unto the LORD—lead Israelites in conquering and occupying the land of promise.

- This was a mission to be done, not by Joshua's strength, but by ***the will*** and ***the way*** of the LORD.
- In chapter 1, the LORD personally appeared unto Joshua, calling him and commissioning him for the task—Clear Assignment, Clear Assurance, Clear Audacity, and Clear Authority.
- Joshua marched forward, and the LORD gave him the first victory at the Jordan River (chap 3).
- But that was just the beginning, and major challenges were ahead.

In the midst of the enormous challenges Joshua had to face, he never gave up. Joshua chapter 6 is a clear proof of this important truth—The Battle of Jericho.

- For the author of Hebrews, this incident in Joshua's life was more than enough to record him one among the heroes of faith, **Hebrews 11:30**, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were encircled for seven days."

>> Every day is a battle for us, and we fight that with God is on our side! Joshua and the Battle of Jericho teaches us that lesson—Joshua, being the commander of Israel's army, followed and obeyed the Commander-in-Chief, the LORD God Almighty:

The Prelude of the Battle—The Appearance of the Commander-in-Chief (5:13-15)

At Jericho, the task ahead of Joshua was very gigantic. But the important fact is that God was right there with Joshua (5:13-15).

- The Commander-in-Chief appeared unto Joshua (v 14).
- Joshua recognized the LORD's presence as he worshipped Him and listened to Him (v 14).
- Joshua was willing to follow His instruction—His will and way (v 15).

God appears to His people according to their circumstances and needs:

- To Adam & Eve, as a Restorer (Gen 3)
- To Noah, as a Great Deliverer (Gen 6)
- To Abraham, as a Provider (Gen 22)
- To Moses, as a Great Revealer (Exo 3)
- To Joshua, as a Captain of the LORD's Army

The Plan of the Battle—The Command of the Commander-in-Chief (6:1-5)

The LORD very specifically spelled out the plan (6:2-5):

- Commands were very specifically given—six days they need to encircle the walls once every day, and the seventh day, seven times.
- Seven priests should carry the Ark, with seven trumpets, and they should blow the trumpets, but no one should make any voice.

- The seventh day, they should blow the trumpets, and the people should shout with great shout, and the wall will tumble down.

God's plans for our lives are very specific and He knows every details that how it has to function. Many times, it got messed up because we don't follow His plan.

The Practice of the Battle—The Obedience of the Commander and His People (6:6-16)

Joshua and the Israelites followed the plan exactly what the Commander-in-Chief told them.

- The result was the mighty walls of Jericho collapsed and the destruction of the city followed.

The Lessons to be Learned:

1. When we are in our desperate situations, God never abandons us. Hebrews 13:5, The Lord said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you."
2. Faith in God is the absolute requirement for victory in life. Hebrews 11:30, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were encircled for seven days."
3. Obedience is the compulsory attachment to faith. Ephesians 6:11, "Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
4. When we follow the Lord's instructions, He will fight the battle for us. The Lord told Joshua, "I have given Jericho into your hand." 2 Chronicles 20:15, "Thus says the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's."
5. People's co-operation with the leaders is an important component in the realization of the mission the Lord has called us for.

Conclusion

In Christian life, there are many fortresses to be destroyed, fortresses such as faithlessness, fear, self-reliance, pride, arrogance, lustful temptations, etc.

- The Lord is able to destroy them and give us victory, provided that we come to Him in faith and obedience.
- Remember to follow **the will** and **the way** of the LORD for our lives—this is the way of victory for every Christian!
- May the Lord Jesus Christ be the Commander-in-Chief of our lives!