

(Joshua 5:13-15) - As the Lord appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai, He appeared to Joshua outside of Jericho. This is one of the preincarnate appearances of Christ to the patriarchs by which He assured them of His presence and His power to overcome all enemies. Christ appeared “*with His sword drawn in His hand*” as the mighty Warrior fighting for His people. Joshua asked, “*Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?*” The Lord answered, “*Nay; but as Captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.*” As Joshua was appointed by God to lead Israel, the ultimate leadership and power was the Lord Jesus Christ. HE is the Captain of God’s army to conquer all enemies of God. Christ is the Captain of our eternal salvation. By His suffering unto death, He became the Mighty Conqueror Who went to war against sin and death and Who cleared our way to the Promised Land of salvation and glory (*Heb. 2:10; Rev. 19:11,14*). The Lord told Joshua to remove his shoes as he stood on holy ground. This was a place the Lord had chosen to reveal Himself and deliver His Word to Joshua.

(Joshua 6:1-2) - The people of Jericho were confined within the walls of the city. Here is a picture of natural man “*shut up*” in sin and death with no way out. The Lord assured Joshua of victory as He had given all of Jericho into his hands. It is the same in the salvation of God’s elect. All of salvation is a gift of God’s grace by the death of Christ as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. Christ cried from the cross, “*It is finished*” (*John 19:30*). He was (and is) the Mighty Conqueror, and, in time, He conquers all His people by bringing them to submit to Him as the Lord their Righteousness. We who believe in Him “*are more than conquerors THROUGH HIM that loved us*” (*Rom. 8:35-39*).

(Joshua 6:3-11) - The people were to go around the city one time each day for six days, led by seven priests bearing the ark and seven priests carrying seven trumpets made from rams’ horns. Rams’ horns represented the sacrifice slain on the brazen altar - a picture of Christ our Lamb. The Gospel sounds forth salvation based on the sacrifice of Christ. The horn represents His power to save His people from their sins and to give them spiritual life. On the seventh day they were to go around the city seven times. Upon hearing the trumpets, they were to “*shout with a great shout,*” and the walls of the city would fall. The seventh day marked the day of victory. This was a picture of our Lord’s finished work on the cross as the eternal sabbath victory for His people. It was by His finished work that the walls of sin and death came tumbling down so that we could enter the promised land of eternal salvation and life.

This method of warfare was one that made absolutely no sense according to human military intelligence and strategy. It was not man’s way of warfare, but it was God’s way to glorify Himself. It required total dependence on God. It required God-given faith from Joshua and the people (*Heb. 11:30*). It is the same in God’s way of salvation from sin. It is not man’s way. Man’s way is the way of his own works to achieve righteousness. God’s way is the way of His grace in Christ which makes no sense to the natural man (*1 Cor. 1:18; 2:14*). God’s way requires God-given faith in Christ.

(Joshua 6:12-16) - As Joshua led the people to do what the Lord commanded, when the seventh day came, Joshua said, “*Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.*” We can liken this to the call of the Gospel as the free gift of righteousness and eternal life based on the finished work of Christ for His people (*2 Tim. 1:9-10*). The trumpet blast and the shouts of the people meant destruction for Jericho, but it meant victory for God’s people. It is the same with the Gospel trumpet (*2 Cor. 2:12-17*).

(Joshua 6:17-19) - God then pronounced all the city cursed, except for Rahab the harlot. God forbade the people to take of any of its cursed things, such as idols made of gold and silver, lest the people be cursed along with it. All the spoils of the victory were to “*come into the treasury of the LORD.*” We who are saved by God’s grace gain all blessings and benefits that Christ earned for us, but all the glory goes to Him alone (*1 Cor. 1:29-31; Gal. 6:14; Php. 3:3*). In *Joshua 7* we read of a man, “*Achan,*” who disobeyed God and was stoned to death. This illustrates how all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved; all who live and die in unbelief shall be damned (*John 3:36*).

(Joshua 6:20-21) - The walls of Jericho “*fell down flat,*” and the people went into the city and took possession of it. God commanded them to destroy “*all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.*” This may seem harsh and severe to us, but this judgment against Jericho came because they were in total rebellion against God and in league with the occult, as the artifacts recovered from this period demonstrate. This was a very barbaric and lawless time, and Israel had to do what was necessary to survive.

(Joshua 6:22-25) - God spared Rahab and her family inside of her house where the scarlet line was bound in the window (*Jos. 2:18*). This shows that Rahab was the object of God’s sovereign, electing love, that her house was under the blood of Christ, that she had God-given faith, that God’s promise was her security. As long as she stayed in the house where the scarlet cord was seen, she was safe. There was nothing but death outside. Our salvation and safety is to be in Christ, washed in His blood and clothed in His righteousness. Outside of Christ there is nothing but death.

(Joshua 6:26) - This is a prophecy given by the Lord showing that whoever tries to rebuild Jericho is cursed along with his family. It was fulfilled in *1 Kings 16:34* by a man named “*Hiel the Bethelite.*” Jericho represents everything of which God brings His people to repent when He brings them to Christ by God-given faith. It represents all the dead works and idolatry in which, after we believe in Christ, we have no confidence (*Php. 3:3-9*). We walk by faith “*looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith*” (*Heb. 12:2*), and we are never to look back.

(Joshua 6:27) - God gave Joshua the preeminence among the people. As we have seen throughout this event, Joshua is a type of Christ. In our salvation, and in all our victories, Christ has the preeminence. He alone is our glory and our righteousness. He alone is the Mighty Conqueror of all our enemies (*Isa. 9:6-7*). He alone has the power to give eternal life to His people, and He cannot fail (*Matt. 1:21,23; John 10:11-30; John 17:1-4*). We preach the Gospel to a lost world because Christ has been given all power to save His people and to subdue their enemies (*Matt. 28:18-20*). God glorified Himself in the means of sinful humans to destroy Jericho and save Rahab and her house. God is glorified by weak, sinful men preaching the Gospel. This shows that we have no power to save. It is all of God’s grace and power in Christ. Christ is our Captain; Christ is our power; His grace is our armor; His Gospel is our weapon (*2 Cor. 10:1-5*). Although God uses human instruments, He does not use human ways. HIS way is the only way of salvation (*1 Cor. 1:18-31*). Would anyone imagine on a human level that this way would work to conquer Jericho? NO! It is the same with God’s way of salvation. That is why men will not preach the Gospel and leave it to God to conquer men’s and women’s hearts. They have to devise other means to draw people in and “get them saved.” They criticize us - “All you do is preach the Gospel.” But God tells us to preach the Gospel and leave the results to Him (*Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 9:16*).