

The Covenants

Part 10

“Victory, Defeat, Restoration, Renewal, Warning and Final Exhortation”

Intro:

Today, in our 3rd and last look at the book of Joshua, we will consider briefly a number of passages in this book.

In Chapter 6 = Victory at Jericho.

In Chapter 7 = Defeat and Restoration at Ai

In Chapter 8 = Renewal of the Covenant at Mount Ebal

In Chapter 23 = Reminder of the past and Warning for the future.

In Chapter 24 = Renewal and Exhortation at Shechem.

Chapter 6 = Victory at Jericho.

Turn to Chapter 6

Note 1, {Verse 1}

We have Fear and Separation.

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

{Keil}

"Jericho was shutting its gates (vid., Jdg 9:51), and closely shut." The participles express the permanence of the situation, "no one was going out and in," i.e., so firmly shut that no one could get out or in."

Consider:

When the Lord begins to lead his people in and to Victory there will be Dramatic separation with the world.

Note 2, {verse 2}

A divine perspective.

Jos 6:2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

{This is a continuation of chapter 5: 13-15 where Joshua sees the Captain of the Lord's host}

Consider:

All was given into the hand of Joshua.

The Place = Jericho

The Potentate = the King

The Power = the mighty men of valour

Compare:

Read Matthew 28: 16-20

Back to Joshua 6

Note 3, verses 3-14

The importance of “The Ark of the Covenant” in this Victory.

Consider verse 8

Jos 6:8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

{Keil}

"*Before Jehovah,*" instead of "before the ark of Jehovah," as the signification of the ark was derived entirely from the fact, that it was the medium through which Jehovah communicated His gracious presence to the people.

App:

If we are to know victory it can only be in the context of the presence of God.

Consider:

the first mention of the word in scripture

*Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God** amongst the trees of the garden.*

Note;

Sin will keep us from God's presence and God's victory.

Gen 4:16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

Compare:

Exodus 33: 12-17

One commentator has said on verses 16-17

"Com"

"There was nothing extraordinary in the fact that Moses desired for himself and his people that they might be distinguished before every nation upon the face of the earth; this was merely the firm hold of faith upon the calling and election of God ([Exo 19:5-6](#))."

Turn to Joshua 7

Defeat and Restoration at Ai

In Chapter 6 Israel had been warned not to take for themselves possessions in Jericho.

Jos 6:18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

This, unawares to Joshua, was done by Achan.

Subsequently in Ch 7 there was terrible defeat at Ai verses 1-5

Joshua falls before the Lord in verses 6-9.

But in verses 10-13 we read

Jos 7:10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

Consider:

It was not a time for sorrow but action!

Sometimes we lie in the dust when we should be putting our hands to the plough.

Jos 7:11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even 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 were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Jos 7:13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD

God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

Consider:

In verse 12 we read:

“neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.”

Even Joshua’s relationship with God was at stake here.

In verses 16-26

Joshua takes immediate action!

He also takes complete action!

Verses 24-26

Q.

Are we willing to move decisively against sin?

In Chapter 8

We have :

Victory at Ai and renewal of the Covenant.

In verses 1-29 Israel Ambush the army of Ai and destroy the City.

In verses 30-33

Joshua builds an altar to the Lord.

Note:

This was commanded by Moses in Duet 27: 1-8

Back in Joshua 8: 34-35 we read:

Jos 8:34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

Jos 8:35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

Chapter 23

Reminder of the past and Warning for the future.

Note esp:

Verse 16

Jos 23:16 *When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.*

Note:

Many and various sins did not equate to a breaking of the covenant.

But:

The worship of other god's did.

Chapter 24

Renewal and Exhortation at Shechem.

In verses 1-12

Joshua reminds Israel of the past blessings of God to his people.

Then in verses 13-28 we read Joshua's final words of Exhortation and warning to Israel.