

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“VICTORY IN OBEDIENCE-PT 1”
JOSHUA 6:1-5

Introduction

We saw in the previous chapters that **ISRAEL** had finally crossed over **JORDAN** into the **PROMISED LAND!** We saw how they **PREPARED** themselves **SPIRITUALLY** and, up to this point at least, they have followed the **LORD’S** orders to the letter.

They are finally ready to begin the **CONQUEST** of the **PROMISED LAND!** They are ready to claim for themselves this land that flowed with milk and honey!

However, like most things in life that are worth having, it wouldn't come automatically! The **LORD** had assured them the **VICTORY**, but that didn't mean they didn't have anything to do! For **ISRAEL**, **VICTORY** at **JERICHO** was very important as they began their **CONQUEST!** It was at **JERICHO** that they would first learn to **TRUST** the **LORD** and **OBEY HIM** and thereby experience a military **VICTORY!**

JERICHO was an intimidating city that was surrounded by huge walls! In their flesh this probably looked like an absolute impossibility to them. However, they followed **JOSHUA**, their leader, who told them what the **LORD** said they were to do! They simply **OBEYED THE LORD**, and in the end they saw those massive walls fall down flat!

We might think...*“Why should we bother with studying these events that took place so long ago? What does all of this have to do with us? How does all of this apply to our life as a BELIEVER in 2022?”*

Well we need to understand that each of us **BELIEVERS** are in a **SPIRITUAL WAR** fighting **SPIRITUAL BATTLES!**

***Ephesians 6:11-13**–“11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

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We know that our **SPIRITUAL BATTLES** are on three fronts—we all **BATTLE the WORLD, the FLESH, and the DEVIL!**

We need to know how to **FIGHT** these **SPIRITUAL BATTLES!**

We need to know that the **LORD** has **PROMISED** us **VICTORY!** We need to know that our **GOD** is **ABLE TO GIVE US THE VICTORY!** But we also need to know how to **FOLLOW HIM** in **OBEDIENCE** to gain **VICTORY!**

Our study of **JOSHUA** teaches us these valuable lessons! Just as **ISRAEL** faced the mighty walls of **JERICHO**, we face walls and obstacles in our lives as well. We need to know how to **OVERCOME** them and **MOVE FORWARD** in **VICTORY!**

I. WE SEE ISRAEL HAD A PROBLEM! (Vs 1)

A. JERICHO Is Known As One Of The Oldest Cities In The World.

1. In **JOSHUA’S** day, it was surrounded by a system of two massive stone walls.
 - a. The outer wall was 6 ft. thick and about 20 ft. high.
 - b. The inner wall was about 12 ft. thick and was 30 ft. high.
 - c. Between the walls was a guarded walkway about 15 ft. wide.
2. **ISRAEL’S** problem was that they had a city to conquer, but there were these extremely huge walls in the way.

B. As We Go Through This Life, At Times, We Face Some Obstacles That Seem Insurmountable As Well!

1. It could be a lost loved one whom we would like to see the **LORD** touch and save.

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2. It might be some other of the lost in our community over which we are burdened.
3. It could be a ministry from the **LORD** that we feel inadequate about.
4. It might be trouble in our family that tears at our heart and leaves us wondering what to do.
5. It could be a financial burden that stresses us to the limits of our **PATIENCE** and **FAITH!**
6. It might be a struggle with a particular **SIN** that we seem to have constant struggle with in our life.
7. Or it could be any number of other things!

C. We Must Learn Not To Look At Our Obstacles As Dead-Ends, But Rather As OPPORTUNITIES For The LORD To Work In And Through Our Lives!

1. The **APOSTLE PAUL** had such an obstacle!
2 Corinthians 12:7-10– “*And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*”
2. This attitude may seem foreign to most of us.

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3. Yet, we must come to realize that the **POWER OF GOD** is best revealed in and through us when we are unable to handle life!
4. **GOD** is more clearly visible when we are totally out of the picture!
5. In a sense, that is what **HE** did with **ISRAEL** here.
6. **HE** completely removed them from the equation!
7. There was no doubt, the **VICTORY** at **JERICHO** was all **GOD!**

WE SEE ISRAEL HAD A PROBLEM!

II. WE SEE ISRAEL HAD A PROMISE! (Vs 2)

- A. As JOSHUA And All The Men Of War Stood Looking At Those Walls Around That Great City, The LORD GOD Had A WORD OF COMFORT For Their Hearts!**
 1. Here, **GOD PROMISED ISRAEL THE VICTORY** before they ever attacked **JERICHO!**
 2. **HE** let them know about the conclusion of the **BATTLE** before they ever entered into their **BATTLE!**
- B. As We Face our OBSTACLES, Whatever They May Be, We Can Do So With CONFIDENCE, Because We Have The LORD'S PROMISES:**
 1. **We Have GOD'S PROMISE That Our WEAPONS Are POWERFUL THROUGH GOD!**
2 Corinthians 10:4-5– “*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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;*”

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2. **We Have GOD’S PROMISE That Our BATTLES And Even Our Afflictions Have All Been Arranged By The LORD To Work Together For Our Ultimate Good And For HIS PURPOSES!**

Romans 8:28–“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

2 Corinthians 4:17–“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;”

3. **We Have GOD’S PROMISE That Our ABILITIES Are Limited Only By Our FAITH IN HIM!**

Philippians 4:13–“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Ephesians 3:20–“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

4. **We Have GOD’S PROMISE Of POWER In The Day Of BATTLE!**

Ephesians 6:10–“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

5. **We Have GOD’S PROMISE Of Ongoing VICTORY!**

1 Corinthians 15:57–“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 2:14–“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”

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6. **We Have GOD’S PROMISE That We NEVER Need To FIGHT ALONE!**

Hebrews 13:5b “... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- C. **As We Face The Seemingly Insurmountable Walled Cities In Our Lives, We Need To Learn To BELIEVE THE LORD, To TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD And TRUST HIM FOR OUR VICTORIES!**

Romans 4:21–“And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” [re: Abraham]

2 Corinthians 1:20–“For all the promises of God in him [Christ] are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

1. **JESUS** did not **SAVE** us for us to live **DEFEATED** lives!
2. **HE SAVED** us to have **VICTORY** and **HE** will be there all the way to help us secure it for **HIS GLORY** as we **TRUST HIM!**
3. Will there be **TRIALS**? Yes, but there can also be **VICTORY** through the **TRIALS!**

ISRAEL HAD A PROBLEM...

ISRAEL HAD A PROMISE...

III. ISRAEL HAD A PARTNER! (Vs 3-5)

- A. **ISRAEL’S Partner Was None Other Than The LORD HIMSELF!**

1. **HE** was in **ABSOLUTE CONTROL** of the **BATTLE**, **HE** was leading them, and **HE** was the **GUARANTEE** of their **VICTORY!**
2. Remember the visit **JOSHUA** had with the **CAPTAIN OF THE LORD’S HOST? (Joshua 5:13-15)**

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3. What they were told to do didn't make any sense if the **CAPTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOST** didn't show up and do **HIS** part!

B. As We Face The OBSTACLES Of Our Lives It Is A BLESSING To Know That We Do Not Have To Face Them Alone Or In Our Own Strength!

No **OBSTACLE** is insurmountable as long as we face it in the **LORD!**

That's our **BIBLE STUDY** for this evening! Next week, **LORD** willing we'll see how **ISRAEL PREVAILED!** (*Vs. 6-21*) We will take a look at that **FAITH THAT BRINGS DOWN WALLS!**

Conclusion

What kind of walled city are you facing right now?

Does it seem that **VICTORY** is absolutely impossible for you?

Will you take a lesson from **ISRAEL** and start handling your **JERICHO'S GOD'S WAY?**

Will you bring your **JERICHO** to the **LORD** right now! **HE** is still a miracle working **GOD!** **HE** is greater than any obstacle, able to move any mountain, stronger than any foe we might face!