

Series: Hebrews

Lesson: #49

Title: One Ark, Seven Trumpets, and One Shout

Text: Hebrews 11: 30, 31

Date: Sunday, August 17, 2008

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Hebrews 11: 30: By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

Turn with me to Joshua chapter 6.

I. FIRST, WE SEE TYPIFIED A SINNER HARDENING HIS OWN HEART

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

A. Jericho was a fortified city on the edge of Canaan.

1. Forty years earlier when Joshua sent the spies into the land of Canaan they came back and discouraged the children of Israel with this report. **Deuteronomy 1:28:...The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven;**

2. So now, as the camp of Israel approached, being so persuaded of their safety by the walls they had built. Jericho straightly shut itself inside.

- The citizens agreed never to surrender.
- Though they were mighty men of valor, they agreed none of them would go out to fight
- And they would allow none of the Israelites to come in with a word of peace.

What a picture of sinner hardening his heart to his own destruction! So it is with many sinners who resolve to strengthen themselves against Almighty God. Mighty men, but men who resolve to shut themselves in and shut others out.

II. SECONDLY, WE SEE THE LORD'S WORD OF PROMISE

Joshua 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.

A. The Lord's Promise To His People Is A Word Of Victory Already Accomplished

1. Notice the LORD does not say, "I will give Jericho into thine hand" but "I have given into thine Jericho"

2. And not only the city, but "the king thereof" and "the mighty men of valor."

- Our text in Hebrews 11: 30: says: **By faith the walls of Jericho fell down,**
- Joshua 6: 2 says, **the LORD said...I have given,**

Note: So once again we see that faith's confidence, faith's assurance, and faith's power is the Lord in whom faith rests.

Has the Lord not declared the same word of promise in the gospel of Christ? For he says, **Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. (Isaiah 40:2)**

Christ has conquered the enemy on our behalf: **Colossians 2:13: And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14: Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15: And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**

Do you believe the LORD's word of promise? The victory is already won by Christ our Lord. The city shall be given to those who trust the Lord by faith.

III. THIRDLY, THE LORD WHO DECLARES THE VICTORY IS ALREADY WON GIVES CLEAR INSTRUCTION ON WHAT FAITH MUST DO.

V3: 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.

A. The captain of the Lord's host gives directions how the city should be besieged.

1. No trenches are to be opened
2. No battering rams will be used
3. Not even the least military assaults
4. But the ark of God must be carried
5. And that by the priests round the city once a day for six days and seven times the seventh day.
6. The seven ram's horns must be blown by the seven priests.
7. The men of war were to remain silent.

B. The Lord declares to us what shall surely come to pass if we but trust him.

V5: 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.

1. When the ark has been carried by the priests
2. When the city has been circled seven times on the seventh day

3. The priests shall sound the trumpet with a loud blast
4. Then the people give a great shout
5. Immediately the walls shall fall down,
6. The people shall be so afraid that they will not be able to make any resistance

Would you believe God if he told you this would happen? This is real. More amazing than what the Lord did to Jericho is our salvation. In his word, we hear week after week what the Lord has done, what he is doing, and what he shall do. And we but wait by faith to see the salvation of the Lord. Do you believe your salvation is a greater thing than what the Lord did to Jericho?

IV. WE SEE THAT FAITH OBEYS THE LORD WHO DECLARES THE VICTORY IS ALREADY WON.

V6: And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. 7: And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD. 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. 9: And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, *the priests* going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

A. Wherever the ark went the people went,

1. The armed men went before the priests to clear the way.
2. Though they were men of war they were glad to do what they were bid to do.
 - Removing any obstacle that would hinder the Ark being carried forth
 - Prepared for any opposition by the enemy that might stop the trumpets from sounding
3. And behind the Ark the *rereward*.

B. The weapon carried by the men of war.

V10: And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall *any* word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

- The men of war and all the people were armed with only two weapons, faith and a voice.
- They were to make no noise so they could hear the gospel trumpet blow.
- Until the day their Joshua bid them shout.
- That is where true faith is found--in discretion--knowing when to be silent and speaking only when the Lord Jesus has bid us, shout!

Ex 14:14, God shall fight, and you shall hold your peace. Believers are both the armed men who lead the way--armed with faith and a voice--who allowed no interference in the preaching of the gospel. And the great congregation made up the rear ward and all followed

Christ the Ark who is their strength and hope. The priests here signify the Lord's messengers who carry the message of Christ the Ark, blowing the seven trumpets--the gospel of perfection in God's Son. Together both the priests and the men of war compass the walled up city. Everyone in order by faith.

V14: And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. 15: And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

- God could have caused the walls of Jericho to fall at any time
- Oh, but faith must be taught patience
- That it may persevere
- Wait on the salvation of the Lord

Illustration: Can't you just hear the folks in Jericho. That first day they may have been concerned, or the 2nd or 3rd but by now they're just laughing and scoffing. Oh those foolish Israelites!

V16: And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. 20: So the people shouted when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21: And they utterly destroyed 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.

What can we learn from all this?

1. The LORD's ways are not our ways.

Isaiah 55:8: For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

- Who would have thought a city so fortified
- With men so mighty
- Could be taken with an ark, a trumpet and a shout?

Wasn't that your same amazement when God Almighty broke down the walls of your heart revealing Christ your Ark, simply when the trumpet of his gospel sounded long and he shouted mightily into your soul?

2. Faith trusts the Lord our High Priest who saves, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (#Zec 4:6)

- As believers, as men of war--we have two weapons--faith and a voice.
- But we are to remain silent so we can hear the gospel trumpet

- Until our Joshua, the Lord Jesus Christ, says today is the day the walls come down.

2 Corinthians 10: 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; 6: And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

3. Faith looks to the Ark of God, our Lord Jesus Christ in whom all the word of God is sure and certain, yea and Amen.

- The city may be a poor loved one whose hard heart is straightly shut up.
- Or the city may be might impregnable fortress of trial that blocks our entrance into the promised land
- But whatever the city may be that lies before you, look to the Ark, follow the Ark, and when the day of rest comes, you shall find that He was your Rest all the time you marched around the city.

4. The Ark and the Shout gained the victory but the trumpet had to be blown every day until the perfect--

- I can imagine the sound of the seven trumpets were irritating to those inside Jericho.
- Oh, but to the men of war and to the great congregation it was what kept them putting one foot in front of the other.

We need the gospel of the grace of God--seven trumpets--the gospel horn which declares perfection in Christ Jesus, we need the gospel to strengthen our inner man through the Spirit. **Ephesians 6: 14: Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15: And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17: And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

5. Faith perseveres.

Galatians 6:9: And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Lamentations 3:25: The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him. 26 *It is* good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

6. Faith gets the victory.

1 John 5:4: For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

We from the beginning why this is the case, the LORD said, "I have given the city into thine hand." Faith believes him.

And at the end of time, when our Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout, and the sound of a trumpet, Satan's kingdom shall be completely ruined, and not till then, when all opposing rule, principality, and power, shall be effectually and eternally put down.

One Ark (Christ the Lord), Seven Trumpets (the gospel of perfect salvation by Christ) and a Shout (the voice of faith of the believer)

Revelation 19:1: And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.