

Joshua
GOD IS VICTORIOUS
Lesson Text: Joshua 6:2–3, 4B, 12–20b

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **EXPRESS** how God brings **VICTORY** to our lives; **EMBRACE** confidence in obeying God’s instructions; and **RECALL** some of the past victories God won for us and praise Him.

In Focus

Why is it sometimes difficult to follow God’s direction? Even when God has proven Himself repeatedly, we often want to do our own thing. What can we do to make it easier to follow God’s plan in the future?

Keep In Mind

“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” **Joshua 6:16 (NKJV)**

Lesson Text

Joshua 6:2–3, 4B, 12–20b (NKJV)

2 And the Lord said unto Joshua, “See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof and the mighty men of valor.

3 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.

Joshua 6:12–20

12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.

13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually and blew with the trumpets; and the armed men went before them, but the rearward came after the ark of the Lord, the priests going on and blowing with the trumpets.

14 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 in the same manner seven times. Only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

16 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.

17 And the city shall be accursed, even it and all who are therein, to the Lord. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

18 And ye, in all ways 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.

19 But all the silver and gold and vessels of brass and iron are consecrated unto the Lord. They shall come into the treasury of the Lord.”

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.

The Lesson

The People, Places and Times

Jericho: It is one of the oldest known fortified cities in the ancient world. It is thought the name “Jericho” sounds like the Hebrew word for “moon” (yer-ee-KHO). This led many to believe it could have been the central place of moon worship. It is also believed, because of its paganism, God commanded the destruction of Jericho 20:16–17.

Dates: The Exodus and the victory over Jericho are interrelated. However, there is confusion on whether the Exodus took place around 1446 B.C. (fifteenth century) or 1220 B.C. (thirteenth century), which both fall into what is called the Late Bronze Age (1550–1200 B.C).

Archeological research supports the battle at Jericho happening around 1250 B.C. This would have meant the Exodus took place under Pharaoh Rameses II. However, a good case is also made for 1406 B.C., when Amenhotep II was pharaoh. The exact time remains questionable because of this, biblical text refers to any pharaoh only as “Pharaoh” and never by their individual name.

The Israelites: The Israelites are held in a special covenant with God. However, 40 years prior to the period of Joshua’s leadership, during the Exodus, Israel disappointed God by fearing humans, the Canaanites; and believing in their own abilities instead of having faith in Him. Because of this, God declared except for Joshua and Caleb, nobody from that generation would

enter the Promised Land. God is a promise keeper; He kept the covenant He made with Abraham to provide a permanent place for his heirs (Genesis 15:13, 16, 18; 17:8).

Joshua: Early in life, Joshua was known as Hosea, which means “salvation.” However, Joshua had the honor of being renamed by Moses, and he received his more common name, which means “the Lord saves (or the Lord gives victory).” The Greek form of Joshua is Iesous (ee-ay-SOOCE), which of course became Jesus, the most loved name. Joshua was a man of honor, a man who trusted God. He was also known as the “new Moses” (Joshua 1:1–9). He was the man who led the Israelites into the Promised Land. He was given this honor because he was one of two spies out of 12 who returned with a positive message for Moses after spying in the Promised Land (Numbers 13:30). Because he trusted the Lord instead of fearing the Canaanites, God granted him and Caleb the opportunity to enter the Promised Land. Joshua remained faithful to God. He was chosen to take over Moses’ work and bring the Israelites into the Promised Land.

Background

Today’s lesson begins shortly after the end of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert. Because the Israelites did not trust God at the time of the Exodus and rebelled against Him, this generation was not allowed into the Promised Land. Instead, He made sure most of the generation died except Joshua and Caleb.

Moses was part of the generation unable to enter the Promised Land. Instead, Joshua inherited his duties. Joshua lived through Egypt’s rule and experienced the miracles God conducted to lead the Israelites out of bondage. Since the Israelites needed a leader, God commissioned Joshua, His chosen servant, He knew Joshua would follow His instructions as he had in the past.

In Depth

- 1. A Promise to the Israelites (Joshua 6:2)** God promised the Israelites a land they could settle. The last of the old generation died, and it was time for the promise to be fulfilled. God showed them He had delivered the land and its inhabitants to them. However, God gave them a task to complete. They had to work for their gift and follow God’s direction. God is almighty, He easily could have destroyed the city on His own and given His people the land, but instead, they had to work for it. The work was not easy, or practical. However, success was guaranteed if they followed His direction, just as He promised.
- 2. Instructions to the Israelites (Joshua 6:3–4b)** After reiterating His promise, God told the Israelites what must be done. He gave them specific instructions to follow which would guarantee their entry into the Promised Land. Again, God could have delivered the city to the Israelites immediately, but they were to follow a set of specific instructions for a week. The Israelites were to circle Jericho, a fortified and seemingly impenetrable city, for seven days. The first six days required one circle around. The seventh day required seven circles, led by

the seven priests blowing seven trumpets while carrying the Ark, signifying the Lord's presence. God's use of the number seven solidifies the sacred significance of the event. He used seven priests with seven trumpets, with the siege to take place in seven days, and the city was to be encircled seven times on the seventh day. This may have been done to signify the beginning of God's new order in the world, mirroring the seven-day creation of the world itself.

- 3. The Choice of the Israelites (Joshua 6:12– 20b)** The Israelites, led by Joshua, chose to follow the Lord's instructions exactly as He commanded. Not only did He give instructions about how to destroy the city, but He also provided instructions about what to do after the walls fell—to not take possession of anything. Perhaps the Israelite's decision to obey so readily stemmed from the history of their people. They were to enter the Promised Land, unlike their fathers, because of the past generation's failure to fully trust God. Although God's instructions were not familiar in warfare, it proved that He alone was responsible for the victory. Not only did the Israelites have a choice, but Rahab the prostitute had a choice. Rahab, who protected the spies and demonstrated her devotion to God, made a decision that allowed for her and her family to be spared (Joshua 2:1–24; 6:17).

Liberating Lesson

Our human brains always want to make sense of our world. We forget our sense is never God's sense. We forget God is not human and His perfection is the standard to bear in mind. He will not do things as we would do things, and we should follow Him. He has history, precedence, and authority on His side. Remember we are children of a living God. His way is always the way. His timing is always the time. Instead of struggling to fit Him into your mold, mold yourself into His. Also, remember your own history. Has God delivered you from anything? How did He deliver you? What led you to put your trust in Him? Did you doubt His answer initially? What was the outcome?

Application for Activation

Pray God will allow you to more readily trust Him. Pray He will help your faith to grow. Remember you may be a leader to others, so let them see you allow God to be in control of your life. Your example may show them that even though what God is telling them may not make sense to them, it is the right way to go. Prepare to be an example in your action and in your words. Brainstorm different times God directed you or provided you with deliverance and to share it when a friend or an unbeliever has questions.

Take Aways

Closing Prayer



Week of 08 Oct 2023
Daily Bible Readings

Monday ~ Leviticus: 14-15

Tuesday ~ Leviticus: 16-18

Wednesday ~ Leviticus: 19-21

Thursday ~ Leviticus: 22-23

Friday ~ Leviticus: 24-25

Saturday ~ Leviticus: 26-27

Sunday ~ Numbers: 1-2