



ROUTE 66

“Joshua: The Time Has Come”

Joshua 6

February 12, 2012 A.M. Service

Background of Joshua

- ✓ Born in Egypt
- ✓ Trained by Moses
- ✓ Changed Name – Hoshea (Salvation) to Joshua – (Jehovah is Salvation)
- ✓ Called By God to Lead Them into the Promise Land
- ✓ Commanded to Have Courage

Crossing the River (1-5)

- ✓ The Commission to Joshua (1)
- ✓ The Covenant with Rahab (2)
- ✓ The Crossing of the Jordan (3-4)
- ✓ The Circumcision at Gilgal (5)

Conquering the Enemy (6-12)

- ✓ The Central Campaign (6-9)
- ✓ The Southern Campaign (10)
- ✓ The Northern Campaign (11)
- ✓ The Defeated Kings (12)

Claiming the Inheritance (13-22)

- ✓ The Tribal Territory Assigned (13-19)
- ✓ The Special Cities Appointed (20-21)
- ✓ The Border Tribes Allotted (22)

Challenging the People (23-24)

- ✓ He Calls Them to Remember
- ✓ He Cautions Them Not to Stray
- ✓ He Challenges Them to Serve the Lord

LEARN THE WORD

- ✓ Continue Reading the Word of God every day – if are behind, start where we are – DON'T just QUIT!!
- ✓ Be a part of the of the Winter LifeTraks TONIGHT @ 5 p.m. that will help you get a better grasp on the Bible, how to study, understand, and apply it to your daily life better than ever before!

LOVE THE WORD

- ✓ Make Worship @ Bethsalem a Priority & not simply an option to hear the Word of God proclaimed!!
- ✓ Would you gain a greater understanding and love for our Heavenly Father as we hear the story of Joshua – His Greatness, His Goodness, and His Glory. May we love Him for all that He has done in us and for us. Name some of those specifically & thank Him for it!!

LIVE THE WORD

- ✓ Have you come to the place where you understand that without His deliverance in your life you are doomed? You can make that decision and be delivered today from your sin and self. You can become a follower by accepting this free gift of God; if you will by faith believe, and surrender your heart and life to Him! **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life & being His fully devoted follower!
- ✓ Be willing to share what you learn with others that you come in contact with – don't just get the Word in you, but also get it out of you!! (Especially your family and most importantly your children!!)
- ✓ *Find specific application this week to what you have heard and experienced* – Where or in what area of your life is your Jericho? Where do you need courage to trust and not be afraid and walk ahead in faith knowing that He has gone before you and prepared the way? Write it down and do it!!

ROUTE 66

“Joshua: The Time Has Come”

Joshua 6

February 12, 2012 AM Service

Read Joshua 6:1-21

Background of Joshua

- ✓ Born in Egypt to Nun of the tribe of Ephraim
- ✓ Trained by Moses – Helped Moses, Led army in battle, spied out the land
- ✓ Changed Name – Hoshea (Salvation) to Joshua – (Jehovah is Salvation)
- ✓ Called By God to Lead the people into the Promise Land
- ✓ Commanded to Have Courage – Not in himself but in the Lord.

Crossing the River (1-5)

- ✓ The Commission to Joshua (1)
- ✓ The Covenant with Rahab (2)
- ✓ The Crossing of the Jordan (3-4)
- ✓ The Circumcision at Gilgal (5)

Conquering the Enemy (6-12)

- ✓ The Central Campaign – Jericho; Ai; Gibeon (6-9)
- ✓ The Southern Campaign (10)
- ✓ The Northern Campaign (11)
- ✓ The Defeated Kings (12)

Claiming the Inheritance (13-22)

- ✓ The Tribal Territory Assigned (13-19)
- ✓ The Special Cities Appointed (20-21)
- ✓ The Border Tribes Allotted (22)

Challenging the People (23-24)

- ✓ He Calls Them to Remember
- ✓ He Cautions Them Not to Stray
- ✓ He Challenges Them Serve the Lord

The Connection of Jericho For Us Today

Just a fresh reminder in case you have forgotten, you and I are engaged in

a battle. The problem is, many Christians and churches today have been lulled to sleep into thinking that everything is ok by the enemy!

As long as we take care of our family we're good. As long as I at the least come every once in awhile, that's good enough. I have given just enough. Folks, the reason we don't have more of an impact on our world, our lives are not that much different than anybody else's is because we don't realize and recognize that we are in a battle. **ILLUS: WW II** – rationing, etc. If you are in a battle you operate differently, you are willing to make sacrifices, you are willing to make changes, you are more concerned with your unit than with just yourself.

There are very few on the frontlines any longer. The sad thing is the enemy has convinced us that we are and we are not. Not many really understand what it means to be in the battle and on the frontlines.

The frontlines of battle is prayer, concentrated and focused, personal time with the Lord. Being involved in worship, studying God's Word in Sunday School, being disciplined in LifeTraks, being a corporate prayer times, connecting people with the Gospel, serving others in His name.

Why do I make it a point to be here on Sundays and Wednesday, because God is checking my chart and I need to be here, no because I am aware that we are in a battle, and I need as much training, as much encouragement, time to worship and adore the Creator and our General as possible, and to help my team succeed in winning this battle that God has set me in. If you are breathing today, you are in the battle, whether for Him or against Him, you are in the battle.

Jericho – one of the oldest cities in the world – in the center of Canaan – occupied since the 8th century B.C. Though there are still some unanswered questions (and those who would disagree) there are archeological finds of ancient Jericho who date it around 1400 B.C. and the finding of a large wall that had been destroyed.

Before the Battle: Remember that we fight FROM victory, not just FOR victory.

This is a huge truth because it changes everything. The way we fight, how we look at the fight, gives us the proper perspective and also endurance to stay in the battle. We must be reminded that we do not war with flesh and blood but in the spiritual realm

What were the factors involved in the victory?

A. The Fear of the Lord (Vs 1) The people were scared to death. – They were in their city with the gates to the city closed.

Does our community have a reverence for the Lord because of what they see Him doing here in and through us, or is it simply just one more Baptist church on the corner with a cemetery?

Why were the people afraid? Look at [Joshua 2:8-11](#), [5:1](#) They had seen and heard what God had done and what surely awaited them. It was just as God had told them it would happen – Exodus – God not only made the Egyptians to see that He was the Lord, but now by the crossing of the Jordan River – this new generation sees yet a fresh sign of God's awesome power and might on display and not only them but all the Canaanites so that they were greatly afraid.

B. The Promise of the Lord (Vs 2) God says, I have given Jericho into your hand. In other words, the battle is already been fought, it's over, it's fixed, all you have to do is walk in the plan I have for you. See [Joshua 5:13-15](#)

ILLUS: Fixed Fight or Game still have to fight, still have to play, but it's so much different knowing the outcome

Joshua knew the promises of God because he had spent time meditating on His word, and believed the promises because God's Word generated faith in his heart, and then he counted as true God's promise and obeyed.

There are a lot of Christians who believe God's promise, but they never count them as true. It's like having a check that someone gives you for a \$1000, yep I believe it's good I know it's there, but never endorsing the check. Some of us this morning, need to cash the check if you will that He has for us, and start walking by faith.

God's promises are true!! – [Joshua 23:14](#)

C. The Instructions of the Lord (Vs 3-5)

God's instructions laid out here – march around the city 6 days in a row around the city, and don't say a word and then go back to camp. Can you imagine what they were thinking, march around 1 time, ark leading the way, no one was to say a word, only the trumpet was to blow.

Different Trumpets – silver versus rams horn – there was no war!!

He tells them this the first day, then gets the up the next day, and tells them to do the same again. March with the ark of the covenant with you – remember symbolized the presence of God. **“When we accept God’s plan, we invite God’s presence; and that guarantees victory”**

Can you imagine all the other leader’s reaction, you want us to do what, and march how many times, and say nothing?

Reminder, there are three ways to serve God.

- (1) Make the best plans we can and hope to succeed
- (2) Make our own plans and ask God to bless them
- (3) Ask God for His plans and then do what he tells us to do.

This is very important. This is where we trust the Lord even if in our human minds, it does not make sense. God does not operate like the world does, and it may seem crazy at the time, but if God tells us to do something and how to go about doing let’s trust Him and do it.

Remember back to chapter 5 at the end where Joshua had the encounter with Jesus, and he fell down and worshiped?

Here is the true sign that, that worship meant something.

He moved from worship to obedience, the true sign of worship, whether it’s authentic or not. (This is what is missing in many of our lives today. We say we worship, we might even want to, sing a song, come to church, but we do not live it out!)

I try to help God out, figure it out on my own, talk to somebody else, when God has laid it all out there for me, if I would just simply be obedient. True worship is listening to God, responding to God, and the following in obedience to His call on our lives.

Some of us today, that is be saved, join this church, find a place to serve, don’t be content to sit on the sidelines but to serve, make some changes in our lives that we know He is calling us to, to quit making the excuses, worship and obey!

During the Battle: Remember that we overcome the enemy by faith.

Look at Hebrews 11:30 Faith is not believing in spite of the evidence, but instead walking in and on the promises of God that they had already seen fulfilled. The same for us is true today. They had to continue to have faith as they marched around the walls, six days in a row, how would they get in the city, how would they fight, what was this being quiet, boy it

would have really hard for some of us!

Then on the 7th day – everything changes – march 7 times and then Shout to the Lord for He has given us the city – can imagine the fear that went through those in Jericho and yet the confidence in Israel?

What did they shout? Don't know but imagine all of them shouting, trumpets blowing and the walls falling flat. What a worshipful moment that must have been. One minute shouting, looking at these huge walls, people inside worried, and then next moment they are looking at each other eye ball to eye ball.

7 days, 7 was and is significant. This number represented to be full, to be satisfied, meaning completeness or perfection. (If time – everything God does is perfect and complete because He is!)

So don't get discouraged as God works in your life, as He shows you the plans for your life, and others don't seem to understand, or it doesn't make sense to you. You want to quit, make your own way, take a detour, stay the course, in order to overcome the enemy we must walk by faith & obey.

After the Victory: Remember to obey God's commands and give Him all the glory.

A. Devote the entire city to God The spoils of war – this was the 1st city and it was devoted unto the Lord. (First fruits to the Lord. For us today, this is giving our minimum of 10% to Him.) Tithing envelopes in the foyer. (As we will see next week, they were disobedient in this most important area and God disciplined them severely for it!

B. Rescue Rahab and her family She was saved because of her faith, and remember God had used her. [Joshua 2:11-14](#) God can use even you! Her house didn't fall down – it appears, the section that held her house stayed up See the Scarlet Thread out her window – saved her – she had faith and did what she was told to do – [Hebrews 11:31](#) – becomes a part of the bloodline of the Messiah!

C. Destroy the people

Hard for us to understand sometimes, and not enough time here for us to pursue it fully, but God had given these people a chance, they could have responded but did not, these people were wicked and God had warned them they would pollute the Jewish nation with their pagan gods, and even today it is a reminder that God does not and

cannot tolerate sin even though we can. They were used as His judgment just as some of the other nations God would use to discipline His own people.

D. Burn the city Our God is a consuming fire, nothing left of it as a reminder of the judgment of God. And a curse would be placed on whoever would rebuild it (which by the way, happens in I Kings 16 by none other than good ole' Ahab) Wanted it to be a reminder to everyone of what God had done!

Questions

What Jericho(s) are you facing in your life right now? Is it a temptation, struggle with doubt, hard time taking God's Word at face value and obeying it? Struggle with an unforgiving spirit, resentment and bitterness towards someone, struggle with an illness, death of a loved one, struggle with an addiction you just can't shake, struggle in your marriage or with your kids. Letting go Moms and Dads, students leaving home, whatever it may be this morning.

Are you letting God conquer the Jericho(s) for you, or are you trying to do it alone, and in your own strength? Is it your strategy or God's.

God wants you and I to live in victory and not defeat!

Are you willing this morning to let go, give to Him, walk in faith every day, admit you cannot make it on your own. Recognize and worship and live in obedience realizing that God has give us all we need to take down the biggest Jericho or most impregnable stronghold of Satan himself.

Our Response:

1. Get off the sidelines and get into the battle.
2. Ask God to give us the faith to stay in the battle.
3. Remember God's ways are not our ways.
4. Obey God in all that He has called us to do.
5. We MUST give God all the glory.