

Journey Through the Bible (36)

THE CONQUEST BEGINS
Jericho & Ai
Joshua 6-8

Entering Canaan

- We are in the 7th of 17 time periods of Bible history – conquering and inheriting Canaan
- Israel has crossed the Jordan and arrived.
- After circumcising every male, keeping the Passover, the manna ceasing and 2 spies have been sent to Jericho - Israel is now ready to begin their conquest.
- Their first mission – Jericho.

The Conquest begins

- The conquest of Canaan is divided into 3 campaigns – central, southern and northern.
Joshua 6-12
- Today's we examine the central campaign – Jericho and Ai. This is pivotal as it will set the tone for success as they conquer the rest of the land. Their faith in YHWH will be strengthened as a result of these 2 battles.

The Conquest begins

- The commander of the Army of YHWH
- **Joshua 5:13-15**
- Near Jericho, Joshua sees “a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand.” He goes to Him and asks whose side he is on.
- He is told, “I have come now as Commander of the army of the LORD”
- Joshua bows before Him & worships. He is told to take off his sandals for the place is holy.

The Conquest begins

- The commander of the Army of YHWH
- **Joshua 5:13-15**
- Is this God? Consider:
 - 1) Joshua is told to take off his sandals (like Moses)
 - 2) He bows and worships and is not forbidden
 - 3) Following we read that the LORD speaks to him directly.

The Conquest begins

- The conquest of Jericho
- **Joshua 6**
- Jericho is secured and defensive
- **6:2**, “I have given Jericho into your hand”
- **6:3-5**, unique instructions given.
- **6:6-16**, they march around the city once a day for 6 days. The 7th day they marched around the city 7 times. Then the priests blew their trumpets, and the walls of the city fell flat.

The Conquest begins

- The conquest of Jericho
- **Joshua 6:17-21** – Joshua instructs the people to utterly destroy the city – everyone and EVERYTHING. It was consecrated to the Lord.
They complied.
- **6:22-25** – Rahab and her family were spared
- **6:26-27** – a curse for rebuilding Jericho
(**cf. 1 Kings 16:34**)

The Conquest begins

- The Defeat at Ai
- **Joshua 7:1-9**
- **7:1** – The children of Israel committed a trespass
- **7:2-5** – attempt to attack a smaller Ai failed and 36 Israelites lost their lives
- **7:6-9** – Joshua mourns and complains to YHWH. The people are fearful and discouraged.

The Conquest begins

- The Defeat at Ai – Achan's sin
- **Joshua 7:10-27**
- **7:10-18** – Joshua is told there is sin in the camp. Lots are cast and Achan is found.
- **7:19-26** – Achan is told to confess what he has done. He had coveted and taken several items (**vs. 21**) and hid them in his tent. He and his family were stoned, and his possessions burned.

The Conquest begins

- The Defeat OF Ai
- **Joshua 8**
- **8:1-2** – YHWH assures Joshua that now they would be successful against Ai. He is given instructions. They were permitted to keep the spoils.
- **8:3-29** – a military strategy that resulted in Ai's defeat. Both Ai and Bethel are destroyed. 12,000 perish. The king is hanged.

The Conquest begins

- The Covenant renewed.
- **Joshua 8:30-35**
- At Mt. Ebal, Joshua builds an altar to the Lord, per Moses' instructions (**Deuteronomy 27:1-10**).
- It was of natural stones. After offering sacrifices, Joshua wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses.

The Conquest begins

- The Covenant renewed.
- **Joshua 8:30-35**
- All Israel (men, women, children, strangers) gathers in a valley, half in front of Mt. Ebal and half in front of Mt. Gerizim. The LOM is READ, especially the blessings and curses (**Deuteronomy 28**).

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Jericho, an example of salvation**
- Salvation involves both God and man.
Ephesians 2:8-9, James 2:14-26, etc.
- **Grace** – God’s part – **Josh. 6:2**, “I have given”; HOW the city was defeated
- **Obedient works** – **Josh. 6:3-4**. They had to ACT. Accept the gift. It was conditional.
- **Faith** – they had to believe and trust God –
Hebrews 11:30

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Obedience matters**
- **Matthew 7:21-23, Hebrews 5:9**
- When God gives instructions, we need to follow and respect them.

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Obedience matters – even when we do not understand**
- God's instructions seemed illogical. Why He chose this way we are not told.
- The result was clear – this was the working of God!
- Many examples in scripture of this:
 - Some dietary and clothing laws
 - Gideon's 300 men – **Judges 7**
 - Naaman to dip in the Jordan – **2 Kings 5**
- Why? It establishes that we will obey Him no matter what!

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Obedience matters – even when we do not understand**
- NT. Why did Jesus have to die for our sins to be forgiven?
- Consider **John 13:7**, *Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.”*
- Usually, there IS a good reason!

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **God can accomplish anything He desires**
- Jericho is an example of God's omnipotence.
- **Jeremiah 32:27, 17; Matthew 19:26**
- Recall **1 John 4:4**, He is greater...

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Are there walls you need to tear down?**
- There may be things in our lives that are obstacles to faithfulness (weights – **Heb. 12:1**). We need to tear down these walls.
- God can help –
Acts 20:32 – the word of His grace
1 Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 11:28-30, 6:33; 1 Peter 5:7, Romans 8:37 – in all these things we are more than conquerors

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Before acting, ask if it is authorized?**
- Could the defeat at Ai have been prevented?
- What if they had inquired BEFORE moving forward?
 - **Joshua 7:1-5** – no mention of God
- **Colossians 3:17** – do all in the name of the Lord

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **God knows your sins**
- God was aware of what Achan did.
- You may be able to hide your sins from man, but God knows –
Hebrews 4:12, 1 Timothy 5:24-25 – some sins are clearly evident, others follow later
- **Sometimes, the consequences of our sins affect others!**

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Covetousness**
- We understand covetousness with Achan's example
- **Joshua 7:21**, he admits he coveted.
- Covetousness is a sin – **Colossians 3:5**,
Ephesians 5:3,5; **Hebrews 13:5**

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **Make plans before you act**
- After their defeat at Ai, Israel formulated a plan to be victorious.
- Before we act, it is always good to make plans about what we are going to do.

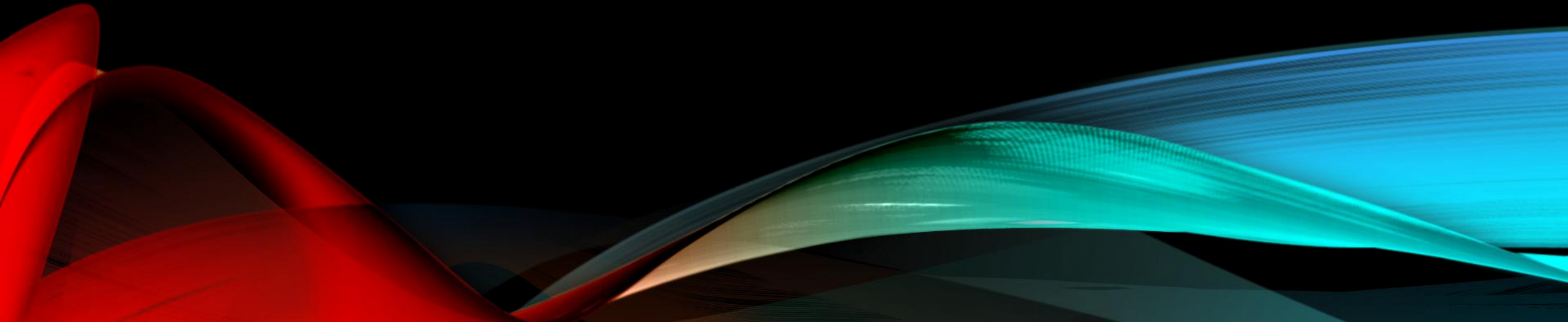
Luke 14:28-30

- Remember God in your plans
 - **James 4:13-15**

LESSONS from the Conquest

- **We need occasional reminders**
- After their wins at Jericho and Ai, the people assembled, and the law was read.
Joshua 8:30-35
- We have recently addressed this.

God has done enough to prove
He cares.
Will you trust Him?



Let us pray!

