

JOSHUA CHAPTER 6 - Part 2

6.2 **INSTRUCTIONS on Doing it God's Way:** Remember Is 55:8-9

My thoughts ARE NOT your thoughts, my ways NOT your ways Yes, the Heavens are as high above the earth as my ways are above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

God said to Joshua: **I am delivering Jericho and its King into your hands:** [Let me do!]

Notice that God told Joshua that **HE** was giving the victory over Jericho.

- so it will only happen by **Divine** methods... **not** human
- therefore the proud flesh will not be able to **BOAST**: Phil 4:13 / Jn 15:5

Ps 115:1 **Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to Your Name be the glory... cf 1 Cor 4:7**

Ps 44:8 **In God we boast all the day long.**

cf Ps 98:1 The Lord has done great things: **His right hand and His Holy Arm have brought us victory.**

This was what Israel would celebrate here at Jericho **And** at **any** other event where they allowed **God** to be in charge: cf 1 Sam 11:14, 14:23, 19:5, 23:10

- For **our** spiritual battles see **Psalm 144:1-10**

6:3 God's instructions were:

- (i) The army, **the valiant warriors**, were told **TO MARCH** around the city of Jericho **ONCE** a day for six days!
- (ii) They are to be accompanied by the priests carrying **the Ark**

6:4 (iii) The 7 priests are to **blow the trumpets**: the Shofar was a **WARNING** sound.

(iv) On the **7th Day** they are to march 7 times around the city.

6:5 (v) When the Shofar sounds on the 7th day **the whole people are to utter a mighty war cry** cf Num 10:5: this was the time **TO ACT**

THE WAR CRY: see Psalm 68:1 **Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered let His foes (the demons) flee before Him...**

(vi) At the sound of the war cry, the city walls will collapse allowing Israel to storm the city.

Why do this ritual for seven days?

- a) God loves everyone (1 Tim 2:4: God wants everyone to be saved...) cf Ezekiel ch 18: God does not want the death of a sinner.
- b) Everyone had observed that it was **THE ARK** carried by the priests that had opened the Jordan River... so the **Ark** carrying the Presence of God wanted **TO OPEN** the gates of Jericho... **And their hearts to the truth.**
- c) God was announcing His arrival and He gave them **TIME** to **REPENT**.
- d) God will not act in Judgement if there is the possibility that **souls** would open up to Him – Judgement comes when souls are finally **closed** and barricaded from His Presence and Grace... in other words, they **DRAW** the Judgement upon themselves.

(NB) This ritual was a great **trial of Faith & Trust** for Joshua and his men.

But the Captain of God's Army is in charge and they must act according to **His** Ways.

Yet 6:6-7 Joshua obeyed to the letter! To modern eyes these instructions seem stupid because we do not approach world events with the eyes of faith.

(VIP) The taking of Jericho was for **God's Glory**, not men's!

This was **God's triumphal entry into the Promised Land** and **His** demand to open up to the One who created them!

6:8-9 Joshua's obedience is matched by that of the Priests and the army.
The vanguard of the army was instructed to go ahead of the Ark to protect it.
cf Jos 1:16 where the Tribes Promise to follow Joshua as they followed Moses before him.

(NB) The Israelites are about to discover – yet again – that **with God all things are possible** Mt 19:26
Mk 9:23 **Everything is possible for one who believes.**

Lk 1:37 **Nothing is impossible with God:** Lk 18:27, Mk 10:27, 11:24
cf Jer 32:17, 27 Phil 4:13 1 Cor 10:13 Job 42:2

(NB) The final instruction was **SILENCE** when God is Present and Active: Rev 8:1

- God did not need human fussing or interference – just reverential awe and obedience.
- Silence ensured that everyone concentrated on what **God** was doing.
- Silence kept them **ALERT** to God's Presence... kept them listening...
- Silence kept them **OBEDIENT.**
- The only **sounds** that were heard by the **people of Jericho** were:
 - a) The sound of marching
 - b) The sound of the Shofar
 - c) On the 7th Day the **ROAR** of the War cry!
- This must have **UNNERVED** the people of Jericho.
Nothing like this had ever happened before with them.

Significance of the Priestly Role here:

- a) Our priests bear the Presence of the Lord with them in the Eucharist
- b) The Commander of God's Army – Yeshua – is with them.
- c) They are the watchmen who must blow the trumpet.

Is 58:1 **Shout for all you are worth, raise your voice like a trumpet.**
Proclaim their faults to my people... cf Joel 12:2;

(Ezek 33:6-7 that the Lord says you are the watchman and if you don't blow the trumpet, if you don't tell the people their faults, and when judgement comes if they die, you will be responsible because you did not raise your voice.)

1 Cor 14:8 **If the trumpet does not sound a CLEAR call, who will get ready for battle?**

So, the Priests must reach out to all souls **closed to God** (like Jericho).

- They must preach the Gospel and announce the Presence of God to everyone.
- otherwise **the walls of closed hearts** won't crumble before the Presence of God.

The trumpet had a **2-fold design** here (in Book of Joshua):

- 1) To terrorize the enemy (demons) announcing the arrival of God.
- 2) To encourage the People of God that their Saviour had come.

This also is the work of Priests: to oppose the demonic forces and call the people to be freed by their Saviour.

- Our Saviour just happens to be the Commander-in-Chief of **God's Army**: the Church.
cf Mt 11:20-24 and Jn 3:19-21

For those who engage in the spiritual battle: see **Num 10:9 when you go to war against the enemy who oppresses you, you must sound the trumpet WITH the battle cry: the Lord your God will remember you and you will be delivered from your enemies. Deut 20:1-4**

(NB) **2 Cor 10:4 The weapons we fight with are NOT the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have DIVINE Power to demolish strongholds** (of the demonic forces).

Notice that to take Jericho (symbol of unbelieving world) the Priests and People **must act in Unity.**
This is a joint effort on the part of God's People.

Notice, too, that the people **PROTECT** the Priests and **the Ark** when facing the unbelieving world.

Ⓝ Quite literally both priests and people must **walk with God** if they are to overcome the world.

Examples:

Gen 5:24 **Enoch walked with God.**

1 Sam 2:24 **The child grew before the Lord** – literally in His Presence beside the Ark.

Deut 13:4 **You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him** (NKJV)

Col 2:6 **... continue to live with Him, rooted in him and built in him, held firm by faith and full of thanksgiving.**

Thus “walk with God” means to live in Union with His Divine Will cf 2 Chron 34:31

6:9 The army went BEFORE the Priests and also formed a rear-guard: **We protect the Holy Eucharist.**
- the fighting force took the lead because as soon as the war cry rang out they were to advance into Jericho and take it.

6:10 The whole company was ordered to be silent until the 7th day when Joshua gave the signal to **SHOUT**... this was a **BIG** test of Faith and obedience.

God doesn't need **our emotional noise** – which only blocks our ability **TO HEAR Him and obey.**

The reverential silence of Israel would unnerve those in Jericho because it was **not normal!**

They had to **be still** (silent) at the Red Sea: Ex 14:14

They had to **be still** at the Jordan and now they must **be still** to allow God do His Work at Jericho. [Let me do!]

cf Zephaniah 1:7 **Silence before the Lord God! For the Day of the Lord is near.**

Zephaniah 2:13 **Be silent ALL FLESH before the Lord, for He is aroused from His Holy Habitation!**

Ⓝ Silence when God is about to move in Judgement [2022 beware!]

Ⓝ Silence adds to the gravity and solemnity of the occasion.

Ⓝ **Today** people should note that God works silently whether in creation, in Providence or in Grace.
Look at the silence of growing things!

- God's Governance of the Universe is done silently – even secretly! Plants make no noise...!
Only in the act of Judgement itself, can we **hear** God... in the Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Earthquakes, howling winds telling us to **STOP** before Judgement sends us to Hell – the Second Death... these events are His way of making the **DEAF** hear and the **BLIND** see!

→ **How?** He knocks down their fortresses!

- God's work in souls is **also** silent unless He has to use disaster to get through to us!
1 Kgs 19:11-12 **the Lord was not in the WIND, nor the EARTHQUAKE, nor the fire – but in the STILL SMALL VOICE** (inside of us). This is what Elijah discovered when he entered into the Presence of God on the mountain.

6:11-14 Exact obedience to God's rules of engagement. For 6 days Israel carried out the instructions given and **went back to their camp** – which would have confused the enemy hugely – they probably thought Israel didn't have **the courage** to take them on!

- Thus the Israelites glorified God by their obedience and confounded their enemy.

1 Sam 15:22 obedience is BETTER than sacrifice.

- it is **the sacrifice of one's own will** to His Divine Will that God wants.

Our model: Yeshua (Jesus):

Jn 4:34: **My meat** (what feeds my soul) **is to do the Will of Him who sent me.**

Phil 2:8: **So** He **became obedient unto death, even death on a Cross. Therefore God exalted Him...**