

Title: The Revelation to a Wrong Question

Text: Joshua 5: 13-15

Date: Oct 8, 2023

Place; SGBC, NJ

**Joshua 5: 13: And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?***

Joshua and the children of Israel are now in Canaan. They are camped at Gilgal near a great enemy city, Jericho. Joshua sees this mysterious man, with a sword drawn in his hand

This is one of many pre-incarnate appearances of the GodMan, Mediator. One way we know this is the Son of God is in Joshua 6: 2, “the LORD said to Joshua.” Christ is eternal God. “Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life” (Heb 7: 3). Christ has always been the one Mediator between God and his people. Christ appeared many times before he took flesh and dwelt among us. He appeared to Abraham in Genesis\_18. Christ wrestled Jacob and made him prevail by begging mercy in Genesis\_32. He appeared to Manah’s wife in Judges\_13. Christ appeared to Moses in the bush that burned and was not consumed in Exodus 3.

But at this point, Joshua does not know who this is. So Joshua approaches and asks the question, “*Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?*” That seems like a logical question. But it was the wrong question.

**Subject:** The Revelation to a Wrong Question

**Proposition:** The first question that should be asked is not whose side is Christ on but whose side are you on. This will only be answered by Christ giving a revelation of himself in the heart of those he redeemed.

## THE CAPTAIN OF THE HOST OF THE LORD

**Joshua 5: 14: And [Christ] said, Nay; but *as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.***

Christ did not answer Joshua’s question and Christ did not ask Joshua any questions. Instead, Christ revealed himself anew to Joshua as the Captain of the host of the Lord.

Who is the host of the Lord? All creation is God’s host and Christ our Captain rules them all. But most importantly, all God’s elect are God’s host. God’s host are those Christ has been Surety for from before the foundation of the world, who Christ redeemed by his precious blood. The LORD’s host are those the Spirit has given faith in Christ. Christ is Captain with all power over all his people ruling in the heart of his people by the revelation of himself.

Isaiah 55: 4: [God said] Behold, I have given him *for* a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

The same word translated “captain” is translated “prince” in Isaiah 9: 6. This is the meaning of Christ being the Captain, the Prince, the Commander of the host of the LORD.

Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The good news is that the government is not on our shoulder but upon Christ’s shoulder. He accomplished the redemption of his people because the government is on Christ’s shoulder. He rules in the heart of his people through the preaching of the gospel by speaking effectually into our hearts because the government is on his shoulder. This is how it pleased God to save from the first hour to the last--to call, to correct, to grow us--by the preaching of Christ. Christ reveals himself and works in the hearts of his people by revelation.

Joshua behold Christ with a sword in his hand. Christ is the Power of God and his weapon is the gospel sword. It is Christ who preaches the word effectually into the hearts of his brethren through the messenger he sends. And the good news we preach is that our Captain has accomplished the warfare of his elect.

Hebrews 2: 10: For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12: Saying, [Christ said to God his Father] I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Isaiah 40: 1: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2: 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.

When the apostle John was given the revelation of Jesus Christ he saw Christ as the Captain and the armies of heaven followed him.

Revelation 19: 11: [John heard Christ's name is] Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [John saw Christ] 13...clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14: And the ARMIES *which were* in heaven FOLLOWED HIM upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15: And OUT OF HIS MOUTH GOETH A SHARP SWORD, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [and having accomplished the justification and redemption of his people, God raised the Godman and gave him all power of the LORD's host] 16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Christ is the Captain of the LORD's host. He is the power of God. Out of his mouth goes the sharp sword of the gospel and conquers the hearts of his people. Through faith he clothes his redeemed in the fine, white, clean linen of his righteousness. By continuing to save us through the gospel, the Lord's host follows Christ.

So the question is not "*Is the Lord on our side or our adversaries side.*" The first question is, "Are you on the Lord's side or are you his adversary?" Do you believe on the Lord Jesus? Are you a member of his host?

## HOW IS IT MANIFEST THAT CHRIST IS OUR CAPTAIN?

**Joshua 5: 14: And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15: And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.**

That is the effectual power of Christ our Captain. When Christ revealed himself to Joshua, Joshua hit his face and did worship the Lord Jesus, asking, "*what saith my Lord unto his servant?*" This another way we know this was no created angel. When the apostle John bowed to the angel, the angel said to John, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God." (Rev 22: 9).

But what did this Man say? "*And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*" That is what Christ commanded Moses when Moses approached the bush that burned and was not consumed. Wherever Christ is, the place is holy. When Christ takes up his abode in a regenerated sinner, our new man is holy by Christ's presence. Christ is that Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Christ is the holiness we follow after.

We see in Joshua what the revelation of Christ does in his child. We see in Joshua what each renewed revelation of Christ does in his believing child. Joshua was already holy because he was born of the Spirit of God. Christ had already been revealed in him. Each of you in whom Christ has been formed in regeneration has already been made holy in the new man by Christ taking up abode in you in Spirit. We have already been made to bow to the Lord. We were made willing to do so by the revelation Christ in our hearts through faith.

But the Spirit renews this revelation of Christ to his child. This revelation made Joshua hit his face. Anew, Joshua owned Christ his Lord and himself the Lord's servant. When Christ commanded Joshua take off his shoes, "*Joshua did so.*" Christ is the one who makes us willing in the day of his power from the first day to the last.

Why is this renewed revelation needful? With each renewed revelation of Christ, "The commandment comes and sin revives and [our fleshly self] dies" (Rom 7: 9). Do you think fleshly, sinful fear and unbelief had entered Joshua's heart as he looked at that great city Jericho about a mile away? When he saw how great his enemies were? When he saw how walled up that city was? How was his flesh mortified? By Christ revealing himself anew.

Brethren, our flesh is not mortified by our power but by the renewing of the Spirit revealing Christ in our hearts. Paul called it, "Being renewed in the Spirit of your mind" (Eph 4: 23). Christ alone makes us put off the old man and put on the new by the revelation of himself in our new man.

## WHY DID THE LORD GIVE JOSHUA THIS RENEWED REVELATION AT THIS TIME?

The Lord was sending Joshua to conquer Jericho. The preaching of the gospel of Christ is typified in what the Lord commanded Joshua to do.

**Joshua 6: 1: Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. 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. 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. 5: 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.**

Every unregenerate sinner that Christ calls is like Jericho. Jericho had walls surrounding the city and the gates were locked tight *because of the children of Israel*. They saw what the Lord did for Israel and feared the children of Israel. They locked the gates so that *none went out and none came in*. This typifies the gates of hell.

In each unregenerate elect sinner the spiritually dead heart is walled up round about and the devil locks the gates tight so that none can get in and none can get out. But Christ said that the gates of hell shall not prevail against his church preaching his gospel. (Mt 16: 18). So Christ made Joshua experience Christ's power afresh before sending him forth against Jericho so that Joshua knew Christ alone is the Power.

Christ declared the good news that the Lord Jesus had already given into his hand all the enemies of Jericho, "*And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.*" Christ must reign until every enemy is made his footstool. Every non-elect enemy shall one day bow and confess Christ Lord of lords in the last day. His unregenerate elect are enemies in our minds by wicked works. But each shall be made to bow by the grace and power of our Lord Jesus Christ revealing himself in our new man.

The one means by which it pleased God to save his people is the preaching of Christ and him crucified. They went around the city holding up Christ the Ark, blowing the gospel trumpet. Christ our Ark is he in whom the law of God is fulfilled. He made his people the righteousness of God by his obedience. Christ is our Mercy Seat in whom God is just to show us mercy and forgiveness. Christ declared that through this means "*the wall of the city shall fall down flat.*" But the power is not of us but Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Zechariah 4:6:...This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

So before sending Joshua to preach, Christ gave Joshua a renewed revelation of our mighty Captain making Joshua willing to use this one means by which God is pleased to save his people. The Lord did this in Joshua because God only uses broken vessels. Remember Gideon? The earthen pitchers had light within. But the light shined forth only when the earthen vessels were broken (Ju 7: 16-20). By experiencing the Power of Christ calling us through the preaching of the gospel, we received mercy from God through faith. And by Christ renewing the believer through the gospel, the same way we received mercy, so we faint not (2 Cor 4: 1). Christ strengthens us by the revelation of him to preach Christ and him crucified and trust Christ to bring down the walls of Jericho.

2 Corinthians 4: 5: We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

It is my prayer God is shining the light into your heart once again this morning as he did Joshua. Tomorrow, if the Lord gives you opportunity to declare the gospel to someone, you will only do so by a renewed revelation of Christ making you his broken vessels. Without this revelation our fleshly unbelief makes us think, "Oh they want hear if I speak of Christ to them." So Christ gives us a fresh revelation of him to mortify our flesh so that we know afresh that the power is of Christ and not of us. He does it so that you will declare the gospel of Christ, pray for him to bless it and wait on him to do so. Christ shines his light through broken vessels.

## **CHRIST TRIUMPHS THROUGH THIS FOOLISH MEANS**

So Joshua did as the Lord commanded and the walls of Jericho fell flat and every enemy was conquered. But they brought out God's elect—*Rahab the harlot*—who according to the flesh was the great, great, great grandmother of our Lord Jesus. "And They brought out all her kindred" (Jos 6: 23). "*Because she hid the messengers*" which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho--which means because she believed the Lord Jesus Christ (Josh 6: 17).

Brother Kevin Thacker pointed this out to me. Rahab was a harlot and her house is where she had conducted her business. Can you imagine how foolish it was to most when this harlot told them that the only way they would be saved is to enter her house and stay in her house—a whore house? Can you imagine how foolish this message was when they asked for proof and she pointed to that scarlet line in the window? It is that foolish to those that perish when broken sinners like us preach Christ declaring that the only way to be saved is to believe on Christ and stay in his house. It is that foolish when we declare the proof is the blood of Christ, the scarlet thread. But to you who are saved Christ is the Power of God because Christ has given you a revelation of him. You know Christ is the power who saves and the power of the gospel we preach.

1 Corinthians 1: 17: For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19: For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and [I] will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20: Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21: For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22: For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25: Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26: For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: 27: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen

the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28: And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

God only uses broken vessels that he has broken by Christ the Power revealing himself in our hearts through the preaching of the gospel. Why?

1 Corinthians 1: 29: That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

**Amen!**