

1  **Studies in Joshua**  
**Study #8**  
**“The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail”**  
**[Joshua 6:1-20]**

2  **Some preliminary considerations and some practical questions**  
The question about miracles

3  **The question of ethics**  
The God of the O. T. and the God of the N.T. is the same God!

4  **This God has chosen not to remain aloof but has come incarnationally into this mixed-up world to involve Himself in our painful existence.**

5  **God does judge but He does it consistently.**

6  **God is also the God of grace, even in these Old Testament times.**

7  **The spiritual significance of the battle of Jericho.**

- “... if you are a Christian, you are a soldier in God’s army and are engaged in a war where many enemy strongholds need to be conquered. We see them everywhere. There are fortresses if evil in our land, in the church, and, we must confess, in ourselves. They are surrounded by high walls. The gates are sealed. They are manned by strong and experienced defenders. What are we to do against such ancient outposts of God’s and our enemy? The answer is that we are to assault them in the way God has told us to wage warfare: by prayer, by the Word of God, and by our testimony. When we look at evil’s forces, we think the ancient weapons of the church are inadequate, and we may be greatly tempted to abandon them and use the world’s tools. This is a mistake. We need to listen to God and obey faithfully to the very end. When we do, then in God’s own time, the walls of Satan’s strongholds will tumble.”

8  **“If Egypt represents our conflicts with the world, And Amalek our conflict with the flesh, the seven nations of Canaan represent our conflict with the principalities and powers of wicked spirits, who resist our entrance into the heavenlies, and dull our practical realization of what Christ has accomplished for us. ...”**

F.B. Meyer

9  **Be prepared for strange strategies**

- March around the walls and blow horns?
- There is a very important lesson here for us! **We may often question and doubt the method’s God’s Word prescribes to remedy some dilemma we are facing in our lives!** [cf. II Cor. 10:3-5]
- **Gods’ methods, on the other hand, are very different from man’s. They are designed to do away with man’s pride and demonstrate God’s power and His glory.**
- Lk. 16:15b “... *What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.*”
- I Cor. 1:26-31 SEE!!! - **Here is a striking passage which explicitly condemns a dependency upon the weapons of this world and affirms God’s method**
- I Cor 1:21 - “*For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believed.*”

10 

11 

12  **Distinguish between true and false worship**

- “Joshua had learned to move beyond worship to obedience. He had learned that obedience becomes the sign of whether or not one’s worship is authentic.” John Huffman

- “False worship is for me to step into the presence of God in an endeavor to manipulate Him to do my will.”
- “True worship is for me to step into His presence and allow Him to bring my will into conformity to His will. True worship is for me to obey Him ...”

13  **The strategy Joshua had adopted in his relationship with the Lord was simply to “Trust and Obey!”**

- A.W. Pink - “It is a very serious mistake to suppose that faith is restricted to a resting upon God’s promises: it is equally to be exercised in complying with His precepts. Trusting God is only one part of faith’s work. It is far too little recognized that conforming to God’s revealed will is also required of faith.”

14  **Facilitate victory through determined obedience**

- I John 5:4 says: “... *This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.*”
- **But James, chapter 2, teaches that faith without works is dead; and that genuine faith is made complete by obedience to Christ’s commands!**
- The point here is that even though it was not an easy task to comply with the strategy the Lord had given to Joshua, on this day Israel carefully obeyed and carried out His instructions in detail.

15  **Notice some of those details and their significance; and also the example of the obedience which accompanies genuine faith!**

- The central feature of the march was the ark of the covenant
- It was not an easy task for such a large company of people to march in complete silence, but this was the command of God and this they obeyed!
- Seven priests were to go ahead of the ark of the covenant blowing rams horns [vv. 4 & 13]

16 

- Josh. 6:12 says, “*Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.*”
- God put their faith to a severe test because they were required to exercise patience and to persevere.
- Verse 8 contains an important phrase: which indicates the priests which went before the ark and blew the rams horns did so in the conscious awareness that they were doing so “before the Lord,” i.e. in His presence

17  **Two important questions to help facilitate the obedience of faith that brings victory over our own Jericho's:**

- “What is the Jericho or what are the Jericho's in your own life?”
- “Are you dealing with these Jericho's through faith?”

18  **A checklist to secure Jericho-like victories!**

- Is the ark of the covenant [Christ] the central feature of your hope for victory? Does it lead the way in your battles?
- Are you saturating the matter in prayer and silently listening to God’s will in this matter? [i.e. are you waiting on the Lord or running ahead to take matters into your own hands?]
- Are you trusting in those weapons God has provided; humble as they may seem [i.e. the lesson of the ram’s horns].
- Do you “rise up early” to carry out God’s strategies? [i.e. diligence, fidelity, earnestness, enthusiasm].
- Have you demonstrated patient perseverance?
- Are you “walking with the Lord” and “abiding in Him” as you seek to tear down these strongholds?