Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

NOW JERICHO WAS STRAITLY SHUT UP BECAUSE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL:

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SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **JOSHUA 6:1-15**

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

1. **BACKGROUND**

   Refer to the Evening message September 15, 2019

2. **INTRODUCTION**

   a. As we approach Chapter 6 of this marvelous book, we find the mission that lies before the children of Israel is the conquest of Jericho.
   b. Let's briefly recap some of the things that have occurred up to this point.
   c. Back in chapter 4 the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River.
   d. It was a remarkable crossing God had provided for them.
   e. When we look at the Jordan River, we see it is a small stream during the summer-time, but as winter approaches and the rainy season comes; it is a mighty rushing stream.
   f. The ark of the Lord was always before them because it was to be carried by the priests. It represented the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   g. If you recall when the feet of the priest reached the Jordan, the waters rolled back and they stood in the midst of the river. **Joshua 3:15-17,** *And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)* **16,** *That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.* **17,** *And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.*
   h. The ark was on their shoulders and all the people passed over Jordan on dry land. If you recall there were also memorial stones set up. **Joshua 4:6-7,** *That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?* **7,** *Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.*
   i. The people camped on the west side of the bank of the Jordan River.
   j. There was a glorious anticipation of their entrance into the land God had promised was flowing with milk and honey.
   k. They were to possess the land. We have indicated before their obedience was a requirement to continue to occupy the land. **Joshua 1:3,** *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.*
   l. I am quite sure this new generation was thrilled. You may recall God had wiped out the older generation except Joshua and Caleb because of murmuring and complaining.
   m. Joshua is now the new commander; Moses was not allowed to go over, however; God did permit Caleb to enter the land.
   n. Circumcision was never given to save; it was a covenant between God and Abraham. **Acts 7:8,** *And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised*

him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

o. Joshua made very sharp knives that were used in the circumcision process. **Joshua 5:2-3,** *At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time.* **3,** *And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.*

p. It reminds me of **Hebrews 4:12,** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

q. America is in deep trouble with God as we ponder all of the things daily in the news that are contrary to the Word of God.

r. Bible morality is firm and it is stated very emphatically by God. No nation will be blessed unless they get back to the Old Black Book - God's Preserved Word.

s. Another condition of the conquest of Jericho was the vision that General Joshua was to take his orders from the Lord and Him only. Later on, I want you to see that God gave Joshua **precise** instructions.

t. We know God is a God of preciseness. He is not a God that allows us to alter His Word at our will and do whatever we want to do. **Deuteronomy 4:2,** *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*

u. It is interesting to look at the tactics God gave Joshua to use in taking both Jericho and AI. The strategy is totally different, but it is only God's plan that will work.

v. If we were to examine the map, we find Jericho and AI fall in the very center of the land. The method used was to divide and conquer the enemy. After Jericho and AI were taken they will move south.

w. From time to time great generals have used this technique to divide the enemy and take them by piece meal. The ambush strategy is very much a part of military doctrine.

x. History tells us this concept was used during the Civil War, WW1 and WW2.

y. God is very unique in what He does. He gives Joshua precise instructions.

z. With that introduction, let's look at the meat of the Word of God and find out what He wants to teach us from this marvellous book.

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel:

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

2. The people of Jericho were anticipating an attack by the Israelites. There was a wall constructed around the city for defensive purposes.

3. Notice in this verse restrictions were in place that none went out and none come in.

4. Because of their fear of the Israelites, Jericho was straightly shut up and closed to the public.

5. Although there was a wall around the city, God indicated to Joshua he would have success as long as he was obedient, taking his instructions from the Lord.

b. And the LORD said unto Joshua.

1. **Joshua 6:2-5,** ***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.*

2. As we analyze the aforementioned passage, we see God gives specific instructions regarding this mission.

3. It is interesting to note the victory has already been won. *I have given into thine hand Jericho*

4. Nothing has been done, nothing had transpired but God has already indicated there would be success. **Joshua 1:8,** *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

5. The victory was won by believing and embracing the promises of the Lord. Believing and embracing God's promises assures the believer an abundance entrance into heaven. **2 Peter 1:4,** *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
6. God makes a promise and it does not require any warfare. We have a song that speaks of "Joshua fit the battle of Jericho." Actually Joshua did not – God was in charge. It required only obedience and following God's instructions to the letter.
Luke 4:4, *And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but* ***by every word of God.***
7. I want you to notice we are living in a time where men are taking liberty to change the Word of God, to substitute their own words, to change phraseology and cardinal doctrine. **John 7:17,** *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.* From this passage we should learn that **God is a God of preciseness and specifics.**
8. God says *go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.* – They were to circle the city of Jericho for six days.
9. Then the Lord specifically says how the priests are to be arranged. **Joshua 6:4,** 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.
10. No one was permitted to utter a word until the trumpets sound. *"when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout;"*
11. Notice what would happen if they followed the instructions precisely. *the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.*
12. If these instructions had not been followed to a "T" do you think the results would have been the same? The answer has to be absolutely not.

c. So the ark of the LORD compassed the city.

1. **Joshua 6:6-11,** *And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.* **7,** *And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.* **8,** *And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.* **9,** *And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.* **10,** *And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.* **11,** ***So the ark of the LORD compassed the city****, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.*
2. The city of Jericho and the valiant men of war think they are prepared. However, when God speaks everyone should be willing to listen.
3. The military brass could not do the job in holding off the Israelites because God had promised them earlier He given Jericho into their hands.
4. Joshua is beginning to instruct the people. He gives instructions to the seven priests, the seven trumpeters, and in addition to that, the ark of the Covenant was in its place leading the entire flock.
5. We must put Christ first in our lives if we plan to walk through the valley of the shadow of death in a most beautiful and triumphant manner. **Matthew 6:33,** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
6. Notice everyone is in place. Joshua is giving specific instructions to not make any noise with their voice.
7. As we study this marvellous book, I want you to see God is not the author of confusion. **1 Corinthians 14:33,** *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*
8. Every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God is important. **Matthew 4:4,** *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

9. Joshua tells them there will be a time they will be able to use their voice but they would have to wait on his command. *And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth,* ***until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.***
10. Notice the emphasis on the ark, which represents God and the Lord Jesus Christ. *So the ark of the LORD compassed the city*
11. They did not go around the city without the ark. Upon completion of the circle the first day they went back into the camp and lodged there.
12. I am sure inside of Jericho, behind the walls there was a lot of trauma. I am sure the word came to the commanders the Israelites were on the way and they were about to attack.
13. The strange thing is they did not attack, but marched around the wall then went back to camp.
14. This certainly had to be a confusing moment for the enemy.

d. And Joshua rose early in the morning.

1. **Joshua 6:12-14,** ***And Joshua rose early in the morning,*** *and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.* **13,** *And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.* **14,** *And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.*
2. Joshua rises early in the morning. Notice the emphasis on dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ was represented by the ark.
3. It is put in its proper place and given its proper perspective.
4. Notice the instructions were followed to the "T."
5. It is a repeat of the first day. They had been told to do this for six days.
6. I am sure the trauma continued to exist inside the walls of Jericho with the leaders making sure they were able to conquer Israel.
7. How foolish it is to try and escape the power of the hand of Almighty God. **Psalms 139:7,** *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?* **Psalms 139:8,** *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.* **Psalms 139:9,** *If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;* **Psalms 139:10,** *Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

e. And it came to pass on the seventh day.

1. **Joshua 6:15,** ***And it came to pass on the seventh day,*** *that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.*
2. God told Joshua they were to do this on the seventh day.
3. The Israelites marched around the walls again.
4. After they had made the circuit, I am sure the army on the inside thought it was all over.
5. The enemy had no idea what the Israelites were going to do. Their instructions from God were, one time around for six days and on the seventh day seven times around the city.

4. CONCLUSION

a. Do you know the Saviour?
b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation.
c. Come to the side of the crucified Christ. **2 Corinthians 6:2,** *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
d. **Romans 3:23,** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
e. **Romans 3:10,** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
f. **Romans 10:9-10,** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* **10,** *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
g. Would you please stand?