

TEXT- Hebrews 11:30 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.*

INTRO- Israel's has spent 40 years in the wilderness and a new generation is told to cross over Jordan and possess the Land. This step of faith is similar to the one their fathers took in crossing the Red Sea. The first city (an outpost) was Jericho.

The Christian Hebrew believers have been reminded: They had a better covenant, better promises, a better hope, better sacrifices, a better country, and a better resurrection.

The prison epistles contain a record of "better things" our "enduring substance" - in heaven and not on earth.

I. We Are To Go Forward

Jos 6:1-9 *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*

A. The impossibility of the task

Hudson Taylor stated, "There are three steps to every great work of God - First it is impossible, second it is difficult, thirdly it is done.

1 Co 1:26-31 *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: 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.*

This battle was won in an extraordinary way

The Lord was with them

Jos 5:13-15 *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? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. 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.*

Jos 1:5 *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

Heb 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

B. To possess all that God has for us we must go forward in faith

Jos 1:11 *Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.*

The reason the walls of Jericho fell was the obedience in faith to God's Word. All of the following blessings are ours because of grace:

- salvation (Eph. 2:8)
- justification (Rom. 3:24)
- victory over sin (Rom. 5:20)
- power to testify (Rom. 12:3, 15:15; Col. 4:6)
- strength for service (II Tim. 2:1; Heb. 12:28)
- a spirit of generosity (II Cor. 8:7)
- sweetness in singing (Col. 3:16)
- ability to stand (I Pet. 5:12)
- strength in suffering (II Cor. 12:9)

C. We must fight the good fight of faith

The battle has already been won.

Jos 6:2 *And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.*

Jos 6:5 . . . *the wall of the city shall fall down flat*

1 Tim. 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

1 Th 4:4 *That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

II. The Victory Comes From God

1 Sa 17:47 *And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.*

Exo 14:14 *The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*

Isa 31:1 *Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!*

Zec 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.*

III. We Must Build On A Better Foundation

Heb 11:10 *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Jos 6:26 *And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.*

Israel's conquest of this mighty city is an illustration of several spiritual truths:

(1) It is faith that overcomes obstacles, Heb 11:30 and 1 Jn 5:4 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

(2) The weapons we use are spiritual, [2Co 10:4](#);

(3) Christ has already won the victory

Christians face many "Jerichos" in daily life, and often they are tempted to give up, as the spies did at Kades. But no wall is too high or too strong for the Lord. By faith we win the victory and claim the inheritance!

CONCL – The foundation of Jericho was not to be laid again. We are to look for a city which foundations are laid by God. We are to go forward "go forth unto Him," Php 3:13 . . . forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,