

The Capture Of Jericho

Joshua 6:1-21

Introduction:

- A. Lord told Joshua, "I have given *Jericho* into your hand..." (v. 2)
 - 1. Opposite Mt. Nebo, west of Jordan, walled city, massive gate closed by night.
 - 2. Confirmed by Archeologists: Charred grain, 2 walls with beams for houses, as if blasted from center.
- B. Lord gave specific procedure for capturing Jericho.
 - 1. The promise: I *have* given" as if already done. (cf. John 3:36; 1 John 2:25; Mk. 10:30)
 - 2. The procedure: Marching, trumpets, shouting, etc.
 - 3. The results: Received city only after were faithful to His way.
- C. O. T. Stories like this illustrate great principles of God's dealing with man. (cf. Rom. 15:4).

Discussion:

I. God's Ways Are Not Our Ways. (cf. Isa. 55:8,9).

- A. What military leader would have recommend this procedure?
- B. O.T. give other illustrations of this principle:
 - 1. Blood on doorpost (Ex. 12:22).
 - 2. Brazen Serpent. (Num. 21).
 - 3. Naaman's cure. (2 Kings 5)
- C. Scheme of redemption illustrate this principle:
 - 1. Facts surrounding His incarnation contrary to human wisdom.
 - 2. Plan of salvation: Who would have suggested baptism? (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38).
 - 3. Lord's supper: Has imprints of divine wisdom. (Matt. 26:26,27).

II. The Real Meaning Of Grace.

- A. Jericho a gift (grace), but required obedience. (Josh 6:2,16,20).
- B. Many things can be gifts (grace) and still require effort from us.
 - 1. Daily bread. (Matt. 6:11; 2 Thess. 3:10).
 - 2. Salvation from sin. (Eph. 2:5; Mk. 16:16). - If Jericho & bread a gift, why not salvation?

III. The Meaning Of Saving Faith.

- A. Walls fell by faith *after* encompassed. (Heb. 11:30) - faith included obedience.
- B. We are saved by faith. (Rom. 5:1).
 - 1. When? (Jas. 2:20; Gal. 5:6; Acts 16:31-34).
 - 2. If walls fell by faith only after obedience, why not salvation only after obedience?

IV. God's Way Will Work.

- A. Walls fell even if no "logical" reason could be given - God's power.
- B. Church needs to work God's way - God will furnish results. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6).

Conclusion:

- A. Find out what God wants done.
- B. Do just what God says do.
- C. The results God wants will follow.