

JERICO — THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH

Joshua 6



S EVERY BELIEVER IS EVENTUALLY FACED with a “**JERICO**” IN THEIR LIFE. **THE SECRET TO SUCCESS** in the face of THAT “**JERICO**” IS **BIBLICAL FAITH IN GOD**. **WITHOUT FAITH** in God, we will never gain the victory.

- (**1 John 5:4**), “. . . **THIS IS THE VICTORY** that overcometh the world, **EVEN OUR FAITH.**”
- (**Heb 11:6**), “But **WITHOUT FAITH** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

S **JOSHUA WAS FIT FOR THE BATTLE OF JERICO**, but **THE QUESTION IS, “ARE WE FIT FOR THE BATTLE OF OUR JERICO?”**

- I. **THE REALITY OF THE BATTLE**
- II. **THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BATTLE**
- III. **THE RESULTS FROM THE BATTLE**
- IV. **THE PURPOSES OF BATTLE**

I. THE REALITY OF THE BATTLE

S **JERICO’S FIRST MENTION IN SCRIPTURE** is in **NUMBERS 22:1** where Israel camped at **SHITTIM**, east of the Jordan, before crossing into the Land of Canaan. It was from Shittim that Joshua sent the **TWO SPIES** (*Josh 2:1-24*) to **scout out** the city. The two spies **HID AT RAHAB’S HOUSE** which was in the city of Jericho.

S **JERICO WAS LOCATED** some **5 MILES** west of the **Jordan River**, **8 MILES** northwest of the **Dead Sea** and **17 MILES** east of **Jerusalem**. It was approximately **800 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL**. That is why they described a trip from Jericho to Jerusalem as *going up* to Jerusalem. Immediately **WEST** of Jericho begins **THE JUDEAN WILDERNESS** considered by many to be the area where **Jesus** was tempted for forty days and nights
Jericho is **SO HOT AND DRY** that growth of **VEGETATION**

would be virtually impossible were it not for **A PERENNIAL SPRING**. THAT SPRING provides such an abundance of water that Jericho is a literal **OASIS** in the desert. It was **CALLED "the city of palm trees"** in Deuteronomy and Judges (Deut 34:3; Judg. 3:13). Today it flourishes with **date palms, banana trees and other trees** as well.

S JERICO IS BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF THE OLDEST INHABITED CITIES IN THE WORLD.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE from the Jericho of Joshua's day **IS LIMITED**. That may be true because Jericho was virtually **UNINHABITED FROM JOSHUA'S DESTRUCTION** until the time of **KING AHAB** (1 Kings 16:34).

S ARCHAEOLOGISTS have made some significant discoveries.

They have uncovered **AS MANY AS 34 DIFFERENT WALLS** from Jericho's long history. Knowing which wall was from Joshua's day is difficult. One of the most **SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERIES** was **A THICK LAYER OF ASH** that suggested a destruction that could parallel the one described in our text.

S SCRIPTURE GIVES FOUR FACTS

1) **JERICO WAS A WALL-CITY.**

- **RAHAB'S HOUSE** was found on that wall (Josh 2:15).
- **THE 10 SPIES**, thirty-eight years earlier, had described the cities in the land of Canaan as: **(Deu 1:28), "... GREAT AND WALLED UP TO HEAVEN; ... "**

2) **A GATE WAS LOCATED IN THE WALL AND WAS CLOSED AT NIGHT:**

- **(Josh 2:5)**, "... It came to pass about **the time of shutting of the gate**, when it was dark, ... "
- **(Josh 6:1)**, "Now Jericho was **straitly shut up** because of the children of Israel: **none went out, and none came in.**"

3) **THE CITY WAS RULED BY A KING**

- **(Josh 2:3)**, "... **THE KING OF JERICO ... "**
- They operated cities in Joshua's day a **city states** with each significant city ruled by a king.

4) **THE SIZE** of ancient Jericho is **UNCERTAIN** from Scriptural evidence. Scripture suggests **JERICO WAS LARGER THAN THE CITY OF AI** and AI had about **12,000 INHABITANTS**

at the time of its destruction (Josh 7:2-3; 8:25). **ARCHAEOLOGY SUGGESTS** that **ANCIENT JERICHO** encompassed **APPROXIMATELY EIGHT or NINE ACRES**.

JERICHO WAS ISRAEL'S FIRST OBSTACLE in the Promise Land. Israel was **FORCED TO FACE** Jericho whether they wanted to or not. **They could not ignore it. Pretending** it did not exist would not make it go away.

- **FAILURE AT JERICHO WOULD HAVE MEANT DEBILITATING DISCOURAGEMENT** for Israel. It would have **EMBOLDENED** the inhabitants of the land of Canaan.
 - **TAKING JERICHO WAS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.** There would be **NO ADVANCEMENT** without a victory at Jericho.
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EVERY BELIEVER HAS A "JERICHO" WITH WHICH TO CONTEND.

S A "JERICHO" IS ANY SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLD THE ENEMY HAS ERECTED IN THE FACE OF A BELIEVER. ANY STRONGHOLD in the life of a Christian qualifies as a Jericho.

S PAUL MENTIONS "STRONGHOLDS" (2 Cor 10:4-5), "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **STRONG HOLDS;**) {5} Casting down imaginations, and **EVERY HIGH THING** that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

A "STRONGHOLD" IS:

- **IN MILITARY WARFARE A STRONGHOLD** is an area where the enemy is strongly entrenched and is effectively holding off all resistance.

IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE A STRONGHOLD IS any area in our life where **the enemy** is entrenched and is effectively keeping God's perspective from our thinking. That "wrong thinking" easily becomes a "spiritual fortress," a "spiritual Jericho" with which we have to contend.

A "HIGH THING" IS:

- THE GREEK WORD "HOOP'-SO-MAH" literally means "an elevated place or thing." It refers to "a rampart," "a bulwark," "a fortress."
- IN ANCIENT WARFARE it was common for THE INVADING ARMY to build A HUGE FORTRESS in the middle of their newly conquered territory. It was a way of flaunting their victory in the face of their captives. It also HELPED SECURE their newly acquired territory.
- PAUL SAID THAT CHRISTIANS HAVE TO CONTEND WITH "HUPSOMAS," "FORTRESSES," "JERICHO," "STRONGHOLDS," "BULWARKS."

SOME POSSIBLE "FORTRESSES" ARE:

- 1) LYING
- 2) LUST
- 3) ANGER
- 4) FEAR
- 5) UNFORGIVING SPIRIT (bitterness)

DON'T PRETEND the fortress does not exist. Pretending does not make it go away. REFUSING to face one's spiritual fortress DISCOURAGES other believers. IT emboldens the enemy.

I. THE REALITY OF THE BATTLE

II. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BATTLE

THERE ARE FOUR REQUIREMENTS:

#1. FIND GOD'S WORD REGARDING YOUR "JERICHO"

IT IS ESSENTIAL. JOSHUA DID NOT GO PLOWING into Jericho because he thought it was a good idea; Joshua fought the battle of Jericho because God told him to fight it. Joshua had A LONG HISTORY OF BIBLICAL REVELATION that guided him.

- 1) GOD HAD SAID TO ABRAHAM
(Gen 15:7), "... I am the LORD that brought thee out of

Ur of the Chaldees, **TO GIVE THEE THIS LAND TO INHERIT IT."**

2) **GOD SAID THROUGH MOSES**

(Num 33:51-53), "... I have given you the land to possess it."

3) **GOD SAID TO JOSHUA**

(Josh 6:2), "... See, **I HAVE GIVEN** into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor."

- **THE VERB TENSE IS CALLED PROPHETIC PERFECT.** God was speaking of something that had not yet happened as if it had already taken place. God was telling Joshua the fall of Jericho was **A DONE DEAL.**

THE POINT IS — TAKING JERICHO WAS NOT JOSHUA'S IDEA, IT WAS GOD'S IDEA. Joshua took **extreme precaution** to make sure **THE LORD WAS IN HIS PLANS.**

- 1) **HE SENT TWO SPIES** to survey Jericho while Israel was still **CAMPED EAST OF THE JORDAN** (Jos 2).
- 2) **HE SOUGHT GOD'S WILL WHILE CAMPED AT GILGAL.** Joshua did not know how to take Jericho and that **WEIGHED HEAVILY** upon him. While he "**WAS BY JERICHO**" there appeared **A SOLDIER** with sword drawn standing in front of Joshua (5:13). Joshua's **HEART** must have begun to race. That soldier with drawn sword was captain of the host of the **LORD**. Many believe that soldier was the Lord Jesus Himself. Joshua fell on his face and worshipped taking off his shoes. That fact that the captain did not command Joshua to stop worshipping him might well indicate that it was Jesus.

THAT ENCOUNTER HAD TWO EFFECTS ON JOSHUA:

- 1) **IT ENCOURAGED HIM.** God showed Joshua He would go before Israel and fight for them. It proved to Joshua that what he was about to do at Jericho, he did because God had told him to do it.
- 2) **IT IS POSSIBLE THE CAPTAIN HAD COME TO DELIVER THE BATTLE STRATEGY TO TAKE JERICHO.**

FINDING GOD'S WORD IS A REQUIREMENT FOR BATTLE!

AS JOSHUA FOUND GOD'S WORD regarding Jericho, **WE MUST FIND GOD'S WORD** regarding any fortress we might face. Finding God's Word is **THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH**.

- **ARE THERE ANY INSTRUCTIONS** God has given to you regarding any fortress in your life?

THE REQUIREMENT

#1. FIND GOD'S WORD

#2. HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

S It is **ONE THING** to FIND GOD'S WORD, it **IS ANOTHER** TO BELIEVE IT. WHEN GOD REVEALS HIS WORD, HE EXPECTS US TO BELIEVE IT!

S **GOD MADE HIS INSTRUCTIONS FOR ISRAEL VERY CLEAR** (V. 3-5)

- **MARCH AROUND THE CITY FOR SIX DAYS** in this fashion:
 - 1) **SOLDIERS** go first
 - 2) **SEVEN PRIESTS** are to follow blowing **HORNS** from a ram.
 - 3) They are to be followed by **THE ARK OF THE COVENANT** which was also carried by priests.
 - 4) A **REAR GUARD** is to following the ark.
- While walking in procession, **DON'T TALK TO EACH OTHER** (V. 10)
- **ON THE SEVENTH DAY** march around **SEVEN TIMES**. At the conclusion of the seventh trip, **BLOW THE HORNS** and **SHOUT A GREAT SHOUT** and **THE WALL WILL FALL** down flat.

S **GOD SAYS, THAT IS MY WORD TO YOU — I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE IT!** Israel did hear God's Word and **THEY DID BELIEVE IT**. That is **THE ESSENCE OF FAITH**.

S **FAITH WAS THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN GAINING VICTORY AT JERICHO**

(**Heb 11:30**), “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”

***FAITH IS* THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN OUR GAINING VICTORY. *FAITH IS* THE PROPER RESPONSE TO THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD!**

- (**Rom 10:17**), “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- We find God’s Word regarding any spiritual fortress and we **BELIEVE IT! THAT FAITH** becomes the **MASTER KEY** that **UNLOCKS THE VICTORIES** God has for His children in the Christian’s life.

(**1 John 5:4**), “. . . **THIS IS THE VICTORY** that overcometh the world, **EVEN OUR FAITH.**”

- SOMEONE SAYS, “**BUT MY FAITH IS TOO SMALL.**” **RON DUNN** had a good response to that kind of statement. He writes,

“‘But,’ you say, ‘my faith is so weak.’ Yes, but your God is so strong. Which are you going to trust — your weak faith or your strong God.”

“. . . Don’t look at your faith, look at Jesus. Instead of measuring your faith, measure your God. Rather than evaluating **a situation** on the basis of your faith, evaluate it on the basis of God’s ability. Is God capable? Is He big enough to handle your problems? Who needs to ask? Of course, He is. Then **commit the situation to Him** and trust Him to handle it. That’s what faith is — resting on God’s faithfulness.” (*The Faith Crisis*, pgs. 31)

- **WHEN ISRAEL FACED GOLIATH** they must have been saying, “He is so big and we are so small. When **LITTLE DAVID** faced **GOLIATH** he must have been saying, “He is so little, because God is so mighty.”

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BATTLE
#1. FIND GOD’S WORD

#2. HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

#3. OBEY GOD'S WORD

S You can almost hear **THE GASPS** of the **SOLDIERS** as Joshua describes **God's battle strategy** with them. Someone must have said under his breath, "**That is absurd.**" The stern looks from the faces of others must have said, "**That makes no sense at all.**" A long list of words could have been used to describe the emotions of some: **unreasonable, irrational, foolish, absurd, ridiculous, stupid, sheer nonsense.**

S **THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON JOSHUA'S BATTLE STRATEGY WAS NOT ABSURD — GOD GAVE IT TO HIM! ONE THING YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD** from the Scripture is that **God often chooses a plan the world considers foolish:**

- **(1 Cor 1:27, 29)**, "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; . . . {29} That no flesh should glory in his presence."
- **ELISHA TOLD NAAMAN**, the Syrian general, to go **DIP SEVEN TIMES** in the Jordan River and he would be cured of his leprosy (2 Kings 5). Because the plan sounded so foolish Naaman became irate and **REFUSED** to do it. **EVENTUALLY** his servant convinced him to go and dip anyway. He went down into the Jordan once, twice . . . six times and nothing happened. What if Naaman had said this is so stupid I refuse to go down the seventh time. Naaman did dip the seventh time and when he came up his leprosy was cured. Naaman **OBEYED** the Lord in spite of God's command appearing foolish.
- **GOD TOLD GIDEON** to reduce his army to a little band of **300 SOLDIERS** before he did battle with an army of **135,000**. The **ODDS** were **450 to 1**. That **MADE NO SENSE** at all. Gideon obeyed the Lord and God gave him the victory. The Bible **TELLS US WHY** God reduced Gideon's army to 300.
(Judg 7:2 niv), "The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. **IN ORDER THAT ISRAEL MAY NOT**

BOAST against me that her own strength has saved her,"

GOD DELIGHTS in using **WHAT THE WORLD CONSIDERS FOOLISH!** Perhaps that is why God tells us:

(Prov 3:5-6), "Trust in the **LORD** with all thine heart; and **LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING**. {6} In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

(Isa 55:8-9), "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the **LORD**. {9} For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

S BASING LIFE'S DECISIONS ON THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND EVERY INTRICATE DETAIL OF GOD'S COMMAND is **ONE SURE WAY TO MESS UP YOUR**.

S (Prov 14:12), "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

S DONALD CAMPBELL
"It isn't those who walk by faith that louse up their lives . . . Rather, it is those who walk by sight!" (*Joshua: Leader Under Fire*, p 58)

S PETER TRIED TO TALK JESUS OUT OF GOING TO THE CROSS BECAUSE the cross seemed so senseless to Peter (Mat 16:21-23). **THE TRUTH IS — THE CROSS STILL SEEMS FOOLISH TO THE WHOLE WORLD TODAY:**
(1 Cor 1:18), "For the preaching of the **CROSS** is to them that perish foolishness; . . ."

OBEY GOD'S WORD!

- If God tells you to **MARCH AROUND THE CITY FOR SIX DAYS** and **BLOW** the trumpets and **SHOUT, THEN OBEY HIS WORD!**
- **WHAT HAS GOD TOLD YOU TO DO REGARDING YOUR JERICHO?**

- S OBEY HIM!
- S MAKE HASTE!

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BATTLE

- #1. FIND GOD'S WORD REGARDING THE BATTLE
- #2. HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S WORD
- #3. OBEY GOD'S WORD

#4. WAIT PATIENTLY ON GOD'S WORD WHILE GOD ACCOMPLISHES HIS PURPOSES

GOD'S PLAN WAS GOING TO TAKE EIGHT DAYS. It would not happen in three days. It would not happen in six days. God's plan encompassed seven days. If Israel wanted the victory to happen on day three, or day six, they were going to miss it. It was important that they **NOT GET AHEAD OF GOD.**

- 1) **ARTHUR W. PINK**
"We find it much harder to wait than we do to believe: that is, probably the weakest spot in our armor and the point at which we fail most frequently." (*Exposition of Hebrews*, p. 837)
- 2) **ABRAHAM GOT AHEAD OF GOD.** He and Sarah were getting old and the time for having children was passing by — so they came up with plan B. They did not wait upon the Lord.
- 3) **TRANSPORT YOURSELF BACK TO JERICHO IN THE DAYS OF JOSHUA.** Israel obeyed **THE FIRST DAY** and nothing happened. The same was true for **SIX STRAIGHT DAYS.** On **THE SEVENTH DAY** they marched around the sixth time and nothing happened. **WHAT IF** Israel had grown tired of waiting and quit in the middle of their last lap? Israel marched around Jericho a total of **13X's** before the victory came.

THERE IS A STRANGE COMMAND

(V. 10), "... "Do not give a war cry, **DO NOT RAISE YOUR VOICES**, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!"

- **WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE** God required their silence?
The text does not say. **PERHAPS**, had God permitted conversation among them, they would have verbalized their unbelief by **MURMURING**. They had already spent 40 years in the wilderness because of their **UNBELIEF** that was

manifested by their **MURMURING**. God was not going to put up with their spiritual insubordination again. God commanded them to walk silently.

- **GOD TELLS US — *WHILE YOU ARE WAITING ON MY PROMISES, DO NOT MURMUR!*** Do not complain! God tells us to wait patiently on Him and trust Him.

(Isa 40:31), “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall **mount up** with wings as eagles; they shall **run**, and **not be weary**; and they shall **walk**, and **not faint**.”

WHAT A WONDERFUL PROMISE to those who wait on the Lord.

- #1. **FIND GOD’S WORD** REGARDING THE BATTLE
- #2. HAVE **FAITH** IN GOD’S WORD
- #3. **OBEY** GOD’S WORD
- #4. **WAIT PATIENTLY ON GOD’S WORD** while God accomplishes His purposes. Do not murmur. Do not complain. Don’t lag behind God. Do not get ahead of God. Wait on the Lord!

- I. THE REALITY OF THE BATTLE
- II. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BATTLE

III. THE RESULTS FROM THE BATTLE

#1. GOD WAS GREATLY GLORIFIED

(V. 20), “. . . THE WALL FELL DOWN FLAT, . . . and **THEY TOOK THE CITY**.”

- S THE MIRACLE OF JERICHO **RANKS UP THERE WITH** the crossing of **THE RED SEA**. It is as glorious as the **CROSSING OF THE JORDAN RIVER**. It compares with **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego** coming out alive from **THE FIERY FURNACE**. It was a glorious day. **GOD DISPLAYED HIS AWESOME POWER & GLORY!** God proved His **FAITHFULNESS**.
- S **ONE REASON** God showed His glory was **ONLY GOD COULD GET THE GLORY** for what had happened. No human

explanation could account for the walls of Jericho falling the way they did. Only the mighty intervention of God Himself could account for the events that day.

- S **(Zec 4:6)**, “. . . Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

RESULT

#1. GOD WAS GLORIFIED

#2. ALL WHO BELIEVED WERE SAVED

- S **A FEW WEEKS EARLIER**, when **THE TWO SPIES** were in Jericho, **RAHAB BECAME A BELIEVER**. She made a request of the two spies. Her request was ultimately directed to God. **SHE ASKED** Israel to show kindness to her father's house: father, mother, brothers, sisters and all they had (2:12-13).

- S **GOD GRANTED RAHAB'S REQUEST** so that we read:
(Josh 6:25), "And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot **ALIVE**, and **HER FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD**, and **ALL THAT SHE HAD**; and she **DWELLETH IN ISRAEL** even unto this day; . . . "

- S **SALVATION WAS AVAILABLE EVEN TO THE "RAHABS" OF JERICHO!** Those who by faith found themselves under Rahab's roof during the destruction of Jericho were **SAVED**.

- S **SALVATION IS AVAILABLE TO ALL**
(2 Pet 3:9), "The Lord is . . . **LONGSUFFERING** to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

RESULTS

#1. GOD WAS GLORIFIED

#2. ALL WHO BELIEVED WERE SAVED

#3. ALL WHO REFUSED TO BELIEVE WERE DESTROYED

(V. 21), "And they **utterly destroyed all** that was in the city, both **man and woman, young and old**, and **ox**, and **sheep**, and **ass**, with the edge of the sword."

(V. 24), “And they **BURNT THE CITY WITH FIRE**, and all that was therein: . . . ”

S We will say more about this destruction at the conclusion of this message.

- I. THE REALITY OF THE BATTLE
- II. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BATTLE
- III. THE RESULTS FROM THE BATTLE

IV. THE PURPOSES OF THE BATTLE

S **WHY DID GOD TAKE SO MUCH TIME** to bring down the walls of Jericho? God could have simply **SPOKEN** and Jericho would have been **vaporized**. God could have sent down an **ANGEL** and knocked down the walls without issuing all the detailed instructions to Israel.

S **WHY** did God go to so much trouble and take seven days to attain what He could have accomplished in one second?
CONSIDER FIVE POSSIBILITIES:

#1. TO OFFER TIME FOR REPENTANCE

S **ONE REASON** God might have taken an entire week to destroy Jericho was to give time for **RAHAB** to witness to more folks in Jericho. Every person in her house would be spared.

S There is no way to know **ALL THE EMOTIONS** of the people inside Jericho. Some folks believe they may have been **LAUGHING** and **MOCKING** Israel as they marched around the city walls in silence. My personal opinion is they were **scared spitless**. They had heard that Israel’s God had divided the Red Sea. They had personally observed the Jordan River as it stopped flowing. Their only hope was that their walls would remain strong and keep the Israelites out. Laughter was probably a scarce commodity inside Jericho.

S God provided the inhabitants of Jericho with **SEVEN INTENSE DAYS WITH OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT**. Every time Israel marched around that city God was calling out to Jericho to turn from their sins and turn to God.

- **(Ezek 33:11)**, “As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I

HAVE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

- **(2 Pet 3:9)**, "The Lord is . . . longsuffering to us-ward, **NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH**, but that all should come to repentance."

#2. TO TEST THEIR FAITH

S GOD NEVER TEMPTS A PERSON TO SIN (James 1:13), **BUT GOD DOES OFTEN TEST A PERSON'S FAITH.**

1) GOD TESTED **ABRAHAM** in Gen 22

2) GOD TESTED **ISRAEL** IN THE WILDERNESS

(Deu 8:1-3), "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble thee**, and **TO PROVE THEE**, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. {3} And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; **THAT HE MIGHT MAKE THEE KNOW** that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."

3) **GOD TESTS ALL HIS CHILDREN**

S MANY OF GOD'S SAINTS WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN KNOWN had it not been for the test God allowed them to go through.

- **DANIEL** was thrown into a lions' den
- **S.M.A.** were thrown into a fiery furnace
- **JOB** experienced great suffering.
- **MARTIN LUTHER** was placed on trial
- **JOHN BUNYAN** was thrown into Bedford prison for 12 years where he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*

4) **GOD TESTS US, TOO!**

S HOW ARE YOU DOING ON YOUR TEST?

S WHAT KINDS OF **GRADES** ARE YOU MAKING?

- #1. TO OFFER TIME FOR REPENTANCE
- #2. TO TEST FAITH

#3. TO INCREASE THEIR FAITH

S **ISRAEL'S FAITH WAS GREATLY INCREASED** when the walls of Jericho fell. With faith's increase comes a willingness to go deeper with God. When God helped them win that impossible battle, it encouraged them to trust God for other impossible battles.

S **FAITH IS SOMETHING IN WHICH CHRISTIANS CAN GROW DEEPER, TOO!** (2 Th 1:3 NKJV) The Bible speaks of **DIFFERENT LEVELS** of faith that Christians possess:

1). ONCE JESUS SAID HIS DISCIPLES HAD "**NO FAITH**"

- **(Mark 4:40)**, "... '... How is it that ye have **NO FAITH?**"
- Had there been **AN INSTRUMENT** on board that day that registered **the degree of faith**, it would have been reading "**0.**"

2) ON ANOTHER OCCASION JESUS SAID THE DISCIPLES HAD "**LITTLE FAITH**"

- **(Mat 6:30)**, "... O YE OF **LITTLE FAITH?**"
- **HE DID NOT SAY "NO FAITH,"** He said "**little faith.**" Our faith can become **pinched; dwarfed.**

3) ON THE OTHER END OF THE SPECTRUM, A **GENTILE WOMAN** HAD "**GREAT FAITH**"

- **(Mat 15:28)**, "... O WOMAN, **GREAT IS YOUR FAITH: ...**"

ARTHUR W. PINK writes regarding **THREE LEVELS** of faith a Christian might possess (*Exposition of Hebrews*, p. 834):

- 1) THE FAITH THAT **RECEIVES** (to accept Him as Savior

& Lord)

- 2) THE FAITH THAT **RECKONS** (to count upon God to fulfill His promises)
- 3) THE FAITH THAT **RISKS** (to dare something for the Lord)
 - **MOSES** took a **faith-risk** when he confronted the **PHARAOH**
 - **DAVID** took a **faith-risk** when he confronted **GOLIATH**
 - **ELIJAH** took a **faith-risk** when he confronted **THE PROPHETS OF BAAL**
 - **DANIEL** took a **faith-risk** when he confronted **THE LIONS**
 - **PAUL** took a **faith-risk** when he confronted the **KINGDOM OF ROME**
 - **JOSHUA** took a **faith-risk** when he confronted the **WALLS OF JERICHO**

S **HOW ABOUT US? WHAT DEGREE OF FAITH DO WE POSSESS?**

S Sometimes God uses a “Jericho” to **INCREASE OUR FAITH** so that we might grow.

PURPOSE

- #1. TO OFFER TIME FOR REPENTANCE
- #2. TO TEST FAITH
- #3. TO INCREASE FAITH

#4. TO REWARD THE FAITHFUL

S **GET THIS — ISRAEL DIDN'T PULL DOWN THE WALLS** of Jericho, **GOD DID!** All Israel had to do was walk around the city thirteen times and then God pulled the walls down.

S **GOD HAS PROMISED** to fight the battles for those who walk by faith. We must obey God, but when we do obey Him, He comes through with His promises.

S **HOW MANY BATTLES** have we not even had to fight that we did not even know about **SIMPLY BECAUSE GOD**

fought them for us. We walked in faith and obedience to God and God fought the battle. All we had to do was blow the trumpet. We don't even know some Battles God has fought for us because God took care of the enemy before they attacked. How often have His angels kept us from danger and we did not even know it?

PURPOSE

#1. TO OFFER TIME FOR REPENTANCE

#2. TO TEST FAITH

#3. TO INCREASE FAITH

#4. TO REWARD FAITHFULNESS

#5. TO SHOW GOD'S RIGHT JUDGE

(V. 21), "And they **utterly destroyed all** that was in the city, both **man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass**, with the edge of the sword."

- S **DEUTERONOMY 7** reveals that **GOD COMMANDED** that kind of destruction for Jericho (7:1-5, 23-24). God said to:
- "Utterly destroy them;"
 - "Destroy their name from under heaven."
- S **WE HAVE A HARD TIME WITH THAT.** Some people have **SUCH A HARD TIME** with it **THEY REJECT IT.** I would simply ask them what they do with the same kind of information that relates to God's end time judgments described in the **BOOK OF REVELATION.** God is in charge of the judgments described in that book. How about the armies of the nations that Jesus destroys with the sword of His mouth in **REVELATION 19?** What about the doctrine of **HELL?** Some people **COMPLETELY REJECT** the doctrine of God's judgment. They refuse to hear, believe and obey God's Word; they delete it.
- S **OUR DISPLEASURE** with God's right to judge the peoples He has created manifests our misunderstanding of **GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.** God has *the right* to judge. When God judges, it is righteous judgment.
- S **REGARDING JERICHO** God had given **AMPLE OPPORTUNITY** to turn to Him. God had delayed His judgment of them for more than **FOUR HUNDRED YEARS (Gen 15:16).** We know what Jericho did with their **FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT.** Rather than turning to God for forgiveness of their sins, their

hearts grew **colder** and **harder**. Finally they reached a point where they would never respond to God's grace. Perhaps they are an illustration of **THE UNPARDONABLE SIN**.

JERICHO WAS FULL OF **DEAF EARS** that had refused to respond to God the way **RAHAB** had responded. Everyone in that city had heard about God's miracle at the **RED SEA** and at the **JORDAN RIVER**. Every man woman and child inside those walls **SHOULD HAVE FALLEN ON THEIR KNEES** and **CRIED OUT TO GOD** for forgiveness — **BUT THEY REFUSED**.

JERICHO'S CONDEMNATION stands as **A WARNING TO OUR GENERATION**. Refusal to turn to God and to turn from sin will result in **GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**.

JESUS SAID:

(Luke 13:3), "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise **PERISH**."

GOD DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO PERISH

(2 Pet 3:9), "The Lord is . . . **LONGSUFFERING** to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

(John 3:16-17), "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should **NOT PERISH**, but have everlasting life. {17} For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might **BE SAVED**."

NEVERTHELESS, ALL WHO REFUSE GOD'S SALVATION WILL PERISH!

S **(John 3:18-19)**, "He that believeth on him **IS NOT CONDEMNED**: but he that believeth not **IS CONDEMNED ALREADY**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. {19} And **THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION**, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

S Have you ever picked up **A BOARD WITH BUGS** under it? They run from the light. When a person runs from the

light of God's Word, they are subject to God's righteous judgment. No person will go to hell because God sent them there; they will go to hell because they chose to go there by rejecting God's way to salvation.

S CONDEMNATION RESTS UPON ALL WHO REJECT CHRIST.

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- 1) WE HAVE A **PROBLEM** — **SIN** (Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23)
 - 2) **GOD HAS A SOLUTION** — **JESUS CHRIST** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
 - 3) WE HAVE A **DECISION** — (John 1:12; Rom 10:9-10, 13)