

JOSHUA (13) – Joshua 5:13–6:27

Covenant Fellowship Church

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Resource: Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*, ch. 5

□ **KEY BACKGROUND: Deut. 9:4–5 and 18:12 (9–14)**

THE LORD’S HELP(ER) APPEARS (5:13–6:5)

□ This Helper is a Warrior: 5:13 = He wields a sword; 5:14 = He is called “Captain.”

A **theophany** was a temporary visible appearance of God in some physical form. God appeared to Abraham as a man, to Moses as fire in a bush, to Israel in a pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.

Three hints that this was the Son of God: (1) Joshua worshiped Him; (2) His presence made the ground holy; and (3) 6:2: “and the LORD said to Joshua.”

□ 6:1 = Israel’s impossible task → 6:2 = God’s methodology

THE LORD’S STRANGE METHODOLOGY (6:6–15)

□ Note the “liturgical” character of the march: *seven* priests, *seven* trumpets (Jubilee language), the ark of the covenant, *seven* marches (last day [?] the Sabbath?).

□ God normally works through His people as His instruments; but we can obscure God’s glory and steal His praise, so He sometimes dispenses with our contributions, so that we will realize that the power comes from God.

THE LORD’S REQUIREMENT FOR VICTORY (6:16–21)

□ Compare 6:16b—“Shout, for the LORD has given you the city”—with 6:20—“So the people shouted.” In the “gap” between the command and its fulfillment lie vv. 20b–19. WHY?

(over, please)

The instructions in these verses had been given earlier, but they are inserted here—a delayed climax for a particular reason. The instruction in vv. 17–19 is more important than Jericho’s walls falling. **The writer highlights the priority of obedience to the LORD’s commands above the victory itself.**

Another proof = only 1 ½ verses are devoted to the “victory” of the walls collapsing, showing us that the A/author’s interest lay elsewhere!

SALVATION WITHIN THE LORD’S JUDGMENT (6:22–25)

□ Notice the *structure* of these verses:

- v. 21 = judgment
- v. 22 = salvation
- v. 23 = salvation
- v. 24 = judgment
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- v. 25 = salvation

THE LORD’S COVENANT WARNING ABOUT REBUILDING JERICHO (6:26–27)

□ 1 Kings 16:34

The issue is about the effective power of the Word of the Lord: Does this Word do what it says it will do—whether blessing or curse? OR: was it inert, deactivated, powerless?

The answer to this question cost Hiel his children!

Isaiah 55:10–11:

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

1 Peter 1:22–24:

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.’ And this word is the good news that was preached to you.”

This applies to the inscripturated Word = the Bible, AND to the preached Word! All because of the incarnate Word = Jesus Christ.

CLOSING COMMENTARY: HEBREWS 11:30–31:

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.”