

Sermon to the Saints of God assembled at Topeka, KS: Sunday, September 3, 2017

Jericho

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

The events surrounding the complete destruction of Jericho make for a compelling and dramatic narrative. Most nominal “Christians” in our day don’t even believe that these events really took place; they treat this, as the rest of the Holy Scriptures, like a fantastical allegory that they can abuse, distort, or discard at their pleasure. These events are reduced to fodder for story time at Sunday School; these events are used as props for simplistic Arminian & Prosperity theology – can’t you just hear these slimy false prophets talking: “you can make the walls come down on any obstacle in your life, if you just accept Jesus as your very own, personal Lord and Savior – you can believe God for these miracles, and invite the Holy Spirit into your heart via Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal”. What light and treacherous drivel! Thank God that He has not condemned us to dwell in darkness, handling the word of God craftily and deceitfully; rather, He has caused the light of Jesus Christ to shine in our hearts! (**2Corinthians 4:1-7**)

Let us therefore endeavor to search out some of the beautiful lessons of Christ in these momentous events that took place in and around Jericho. While we read about these events in Joshua 5 & 6, I would like for you to consider, and prove this proposition: These events point to Christ - not only in a general or spiritual sense - but additionally, these events directly foreshadow:

- The **second coming** of Christ, and His glorious victory over Satan and the world at the battle of **Armageddon**.
- The **Triumph** of Christ, the victorious King.
- The **sanctification and sealing of the 144,000** elect Jews unto Jesus Christ, their Messiah.
- The **preservation of these redeemed Jews** by the power of Christ, in the face of Satan’s rage, until the Captain of the Host sets the captives free, at the great **Jubilee**, delivering the inheritance that He has prepared for them, including the **promised land**.

Given the extensive scriptural foundation that has been laid from this pulpit on the above topics, I will not endeavor today to reiterate the scriptural support for them. I highly recommend re-reading the sermons that have been preached on these topics. I suggest to you that a better understanding of these events greatly helps our understanding of ALL scriptural events, given that ALL of the scriptures point to Christ and His Kingdom!

Additionally, while we study these events today, I would like for you to keep asking yourself this: How does this apply to me today? How should this effect my thinking, my behavior, and my words today?

Joshua 5 & 6 are the chapters that tell of the events directly before, and during the battle of Jericho. Leading up to Joshua 5:

- God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage.
- God miraculously preserved, and purged Israel for 40 years in the wilderness.
- Moses died, having only seen the promised land from the top of Mount Pisgah. Moses COULD NOT bring Israel to their inheritance. Joshua was the Captain that led them into the promised land. Here we have a powerful lesson that our depraved flesh is hopelessly condemned under the Law (Moses); Christ (Joshua) is our hope and our salvation; He alone – the Captain of the Host - can deliver us safely to the inheritance that He has prepared for us.
- The Lord parted the waters of the Jordan (**Joshua 4**); the Jews passed over on dry ground, and now stood in the land of the Canaan.

Joshua 5:1-15 “1 ¶ And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.

- Remember, prior to the crossing of the Jordan, the nations of Canaan were already terrified because of the mighty victories that God had delivered to Israel: The plagues of Egypt; the drying up of the Red Sea; the destruction of the Egyptian army; the destruction of Sihon and Og, etc. Rahab testified to the Canaanites’ fear, when she met with Israel’s spies in Joshua 2.
- Even though they were already afraid, the people of Jericho would have felt some comfort in the fact that the mighty Jordan River separated the Jews from them – it would have taken much time and effort to march their entire army around that river to get access to Jericho. So, imagine the terror that God struck in the hearts of those nations of people – particularly Jericho – when Israel’s army was suddenly, miraculously gathered at their doorstep! I would not have wanted to be the guy that had to tell the king of Jericho that the Jordan River had STOPPED FLOWING; that the upstream waters stood “upon an heap”, such that the entire army of the Jews crossed over upon dry land in the space of one day! Here they are – no longer a despised band of nomads wandering in the wilderness, but rather, a mighty nation, BORN IN A DAY, on the cusp of receiving the inheritance that God had

appointed, prepared, and preserved for them! What a beautiful type of that nation of broken hearted children of Israel that will be born at once!

- **Isaiah 66:7,8** “7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. 8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”

“2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time.”

- This was no small task – there were 40,000 men “prepared for war” (**Joshua 4:13**).
- What do we make of the words “again”, and “the second time”. Clearly you can’t circumcise a person twice; the idea here is that they were to resume the practice of circumcising, which they had not been doing while they were in the wilderness. More on that later. “Second time” seems to be making reference to a previous event wherein the masses of the people were circumcised at one time; perhaps on the heels of the rebuke that God gave to Moses who had not circumcised his sons. (**Exodus 4**)

“3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

4 And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt.

5 Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised.

6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

7 And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way.”

- These chosen few, that had been preserved and purged in the wilderness, were now being prepared to take possession of the promised land - sanctified and sealed, with the sign of the covenant that God had made with Abraham.
- We aren’t told why they stopped circumcising in the wilderness, and ultimately it doesn’t matter; by God’s providence, they clearly didn’t circumcise during those 40 years. The wrath of God was judicially poured out upon that entire generation of rebellious Jews; they were not allowed to enter into rest in the promised land –

they weren't even allowed to see it! It therefore seems very fitting that God kept them from participating in circumcision, that outward symbol that was the seal of the promised inheritance that they had NO CLAIM UPON.

- Herein we have an instructive foreshadowing of the current condition of the Jews, and what must shortly come to pass. Since the time that they murdered Jesus Christ, rejecting him as the Messiah, the Lord God has hardened them in their sin, and forbid them from even the outward signs of the covenant. Since 70 AD, when the Temple was destroyed, they have been UNABLE to take part in the worship that God appointed for them (Ex: no Temple = no sacrificing); Without that communion with God, the nation of Israel is a farce! However, when those blessed 144,000 Jews are brought to mourn for killing Christ, and are raised up in the stead of their reprobate forebears, they will be restored to the signs (including the Temple described in Ezekiel) AND placed in full possession of the promised inheritance (including the land).

“8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole.”

- Consider the faithfulness of this act! They had just landed on the enemy's shores – they are in hostile land, and were now required to do this thing that would take their fighting men completely out of commission. They trusted the Lord! Please God give us this faith, this virtue, this spiritual courage **daily**, such that we would see things with spiritual eyes, and rely wholly upon thee! We are never so safe, so happy, so at peace, as when we rest quietly and obediently in the Lord! Consider how the Lord glorified himself before the heathen in this peculiar event. By every earthly measure, He fully exposed His people at this critical moment. The king, and the people of Jericho KNEW IT, just like they knew of the crossing of the Jordan; this thing could not possibly have been done in a corner – there was a hill of bloody foreskins! They knew what happened, and they knew why – that it was the seal of the covenant with their God, who was regularly delivering them with a high hand, and had promised them the land of Canaan. So there Israel sits – completely exposed – and God glorifies himself by crippling the hearts of the heathen with fear, such that they are UNABLE to harm his little ones. What blessed assurance!

“9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.”

- Gilgal literally means “a wheel; rolling”.
- In a spiritual sense, Egypt represents the depraved human heart in bondage under sin. That reproach is rolled away through Jesus Christ.
- Egypt is also representative of the world, and Satan's dominion in it. Consider how the Jews would have been reproached, reviled, and mocked during their bondage there; that reproach would have continued as they were made to wander the

wilderness for those 40 years – “What kind of God was able to bring you out of Egypt, just to make you wander and die in this wilderness!” Mind you, that reproach wasn’t just coming from without, but also from the reprobate hearts WITHIN the camp. But now, that reproach is rolled away, as they have been delivered into the promised land. We are intimately familiar with this reproach, my friends. Satan tirelessly attempts to dishearten, confuse and intimidate us; he looks for every opportunity to convince us that following after Jesus Christ is hopeless and vain. We are reproached on every side! When will that reproach be rolled away? When Jesus Christ comes in power and glory, he will put down the deceiver, and he will make known all of those who are His! Gilgal, indeed! That weight will instantly roll off the back of the saints of God, and will CRUSH the wicked.

“10 ¶ And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

11 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

12 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.”

- This is a transition moment – they are no longer sojourners, they are now citizens of the nation of Israel! Beloved, the day is coming when our pilgrim walk in faith will be over, and our eternal rest in the presence of Christ our King will begin – citizens of His kingdom - praise God!

“13 ¶ 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.”

- Here we find the Lord Jesus Christ appearing to Joshua (Christophany), with a message of great comfort, and dire warning, that Joshua was to carry into the battle at Jericho.
- Given the importance of the shoes to a soldier (particularly one that is about to go into battle), the Lord commands Joshua to remove them, as an acknowledgement – a bold confession of faith - that he believes that he is utterly dependent upon God for ALL things! There will be no winning that battle at Jericho, there will be no winning ANY battle, there will be no taking your next breath, there will be no getting to heaven, by your own strength!

- Very similar circumstances and language are found in Exodus 3, when Moses is about to go to war with Pharaoh, and God speaks to him out of the burning bush: “I AM THAT I AM”; “Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place where thou standest is holy ground.” The message being that he is everything that was, is, and is to come; the alpha and omega, the first and the last. I AM what I shall be, and I shall be what I AM! I AM EVERYTHING!
- Therein lies the “holy ground” – that the Lord’s people sanctify God in their hearts, in their words, and in their lives, because we have been given to see God as he is – a Sovereign King, upon whom we rely for everything that we have, and everything that we are, and everything that we desire – rather than seeing him as the flesh desires him to be. God’s people are the ONLY ones who see him, and acknowledge him ON HIS THRONE - HOLY, while Satan and his legion minions seek to dethrone him, and to steal his glory.

Joshua 6:1-27 “1 ¶ Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.”

- I’m not going to get much into the various speculations about Jericho. What we know clearly from scriptures is that:
 - It was a walled city.
 - The wall was capable of withstanding an army’s assault.
 - The wall was large enough that families lived in housing within the wall itself (Rahab).
 - The city was of a size that could be compassed seven times in one day. (Less than 2 miles circumference)
- Jericho went directly into siege mode, even though a siege hadn’t even been set!
- We discussed earlier how God had terrified these people, and yet their hearts were hard, and their minds deceived; they continued to presume upon the arm of flesh, believing – AGAINST ALL LOGIC – that they could overcome God. Remember, these people had seen FIRST HAND the power of God, when He parted the waters of the Jordan River. What satanic delusion must they be under, to think that they could be safe behind their walls!?! This same delusion will provoke the nations of the world to gather together in the Valley of Decision at the battle of Armageddon; they will think that they can overcome Christ, and they will be similarly destroyed, in a moment.
- They had an option here! They could have thrown open the gates and surrendered, but there was no thought of making peace – they were intent upon war against God. The reprobate heart will not have that man Christ Jesus to reign over them!

“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.”

- When the Lord promises a thing – IT’S DONE! He says: “I have given”, not “I will give”.
- These Jews were now officially entering the Land of Canaan – that inheritance that God had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Similarly, our inheritance - chiefly eternal life in the presence of our God - is not left up to chance, or to our own ability to accept it – GOD HAS GIVEN IT! No earthly power can separate us from it!

“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.”

- By any *fleshly* view, this is a terrible battle plan! Marching in a circle is no offensive strategy; furthermore, by stretching out in a lengthy procession, they were in no position to effectively defend themselves, should the army of Jericho come pouring out of the gates.
 - This approach glorified and exalted God above all else. By keeping the arm of flesh out of the equation, He shows himself as the faithful deliverer of His people; the omnipotent and Almighty God. Our job is to trust in God, and be obedient to Him, regardless of how foolish and exposed that makes us feel in our flesh. That is such a simple concept, but one that we will each grapple with as long as we inhabit these sinful, decaying bodies of flesh. But, out of that weakness, we are made strong through Christ! (**Hebrews 11:34**)
 - **2Corinthians 12:9** “**And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**”
 - **Psalm 46:10-11** “**10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.**”
 - This approach was a trial of faith for the children of Israel. Would they be obedient to this command that seemed foolish to their flesh? Would they patiently endure the hardship of it, and the reproaches of the enemy? Would they have faith to believe this promise that seemed impossible to human eyes? “**Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you ...**” (**2Chronicles 20:17**) We are accused of being ignorant because of our faith. On the contrary, the elect of God are acutely familiar with the hiss of Satan’s temptations, and the roar of his violent assaults. We see the devices of the flesh, and are tempted to rely upon them EVERY DAY. My friends, we do not have faith because we are ignorant of the alternatives; we have faith DESPITE a thorough understanding of the alternatives! Praise God for that

gift! Consider the report of the faithless spies that searched out the land of Canaan:

- **Deuteronomy 1:28** “Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.”
- These children of Israel had heard that evil report, and had 40 years for their hearts to meditate upon it, and fret about how they would be able to overcome the giants of the land and their mighty walls. The Lord put them straight to the test – they were made to walk in full view of those walls, with no defense but God! By faith they joined their voices with Caleb:
- **Number 13:30** “And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”
- Indeed, by faith - not by force - the walls of Jericho fell down.

“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.”

- He told them precisely what would happen, so that they would have comfort and confidence, and so that there would be NO DOUBT that the Lord did it. The walls would not fall by some random earthquake.

“6 ¶ 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.”

- There is much to see and learn from this procession, and the continual blowing of these “trumpets of rams’ horns”.
 - Herein we see the preaching of the Gospel. We lift up our voices like a trumpet to declare the Gospel – not in our own camp only, but in the ears of every creature. These rams’ horns are appointed AS THEY ARE, not the ornate trumpets that are carefully crafted by the hands of men; Likewise

required under this gracious symbol of mercy and rest: "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. ... ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed." (Leviticus 25:10-11) These three types are fulfilled in the Day of the Lord. The land will be given rest while these are supernaturally sustained. Each family will be put into the precise possession of the heritage given them when they were first called out of Egypt and given the Promised Land of Canaan. The captives will be set free, and returned to their families."

"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."

- They were to make this procession in absolute silence. Consider this amazing spectacle that the Lord had commanded; consider how strange it would have been for the men of Jericho to watch this daily parade of silent mouths against the backdrop of the endless blowing of the horns. Can you imagine the taunts, jeers, and accusations that were being hurled at these souls, as they made this obedient march? Consider the exercise of faith and patience that the Lord appointed, as they endured these hard, mocking words; they were to mortify their flesh, and look with meekness upon the Lord, rather than answer railing with self-serving railing. Jubilant trumpeting of their Messiah was to be their only response. What wonderful provocation, and encouragement for us, that we would endure the cruel words and deeds of our generation with patience; that we would look to the Lord Jesus, remembering the cruel mocking and scourging that our sinless King endured at the hands of His own creation; that we would pray the Lord to separate out the precious word of God from our vile, prideful, and vengeful hearts, such that our only response would be the jubilant trumpeting of the Gospel!
- Notice the element of God's timing. There is no device of man that can hasten the coming of the Lord; the time is fixed and certain, and we will only bring sorrow upon ourselves if we become impatient as we make the march that has been appointed for us.
 - **Lamentations 3:26 "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD."**
- There is an element of reverence to this scene. We ought to be silent, and prayerful when God is speaking, rather than filling the air, and our hearts, with fretful words and thoughts. The scriptures seem to focus in on this point, when dealing with these major transition moments, where the direct hand of God is so prominently

displayed. Consider this passage from Zechariah, which is speaking to the sealing of the Redeemed Jews.

- **Zechariah 2:12, 13** “12 And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again. 13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.”

“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.

12 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.”

- This is exhausting work! To the human eye and ear it appears fruitless!

“14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. 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.”

- There are unmistakable parallels here:
 - 6 days of creation, followed by the Sabbath, our rest in Christ, on the 7th day.
 - 6000 years of the Lord causing this creation to play out, in order to establish the millennial kingdom of our glorified Christ.
 - The Feast of Tabernacles (which primarily teaches rest in the Messiah). It was a 7 day feast; on each of the first 6 days, the priests were to make a single procession around the altar, waving palm branches, while reciting a prayer for the Messiah’s deliverance, called the Hosanna prayer (Save us, we pray!). Then, on the 7th day (“The Great Hosanna”), they were to compass the altar 7 times, reciting the prayer.
 - Consider the flurry of activity represented by these 7 circuits on the 7th day. After so very many years in Egyptian bondage, there was this incredible series of miraculous events, beginning with the plagues in Egypt, and culminating in the rapid and overwhelming conquest of Canaan. This 7th trump sounding the victory at Jericho is only the opening of that conquest; directly after this victory, the nations of Canaan gathered themselves to battle against Israel, and the Lord immediately “discomfited” them – He crushed them with his own hand! (**Joshua 10:10**) Consider how these events foreshadow the events of the Revelation. Consider the intense and miraculous events that are rapidly taking place as the 7 trumpets are sounding; the 7th trumpet (like the 7th trumpet at Jericho) is the beginning of

the end – it ushers in that final period that includes the 7 plagues, and culminates with Antichrist gathering the nations to battle at Armageddon. Those armies will be similarly discomfited, by the direct hand of our Lord!

- **Revelation 11:15-19** “**15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. 19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.**”

“16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.”

- Our King does not sit in some far off tower watching the fray; Jesus Christ – the Captain of the Host, represented here by Joshua – is leading the charge! Shout, for the victory is won! Consider how this same word is used in the wonderful prophecy that God forced out of the mouth of Balaam:
 - **Number 23:21-24** “**21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them. 22 God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn. 23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought! 24 Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.**”
 - This prophecy points directly to the conquering of Canaan (beginning with the shout at the walls of Jericho); likewise, it points to the coming of our Lord. Consider how the elements of Jericho (Christ, the shout, and the trump) are present in the following passage:

- **1Thessalonians 4:16-18 “16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”**

- The word “shout” is the Hebrew word “ruwa” (Joshua 6:16); it is the verb form of the word “truwah” (Numbers 23:21). That word is elsewhere translated as “Jubilee”. Clearly, this shouting and trumpeting is tightly tied with both the spiritual, and literal Jubilee of God’s people when Christ wins the victory, and they are released from their captivity and restored to their inheritance.
- If we will follow after Christ, then we have this march before us – We minister to the Saints, we work, we pray, we study, we preach the Gospel, we patiently endure the temptations and provocations of Satan – it is not a vain thing, it is our lives! (Deuteronomy 32:47) We will either be marching when we die, or we will be marching when the Lord parts the clouds; either way, when our King lifts up His sword and shouts, we will shout with Him, and follow Him to our inheritance, and our rest!

“17 ¶ And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

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.

- With these events of Jericho in mind, I encourage you to read the description of the conquering Christ riding into the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21). You see very clearly that even though His saints are riding with Him, the power and the victory are Christ’s! The walls of Jericho came down BY HIS POWER ALONE; the army of Israel put the inhabitants to the sword, but by then, there was no resistance; they were shooting fish in a barrel.

22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her.

23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

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; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

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.

27 So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country."

I love you all. Amen.