

# Israel: Her Highwater Mark of Faith

Heb 11:30; Joshua 5:13-6:1-27

## 1. Intro

1. The obedience of Israel under Joshua is in sharp contrast to the rebellion under Moses.
2. God revealed to Joshua His plan. (2-5)
3. Joshua reveals the results of God's plan to the people on the final day. (16-19)
4. Faith shows up in God and in Joshua.
  1. Doing a potential useless thing.
  2. The results explains the reason.
- 5.

## 2. God's Presence

1. Commander of Lord's Army
  1. Joshua encounters God as he begins his journey into the land.
  2. The encounter was to inspire Joshua and give him confidence.
    1. He had already been encouraged (1:9), but now he meets God face to face.
  3. The question is not whether God is on our side but whether we are on God's side
  4. The encounter suggests that Yahweh would personally lead His people in battle.

## 3. Jericho

1. It was the key to the conquest of the rest of the land.
2. Jericho occupied about 3 hectares. Not a large city.
3. It was well fortified and could hold out against a long siege.
  1. Water spring inside city.
4. Israel had to overcome this city to move forward into the land.
  1. How do you overcome a fortified city with no siege engines, battering rams or catapults?

## 4. The Instructions

1. Called to do something unheard of.
  1. What did the people of the city think?
2. Specific instructions
  1. Seven day, seven times (6+1)
  2. Army marched around. (3; 7)
  3. Trumpets to sound (4-5)
    1. Trumpets where the shophar
    2. The priests used them to call the people to follow God who was going before them in the wilderness.
    3. The blast of the trumpet was the solemn proclamation of the presence of God.
3. All the aspects of the battle at Jericho strengthened Israel's faith in Yahweh.
  1. Do what did not make sense.
  2. No use of "weapons of war"
  3. They learned through personal experience about God's ability to overcome obstacles.
  4. They acted in faith obeying His Word and trusting in the outcome He had promised.
  5. This day Israel reached a high water mark in her spiritual history.

## 5. Application

1. To reach a goal, you may be tested.
  1. Tested in the desert and as they went into the land.
2. It is easy to do things for a short time, but in the monotonous and trivial, is the test of faith.
  1. 'Let us not be weary in well-doing,' (Gal 6:9)
3. We may not see the end result.
4. The result may be different than what we were anticipating.

## 6. Conclusion

1. Israel learned what faith was in this encounter.
2. God's presence is there no matter what we go through.
3. The way may seem to be blocked.
4. If we follow instructions we can succeed.