

Joshua: Obedience To Victory

Joshua 6

TIME: 1406 BC (approx. Maybe as late as 1250 BC)

After many years of slavery, Moses has led God's people (Israelites) out of Egypt and 40 years in the desert to the banks of the Jordan River. Across the Jordan, was the land that God had promised to their fathers, but Moses would not get to enter the land because of his disobedience and lack of trust in God {[Deuteronomy 32:48-52](#)}.

So Joshua, who was filled with the spirit of wisdom, has led the people of Israel through the Jordan River and to the city of Jericho. He has received a message from God through the visit from a "heavenly General," the commander of the army of the Lord.

Just a quick side note.

Earlier in his life Joshua was called simply **Hoshea** ([Numbers 13:8,16](#)), meaning "salvation." But later Moses changed his name to **Joshua**, meaning "The Lord saves" (or "The Lord gives victory"). When this same name (the Greek form of which is Jesus; see NIV text note on [Matthew 1:21](#)) was given to Mary and Joseph's firstborn son, it identified him as the servant of God who would complete what God did for Israel in a preliminary way through the first Joshua, namely, overcome all powers of evil in the world and bring God's people into their eternal "rest" (see [Hebrews 4:1-11](#)).

Let's study Joshua 6 and discover how his obedience to God's message led to victory.

1. There is a simple formula in the fall of Jericho that God's people can still follow today.

CONFRONT the obstacle

SEEK God's instructions

FOLLOW THROUGH with obedience

REALIZE the victory

Ponder/Discuss each step and make application to your life.

CONFRONT (verses 1-5)

SEEK (verses 6–14)

FOLLOW THROUGH (verses 15–21)

REALIZE (verses 22–27)

2. Joshua was considering a military campaign, but the Lord had another plan in mind. Look at verse 4. The “trumpets of rams’ horns” were not military trumpets but **jubilee** trumpets and were usually associated with religious ceremonies. Read Zechariah 4:6 and relate it to this situation. What are your conclusions?

3. Consider God’s plan of attack. Do you think that any military strategist would consider this plan workable? _____ Why?

a) Look up 1 Corinthians 1:25–29. What do we learn about foolishness and wisdom here?

b) Why has God chosen the weak and unlikely to accomplish extra-ordinary things?

c) One thing that impresses me is that when God’s plan is revealed no one laughed, made fun of, doubted or questioned. How do you think the wilderness generation (those who died in the desert) would have reacted to God’s battle plan?

d) Why is my need to obey God greater than my need to understand Him?

e) It is said that “ignorance is bliss.” Is lack of understand God’s plan a good excuse for lack of obedience?

4. Remember Rahab? It appears that her “house” was built in the wall or at least a portion of it was on top of the wall. A further indication of God’s miracle power is the fact that the portion of the wall that supported her home was left standing. What set Rahab apart from the rest of the city?

5. What do we learn about obedience from this chapter?