

Sunday Night Message

December 17, 2017

Joshua 6 – *Invasion of Jericho*

Series – Joshua

Text – Joshua 6

Introduction

Chapter six reveals the implementation God's plan for the invasion and destruction of Jericho. For five chapters God's people have been preparing for this day, but in chapter six God will guide them step-by-step through His plan and subsequent implementation of the victory.

Deuteronomy 9:1 – 7 reveals that it was because of the wickedness of the people of the land that God destroyed the inhabitants of the land; not because of the goodness of Israel.

I A Closed-In People (vs. 1 – 2)

"Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour." (Joshua 6:1 & 2)

We saw back in Joshua 2:9 – 11 and in 5:1 that the people of the land were absolutely terrified of the Israelites that were camped outside of their city walls.

II A Crazy Plan (vs. 3 – 7)

A Revealed to Joshua (vs. 3 – 5)

This is a strange military plan. It seems as if it was given by God to accentuate the fear of the inhabitants of Jericho, and also to test the faith of His people. Would they follow God's plan perfectly, or would they jump in front of God.

"And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. 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. 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." (Joshua 6:3 - 5)

For six days, the Israelites were to march once around the city; but on the seventh day, they were to march seven times around the city with the priests and the ark of the covenant; and when they gave the final long blast with the trumpets, the people were to shout and the walls would fall down flat. All God's people were supposed to do was go and shout. That's what we are supposed to do today. Go – into all the world; and Shout – because God has already given us the victory.

See Judges 7:1 – 22 for another strange military tactic.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9)

"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:20-24)

B Rehearsed to the People (vs. 6 – 7)

"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. 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." (Joshua 6:6 - 7)

III A Competent Performance (vs. 8 – 11)

"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. 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. 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. So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp." (Joshua 6:8 - 11)

The people followed the instructions of God on the first day perfectly.

IV A Continuing Process (vs. 12 – 14)

And, they continued the process for another five days.

"And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. 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 (rear guard) came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days." (Joshua 6:12 - 14)

V A Culminating Presentation (vs. 15 – 17)

A A Surrounded Wall (vs. 15 – 21)

"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. 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. 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." (Joshua 6:17)

The City of Jericho was only 8.5 acres, which made it easy to march around seven times.

B A Solemn Warning (vs. 18 – 19)

"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. 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." (Joshua 6:18 - 19)

These verses are important, as they are going to be an important part of what takes place in chapter 7. An “accursed thing” is something dedicated for destruction. The city was to be accursed, or utterly and completely destroyed. (v. 17) The phrase “utterly destroyed” in v. 21 is a verb form of the same word.

C A Shouting Win (vs. 20 – 21)

"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. 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." (Joshua 6:20 - 21)

VI A Kept Promise (vs. 22 – 25)

Joshua kept the promise that he made with Rahab. He saved her and all of her family. God is a promise keeper.

"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. 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. 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. 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." (Joshua 6:22 - 25)

VII A Cautionary Prophecy (vs. 26 – 27)

"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. So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country." (Joshua 6:26 - 27)

Joshua warns Israel that the City of Jericho should not be rebuilt. The prophecy promised death to the family of the man who attempted it. According to 1 Kings 16, a man named Hiel fulfilled this prophecy around 860 B.C.:

"In his days (Ahab) did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun." (1 Kings 16:34)

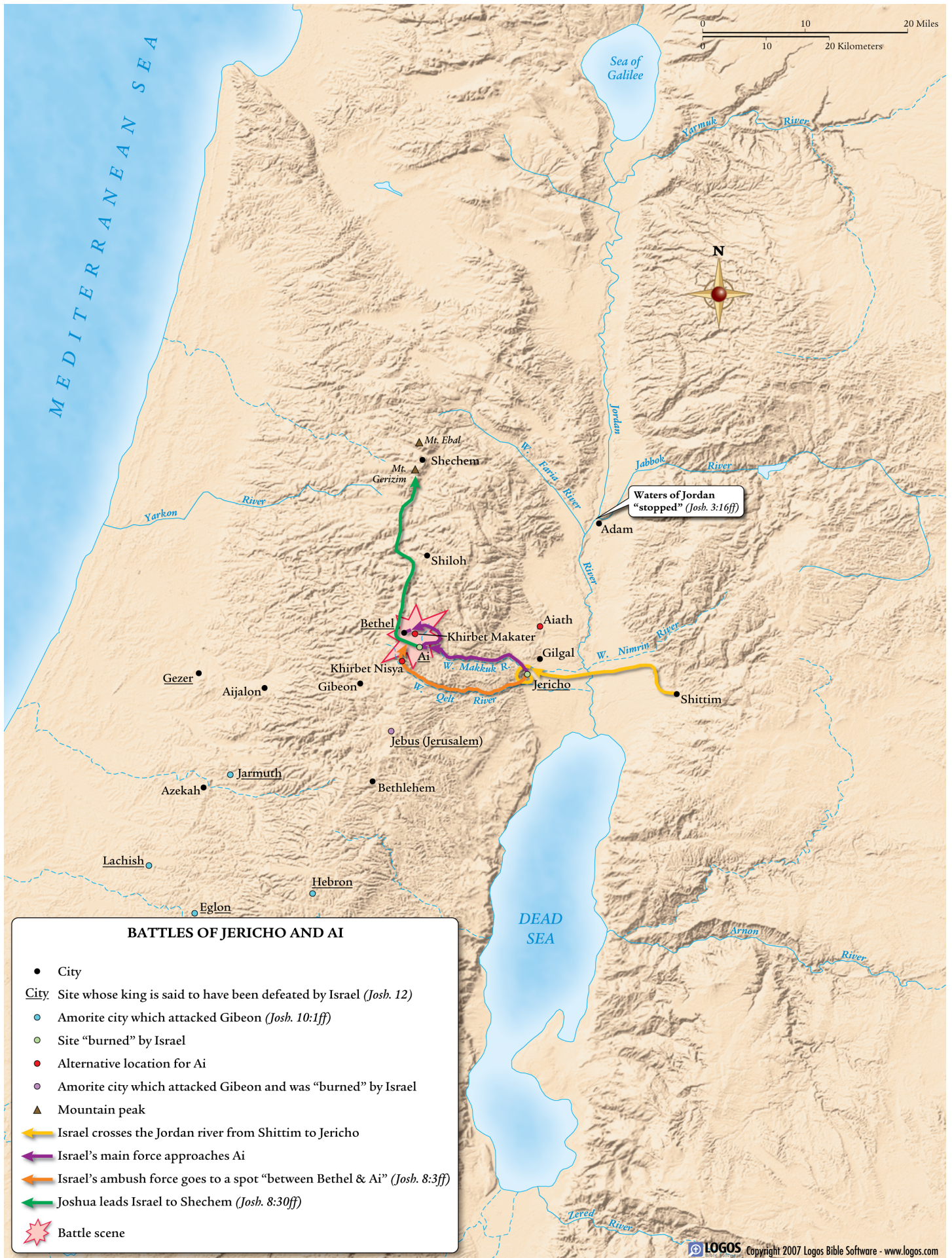
Note – the curse did not apply to the future inhabitants of the city, but only to the builder.

Conclusion

After forty years of wandering, God had finally brought the people to their first of many military conquests in the new land.

Practical Points:

- 1 Wait for God to tell you exactly what He wants you to do. The Israelites waited a long time for this moment, but they did not get ahead of God. Don't get ahead, but don't wait once you know what God wants you to do.
- 2 Trust that God is always right, even when the plan does not make any human sense.
- 3 Implement the plan of God exactly as God has given it to you. Follow God's plan to a "T".
- 4 Rejoice in God's victory, but give God all of the glory.



BATTLES OF JERICHO AND AI

- City
- City. Site whose king is said to have been defeated by Israel (*Josh. 12*)
- Amorite city which attacked Gibeon (*Josh. 10:1ff*)
- Site "burned" by Israel
- Alternative location for Ai
- Amorite city which attacked Gibeon and was "burned" by Israel
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Israel crosses the Jordan river from Shittim to Jericho
- Israel's main force approaches Ai
- Israel's ambush force goes to a spot "between Bethel & Ai" (*Josh. 8:3ff*)
- Joshua leads Israel to Shechem (*Josh. 8:30ff*)
- ★ Battle scene