

Joshua 5-6 – 15 July 2021

“Spiritual Warfare”

Introduction

*The theme of the Book of Joshua could be “*Will Israel have faith and believe God?*”

*The prosperity of Israel’s future life will be directly proportional to:

*How well (or not) they exterminate the evil, sinful lifestyles of the Canaanites

*How well they act on implementing God’s ways

*In Joshua 3-4 Israel just crossed the Jordan River, for the first time into the Promised Land

*It’s time for go forward in accomplishing God’s will

*Remember - Joshua conquering P.L. is a great analogy for Christians coming into the victorious Christian life

***Today let’s look at 3 things we need to succeed in spiritual warfare (This is you’re A-F of S.W.)**

1st thing you need for spiritual warfare is Armor for Battle (Chap 5:1-12)

Intro

1. Though we have a physical, earthy mission to fulfill, our preparedness for battle is spiritual
2. Read II Cor 10:3-4 – Not carnal, but spiritual

Read Chap 5:1-2

1. In an earthly sense, this seems like prime time to strike, but there's spiritual work to do first
2. All Christian accomplishments happen b/c of the behind the scenes work in the spiritual realm

Read Chap 5:3-5

3. The generation that was raised in the wilderness was under judgement & not circumcised
4. Circumcision is a sign or picture of cutting away earthly hinderances & sitting pure before God
 - a. Read Deut 10:12-13, 16 – C the heart

Read Chap 5:6-7

1. They disobeyed this command in wilderness
2. Many church attenders today are spiritually uncircumcised
 - a. Distracted by sin – wandering in wilderness
 - b. The Lord would tell you... (Read Jer 4:3-4)

Read Chap 5:8-9

1. Gilgal or circle or the rolling, as in – to remove
2. The sin of following the lifestyles of Egypt has been symbolically removed from them
3. Read Col 2:10-13 – You're complete & circumcised in relationship with Jesus Christ

Read Chap 5:10 – *Commemorating the Passover*

1. Remembering God's deliverance of them is the right way to remember what you've been delivered TO
2. They were taken out of Egypt & INTO new life with new armor from God

- a. God has supplied for them His truth, righteousness, peace & a measure of faith
- b. God has supplied same to us (Read Eph 6:11-15)

Read Chap 5:11-12

1. Transition of the food
2. Life in the spirit by faith is a life of variety

Conclusion

1. So before physically conquering anything, Israel first gets suited in spiritual armor
 - a. Circumcision – showing the armor of purity and devotion to God
 - b. Passover Feast – showing the armor of belonging to God thru redemption
 - c. Ceasing of the Manna – showing the armor of walking with the shield of faith trusting God to do a wide variety of fresh things for them
2. There's always spiritual preparation of the heart before physically doing anything effective

2nd thing you need for spiritual warfare is Command Decisions (Chap 5:14-15)

Read Chap 5:13

1. This is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus
2. Our problem is that we think it's our war
 - a. Oh there are only two side to this war, but we're not leading anything
 - b. Read Eph 6:10 – "...power of HIS might"

Read Chap 5:14

1. Our response to Jesus should be, 'what can I do to serve thee'...in worship
2. There's a rank & structure to serving
 - a. Jesus needs to have the control & we obey
 - i. Just as the centurion of faith in Matt 8
 - b. You can't succeed taking commands from self...Peter tried that & cut off Malchus ear

Read Chap 5:15

1. Place is holy, b/c Jesus's there (like Moses' b.b.)

3rd thing you need for spiritual warfare is Endurance of Faith (Chap 6:1-27)

Read Chap 6:1-5

1. So here's the Lord Jesus' command plan
2. The Lord has given it, but to take it, takes faith

Read Chap 6:6-11

1. This is a test of Israel's faith
2. I'll bet some of Israel feels like fools that night
3. Has God ever called you to something that at first seems very foolish?
 - a. When beginning to follow in faith, it can seem very awkward
 - b. It's awkward b/c the Lord has bigger and more indirect purposes to fulfill
 - i. He's not just completing a task, but God is building & teaching people thru it

Read Chap 6:12-16

1. It took acknowledgement of their helplessness, courage & endurance to complete this method
2. Faith isn't true belief in God unless it's still with you after some battering and beatings
3. Turn to Dan 10 – Read Vs 1-2, 5, 12-14
 - a. Daniel endured in prayer for 3 weeks
 - b. Noah took 55-75 years to build the ark
 - i. That takes an enduring faith
4. Faith doesn't need to see today, it believes in tomorrow

Read Chap 6:17-21

1. Remember that this is the judgement that God has been warning these Canaanites of for 400 yrs
2. Accursed - To ban, destroy or devote to God
 - a. God gets 1stfruits of land as act of worship
3. Dr John Garstang, director of the British School of Archaeology excavated the city in 1930s

- a. He found under the ashes & fallen walls storehouses full of food stuffs, wheat, barley, dates, lentils & such turned into charcoal by intense heat untouched & uneaten

Read Chap 6:22-25

1. Promise kept to Rahab for her faith in God

Read Chap 6:26-27

1. The curse is that your sons will die in the building of the city
2. In the days of Ahab did Hiel attempt to build Jericho as a fortified city & was cursed

Conclusion

So we can learn some great lessons about our own spiritual warfare from the principles that God gave Israel to execute by faith

1. We need Armor for Battle

- a. Without being spiritually equipped w/ truth, righteousness, peace & faith the physical battle is already lost
- b. Growing into the image of Jesus gives us the armor we need for battle

2. We are to follow Jesus' Command Decisions

- a. We're not in charge of anything!!
 - i. Let that challenge you to take your place
 - ii. Let that comfort you that it's taken care of

3. We need Endurance of Faith

- a. Your faith will be tested over time – this isn't microwave Christianity
- b. When you begin to feel awkward for your obedient actions, remember the march around Jericho