“DIVINE DELIVERANCE”

PART 3

OBJECTIVE: DISCOVER HOW GOD DIVINELY DELIVERS OUR LIVES. EXAMINE THE HOLY SCRIPTURES THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD’S DELIVERING POWER.

KEY SCRIPTURES: LUKE 4:18/MATTHEW 6:13/EXODUS/

JUDGES 6:11-32/JOSHUA 6:1-20

JERICHO WAS A FORTIFIED CITY WITH MASSIVE STONE WALLS, A STRATEGIC LOCATION, AND A REPUTATION FOR BEING IMPREGNABLE. FOR ISRAEL, IT WAS BOTH A PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL OBSTACLE — A TEST OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE. GOD’S PROMISE IN JOSHUA 6:2 WAS CLEAR: “SEE, I HAVE DELIVERED JERICHO INTO YOUR HANDS, ALONG WITH ITS KING AND ITS FIGHTING MEN”. THIS WAS NOT A BATTLE OF HUMAN STRENGTH, BUT OF DIVINE DELIVERANCE.

I. GOD’S PROMISE AND PRESENCE

GOD PERSONALLY SPOKE TO JOSHUA, ASSURING HIM OF VICTORY. THIS WAS A DIVINE COMMISSION — “I HAVE DELIVERED” — SHOWING THAT THE VICTORY WAS GOD’S WORK, NOT ISRAEL’S. THE PROMISE WAS TIED TO GOD’S PRESENCE: THE ARK OF THE COVENANT LED THE WAY, AND THE PRIESTS’ TRUMPETS SYMBOLIZED GOD’S VOICE AND POWER. IN OUR LIVES, GOD OFTEN DELIVERS NOT JUST THE RESULT, BUT THE PROCESS, WALKING WITH US THROUGH THE “WALLS” OF OUR CHALLENGES.

II. GOD'S PLAN AND OBEDIENCE

JOSHUA'S RESPONSE WAS OBEDIENCE. HE FOLLOWED GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY — SIX DAYS OF CIRCLING THE CITY, SEVEN PRIESTS WITH TRUMPETS, AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY, A FINAL CIRCLING WITH A LOUD SHOUT. THIS WAS AN ACT OF FAITH, EVEN WHEN THE PLAN SEEMED UNUSUAL. OBEDIENCE IN GOD'S WORD IS THE KEY TO EXPERIENCING HIS DELIVERANCE.

III. THE ACT OF FAITH

THE PEOPLE'S MARCH AROUND JERICHO WAS A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISE. THEY DID NOT RELY ON MILITARY MIGHT OR HUMAN STRATEGY; THEY RELIED ON GOD'S WORD. THIS MIRRORS THE FAITH OF HEBREWS 11:30 — TRUSTING IN GOD'S DELIVERANCE EVEN WHEN THE WAY SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE.

IV. APPLICATION FOR TODAY

1. ***COMMUNICATE WITH GOD*** *— LIKE JOSHUA, WE MUST SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION BEFORE ACTING. PROVERBS 3:5-6*

2. ***OBEY GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS*** *— FAITH IS SHOWN IN OBEDIENCE, EVEN WHEN THE PLAN IS UNCLEAR. ROMANS 8:24-25*
3. ***TRUST GOD'S TIMING*** *— THE DELIVERANCE CAME AT THE APPOINTED MOMENT, NOT BY HUMAN EFFORT. ECCLESIASTES 3:11*

4. ***PROCLAIM GOD'S POWER*** *— THE TRUMPET BLASTS AND SHOUTS WERE ACTS OF WORSHIP AND DECLARATION OF GOD'S VICTORY. JOSHUA 6:5*

CONCLUSION

JERICHO FELL NOT BECAUSE OF ITS WALLS, BUT BECAUSE OF GOD'S WORD AND POWER. THE STORY REMINDS US THAT GOD CAN BRING DOWN THE HIGHEST WALLS OF OUR LIVES — FEAR, FAILURE, OPPOSITION — WHEN WE TRUST HIS PROMISE, OBEY HIS PLAN, AND WALK IN FAITH. AS WE FACE OUR OWN "JERICHOS," WE CAN DECLARE: "THE LORD HAS DELIVERED; THE LORD HAS DONE IT; THE LORD WILL DO IT AGAIN."