

LESSON 13 – JOSHUA LEADS ISRAEL INTO THE PROMISED LAND

Joshua 1 - 11

THEME: To show that possession of God's blessings depends upon taking hold of that which God's Word promises.

With our swords and shields, we are going to be fighting battles as we travel on PROMISE ROAD. You will learn the secret of how to get and enjoy the blessings of the Christian life.

Moses, the faithful servant of God, died and God buried him. Deuteronomy 34:5,6. A new leader, Joshua, was appointed to lead Israel into the PROMISED LAND. Joshua had shown his faith at Kadesh when the unbelieving spies had feared to go into the land. During the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the old generation of Israel had died (except Caleb and Joshua) and Joshua was to lead the new generation on to the conquest of the land. God spoke to Joshua and made definite promises to him:

- "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses." Joshua 1:3.

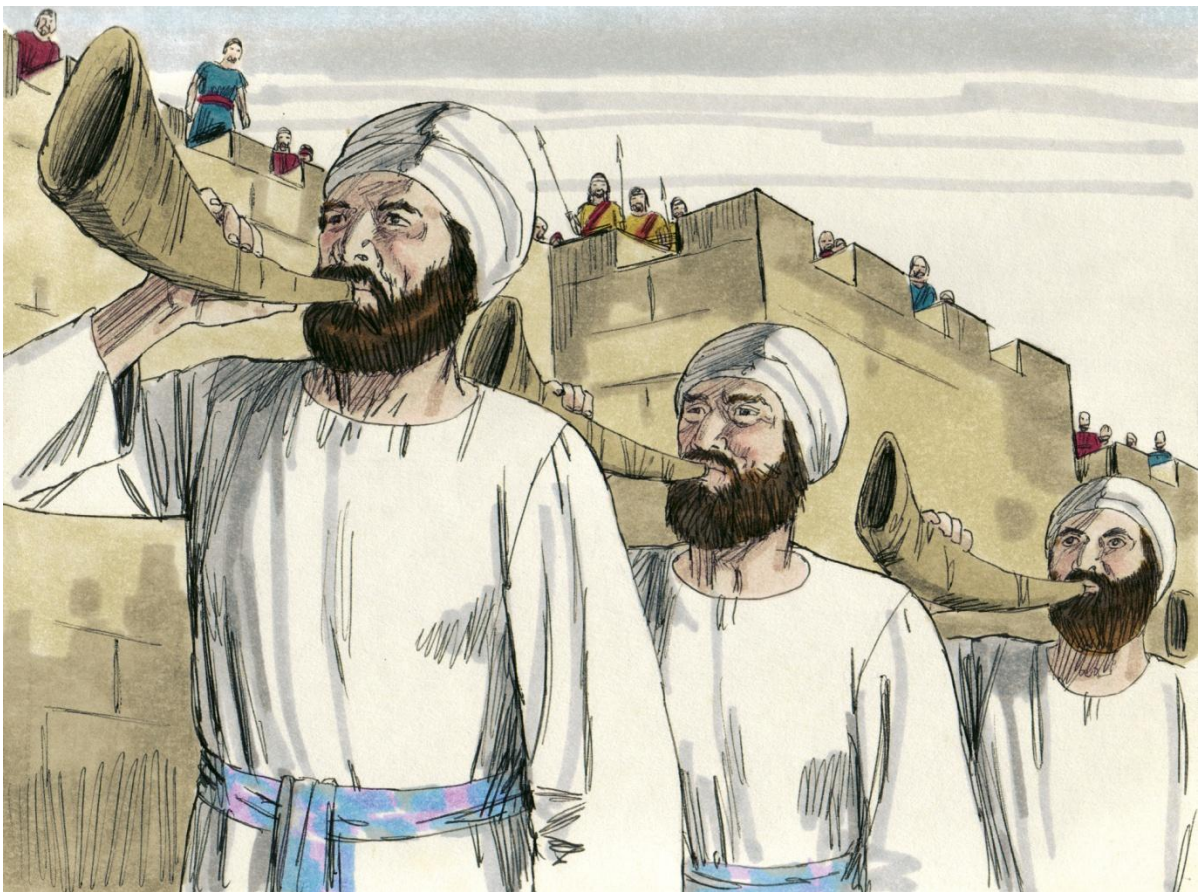
- "... Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you." Joshua 1:5.

- "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:7-9.

Joshua's success depended upon him believing and obeying the book of the Law. Israel came near to the first great city, Jericho. Joshua sent two spies ahead. The spies came into the house of Rahab who saved them from death. They promised her that she would be saved when the city was taken. Therefore she had to tie a cord of scarlet thread in the window through which she let them down. The same cord the spies escaped with. Joshua 2. The cord of scarlet thread in the window is a picture of salvation through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Next, Israel prepared to cross the river Jordan opposite Jericho, with priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people.

When the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap. And those waters which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And while all Israel crossed on dry ground, the priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan. Joshua 3:14-17. Then, in the 6th chapter of Joshua, Israel was given directions for the conquest of Jericho. The men of war should circle the city once for six days. On the seventh day they should march around the city seven times, and the priests should blow the trumpets. After hearing the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat.



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Doesn't it seem a strange way to win a battle? The people of Jericho fearfully watched as the Israelites marched around the city without talking. God wants us to learn that His ways are not our ways. He wants things done so that He will receive the glory, and not man. We will ask ourselves some questions.

What made the walls of Jericho fall down flat? Faith in God and obedience to His commandment or Word. Hebrews 11:30.

What saved Rahab? Faith in God and obedience to His Word as He spoke through the spies who she had welcomed in peace. Hebrews 11:31.

What made Joshua successful? Faith in God, his unseen Captain. He showed his faith by obeying orders of his Captain. The book of the law did not depart from his mouth. He trusted and obeyed God even though the orders seemed strange.

What will bring success to us who live over at GRACE AIRPORT? We, believers in Christ, also have a battle to fight and a 'promised land' as we travel on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE*. There are things to notice about our battle:

1. Our 'promised land' are the heavenly places in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, 1:20 and 2:6. By faith we, believers in Christ, are no longer of this present world or in its sphere of sinfulness and rebellion. We have been rescued from spiritual death and given spiritual life in order to be in Christ Jesus in the heavenly spaces.
2. Our enemies are the rulers, the powers, the world forces of this darkness and the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12.
3. Our victory is accomplished through faith in the Word of our Captain, the risen Lord Jesus Christ. He gave us the gospel of the grace of God through the apostle Paul: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, and He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3,4. By trusting this message of truth we will be saved from going to hell. We show our faith by obeying the instructions of the apostle Paul. This will produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. Galatians 5:22,23. Our enemies will try to keep us from enjoying these things, but if we do like Joshua and obey, God will surely be faithful and give them to us.

Sad to say, after the battle of Jericho, Israel never fully conquered the land of Canaan because they did not fully obey God's Word. They did enter in, however, and divided the land as God directed.

Are you unsaved today? If so, you are like Rahab, living in a place which is doomed to destruction. But you can be saved by faith just as Rahab was. You show your faith by confessing that Christ is your Saviour. Then you can bring others of your family into the place of safety in Christ just as Rahab brought her family into her house and save them from destruction. How? By telling them the gospel of the grace of God.

MEMORY VERSE: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9.

LESSON 13 – WORK SHEET

1. Who became Israel's leader after Moses died? Joshua 1:1-2. _____.

2. Why was he appointed? Deuteronomy 34:9 _____

_____.

3. What three special promises did God make to Joshua?
Joshua 1:3 _____.
Joshua 1:5 _____.
Joshua 1:8 _____
_____.

Choose the correct word to complete the following statements:

4. Joshua's success depended upon (hard work / obedience / good organization).
Joshua 1:8.

5. It was by (praying / fighting / faith / pushing) that the walls of Jericho fell down flat.
Hebrews 11:30

6. Rahab was saved because she (was good / was bad / kept the Law / had faith).
Hebrews 11:31.

The experience of those who live now in the dispensation of Grace is like the experience of the Israelites in many ways. Look up the following Scriptures and fill in the spaces.

7. Israel had many promised physical blessings in the land of Canaan and we have many promised spiritual blessings in _____. Ephesians 1:3.

8. Israel's enemies were the nations who possessed Canaan and our enemies are _____
_____ in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12.

9. Victory for Israel depended upon believing and obeying, and victory for us depends upon _____. Ephesians 6:13-17.

10. Write Joshua 1:9: _____

_____.