Possessing Your Promised Land

**4—REMOVING INTERNAL WALLS**

May 29, 2022

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO DEUTERONOMY 8 AND JOSHUA 6**

**Deuteronomy 8:1 (NKJV)** “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may **live** and **multiply**, and **go in** and **possess** the land of **which the Lord swore** to your fathers.

**INTRODUCTION:** Have you

**ONLY GOD’S INSTRUCTIONS RELEASE SUPERNATURAL POWER**

**Joshua 6:1–10 (NKJV)** Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. **2** And the Lord said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. **3** You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. **4** And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. **5** It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.” **6** Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord.” **7** And he said to the people, “Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the Lord.” **8** So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the Lord advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. **9** The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. **10** Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, “You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout.”

**NOTICE AGAIN VERSE 1 –** Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in

* **God has assignments for you that are impossible for you to accomplish without His power**

**LOOK AT VERSE 2 –** And the Lord said to Joshua: “**See! I have given** Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

* **THE FULFILLMENT OF YOUR CALLING ALREADY BELONGS TO YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO SEE IT IN YOUR HEART**
* **GOD HAS ALSO GIVEN YOU INTO YOUR HAND EVERY PERSON STANDING IN YOUR WAY.**
  + **REMEMBER JOSHUA 1:5 – Joshua 1:5 (NKJV)** No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

**WHAT WAS GOD DOING??? HE WAS REMOVING THE WALLS INSIDE OF JOSHUA’S HEART:**

* **WALLS OF DOUBT**
* **WALLS OF FEAR**
* **WALLS OF WORRY**

**EX – ON FRIDAY I OPENED UP MY BIBLE AT MY HOUSE AND BEGAN TO READ THE BEGINNING OF DEUTERONOMY 28 … Deuteronomy 28:1–2 (NKJV)** “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. **2** And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you… **BUT I ONLY READ THE FIRST WORD… “NOW” … WHEN I READ IT, I STOPPED AND THOUGHT, “THAT WORD IS SIGNIFYING A CHANGE OF SEASONS… AND RESULTS.” … AND THAT’S WHEN I HEARD THE LORD SAY, “IT REALLY WILL BE DIFFERENT NOW.”**

**GOD WANTS TO CONVINCE YOU THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU YOUR PROMISED LAND… IF YOU OBEY HIM**

**LOOK AT VERSES 3 & 4 –** You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. **4** And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

* **FOR GOD’S POWER TO WORK, YOU MUST FOLLOW GOD’S SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS**

**LOOK AT VERSE 10 –** Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, “You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout.’”

* **JOSHUA KNEW THAT THEY HAD TO ELIMINATE THE FEAR, DOUBT, AND UNBELIEF COMING OUT OF THEIR MOUTHS**
* **HE ALSO KNEW THAT WHEN IT WAS TIME, THEY HAD HAD TO BOLDLY SHOUT IN FAITH THAT GOD WAS GOING TO DO WHAT ONLY HE COULD DO**

**HONOR GOD FIRST**

**Joshua 6:11–20 (NKJV)** So he had the ark of the Lord circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp. **12** And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. **13** Then 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 rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. **14** And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days. **15** But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. **16** And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: “Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! **17** Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. **18** And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. **19** But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.” **20** So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

**THEY FOLLOWED THE DIRECTION OF GOD PRECISELY, AND THE POWER OF GOD COLLAPSED THOSE WALLS**

**AND THIS IS WHAT GOD IS GOING TO DO FOR YOU… IF YOU WILL JUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS HE IS GIVING YOU**

**NOTICE VERSE 18-19 –** And you, **by all means abstain from the accursed things**, lest **YOU** become accursed when you take of the accursed things, **and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it**. **19** But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; **they shall come into the treasury of the Lord**.”

**WHY DOES ALL THE WEALTH COME INTO THE TREASURY OF THE LORD?**

**GOD DOESN’T NEED THE WEALTH… EVERYTHING ALREADY BELONGS TO HIM**

**GOD WAS BREAKING DOWN MORE WALLS IN THEIR HEARTS… WALLS OF:**

* **SELFISHNESS**
* **SELF-CENTEREDNESS**
* **SELF-RELIANCE**
* **THE WILLINGNESS TO DISHONOR GOD TO GET WHAT YOU WANT**
* **THE LOVE OF MONEY**

**SO WHAT HAPPENED?**

**Joshua 7:1–11 (NKJV)** But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel. **2** Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy out the country.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. **3** And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.” **4** So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. **5** And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water. **6** Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. **7** And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! **8** O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? **9** For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?” **10** So the Lord said to Joshua: “Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? **11** Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.

**NOTICE VERSE 5 –** And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men

* **36 WIVES LOST THEIR HUSBANDS THAT DAY**
* **100 CHILDREN OR MORE LOST THEIR FATHERS THAT DAY**
* **THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL LOST THEIR CONFIDENCE THAT DAY**
* **WHY??? BECAUSE SOMEONE JUST COULDN’T WAIT… HE HAD TO TAKE WHAT GOD SAID WAS HIS**

**NOTICE VERSE 1 –** But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.

**ACHAN HAD AN INTERNAL WALL… IT TOLD HIM THAT HE CAN’T TRUST GOD TO BLESS HIM… SO HE SHOULD TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BLESS HIMSELF… EVEN IF THAT MEANS COMPROMISING WHAT GOD SAID TO DO.**

**WHEN GOD BEGINS TO GIVE YOU YOUR PROMISED LAND, AND BRING BLESSING ON YOU, YOU MUST HONOR HIM AND CONTINUE TO FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS**

**Joshua 7:20–21 (ESV)** And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

**EX – THE RICH YOUNG REAL ESTATE AGENT… who was being very blessed in business, but said he was delaying tithing to build the business even more so that he could “give big” to God’s work… and I told him, “You’ll never do it. If you can’t obey and honor God with 10%, how will you honor Him with larger sums.”**

**Deuteronomy 8:1 (NKJV)** “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may **live** and **multiply**, and **go in** and **possess** the land of **which the Lord swore** to your fathers.

**YOU MUST DETERMINE WHO IS IN CHARGE… IS IT YOU? … OR IS IT GOD?**

**GOD IS CALLING US TO DO THE JESUS’ CHURCH STUDY IN SMALL GROUPS AT HOME… IT’S PART OF WHAT THE LORD IS DOING IN US AS A MINISTRY, BUT IT’S ALSO A PART OF WHAT THE LORD HAS FOR YOU**

**SONG: MY LORD KNOWS THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW**