

The Walls of Jericho

The Israelites just crossed the Jordan. They are ready to take over Jericho, which is the most fortified city in Canaan. Taking down Jericho will split Canaan in half and to divide is to conquer.

Meanwhile, Jericho is ready and expecting the Israelites to come and fight. Their confidence is in their wall. They had many years to build it. They had over 40 years to fortify it because they feared this day.

Sometimes the path to victory is a fight.
Sometimes it is a wall.

Sometimes it is an army standing in front of you or pursuing you.

Sometimes it is the Red Sea or Jordan River.
But don't let the difficulty of the path make you doubt the promise of God.

The battle may be great, but so is the reward.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction,
which is **but for a moment**, is working for us a
**far more exceeding and eternal weight of
glory,**

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time **are not worthy to be compared with the glory** which shall be revealed in us.

Joshua 5:1-15

(1) So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, **that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer** because of the children of Israel.

(2) At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time." (3) So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. (4) And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: **All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the**

men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt.

(5) **For all the people who came out had been circumcised,** but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. (6) For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, **were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD**—to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

(7) Then Joshua circumcised their **sons whom He raised up in their place;** for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. (8) So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. (9) Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have **rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.**" Therefore the

name of the place is called Gilgal (House of Rolling) to this day.

A) God's provisions and goodness does not mean you have achieved rightness with God. The flesh must be crucified if we are going to possess and fully walk in the promises God has given us. If we are going to remove the reproach of sin.

(10) Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. (11) And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day.

(12) Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

A) There comes a time when God expects us to move forward. Israel could not live forever on wilderness manna. When they entered Canaan, the manna ceased, and they began to eat the

produce of the land. Spiritually, there must also be a time when we grow beyond elementary things.

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, **not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,** (2) of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Ephesians 4:14 that **we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine,** by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY

(13) And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to

Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

(14) So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

A) I do not want us to pass a very important point here. Joshua is approaching a soldier not just any soldier but one that has His sword drawn probably had some spiritual presences, and in which Joshua is unsure but feels vulnerable.

He asks the question: Are you for us, or them? The answer is "No! but as a commander of the army of the LORD, I have come."

In other words, Joshua, I am not your servant or theirs, you are mine.

Sometimes we come to God with the same attitude. Are you serving my needs, my plans, my goals?

In conclusion,

(15) Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

A) I must give a tiny insight for some of you who are a little more advanced and or want to know more. What becomes very clear in scripture is that the Commander of the LORD's Army is the Logos, The Word, the Preincarnate Christ.

Revelation 19:11-14 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. (12) His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. (13) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. (14) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.