

Unconventional Warfare

I. Announce:

A. **Slide1 Harvest Baked Goods:** In addition to the needs for candy and volunteers for our Harvest Festival, we are also in need of **baked goods!** Whether they are **homemade or store-bought**, please bring them to the church *on the day of* the event and we will add your delicious donation to our baked goods table.

B. **Slide2 Prayer:**

II. Slide3 Intro: Unconventional Warfare

A. In ch.5 we saw it was *Consecration before Conquest*. Now they're **holy** and ready.

B. Now in this chapter we see an *interesting military tactic*. *A Strange Victory*. And we see, *God does the unusual to display his grace and glory*.

C. **Slide4** Show map of *Shittim, Gilgal, Jericho*.

D. I have visited Jericho a few times. It is *the oldest continually occupied city in the world*. There is ancient Jericho and a modern Jericho.

1. **Slide5** Ancient Jericho had a double wall system. *Retaining wall* 12'–15' high. *1st wall mud brick*, 6' wide, 20'–26' high (total: 32'–41' high). *Upper wall mud brick*, 6' wide, 20'–26' high (total: 32'–41' high).

2. 3/4 acres for poor (1 wall protection). 6 acres inside wealthy. [our campus is 14]

3. **Archaeologist** had a **rule of thumb**, 200 people lived on 1 acre. **So** living in these 10 acres is **about 2000 people**.

4. **Also**, archaeologist say that normally, when a city is besieged the walls are pushed in. In this case, they fell outward/*folded under itself*, which made a ramp to enter.

III. Slide6-8 THE COMMANDS (1-11) READ ALL!

A. (9,13) They blew the horns continually during their march - Reminds me of *Music and Sound Interrogation* techniques - The FBI won't discuss details of its *Music as*

Torture playlist, but the playlist was eclectic, for the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Tx.

1. Tibetan chants, bugle calls, Christmas carols, Nancy Sinatra's "*These Boots Are Made for Walkin*" — and no commercials.
2. In Dec.1989, U.S. soldiers tried to drive noted opera buff **Manuel Noriega** out of the *Vatican Embassy* in **Panama City** with a high-decibel onslaught of *Styx, Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, and Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A."* The plug was pulled after the Vatican complained.

B. **Show** shofars. [rams horn from **Dall sheep**, longer from a **Kudu**]

C. **The Canaanites must have thought:** *Watch out they have a magic box. Who they're giving us the silent treatment. Oh they're armed with horns.*

1. They don't have any battling rams, nor catapults, nor moving towers. **What are they doing?**
2. **God knows** and **gives** military strategies in Scripture. **But** he purposely decides to do it this way **to show them what? That it's NOT them?** That it's not, you!

D. This box, **this Ark of the covenant** - (Ps.80:1; Ps.99:1) *He sits enthroned upon the cherubim*. The Ark is *a sacred article* which symbolized **the very presence of God**.

E. **4 things out a place:**

1. **Priest** were exempt from fighting, here they are leading the charge
2. **The Ark** was not to be brought to battle.
3. If they **March for 7 days**, then one of the days they were breaking the **Sabbath**.

IV. Slide9a **LESSONS LEARNED:**

A. What might be *too hard* for you is *never too hard* for **God**.

1. Jer.32:17 *Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! **Nothing is too hard for you.***

B. **Slide9b Battles** are best fought with **Prayer** and **Faith**.

1. Not typical warfare. *What is that going to do?* (shofar & shout)

a) Same question for us, we might be asking God, *What's that going to do?* (Like when we pray)

b) **But** the message for them (and us) is **to see** *the mighty hand of God*, at work.

2. If God calls you to do His work, He will tell you how to do it. His plans may seem foolish to you, but they always work if you obey by faith.

C. **Slide9c Keep your eyes on the Lord**. (what if **they** focused on *horn blowing, shouting, priest procession?*) [what if **you** focused on *your faith, your situation, or your resources?*]

1. We are not sufficient in and of ourselves, **we need God**. We won't be doing it the exact same way, **but** His **principles** do not change.

D. **Slide9d Worship while you wait**. Faith Celebrates Victory *Before* the Walls Even Fall

1. **Worship before the Victory** **and** you are worshipping about ***the faithfulness of God.***

2. **Worship after the Victory** **and** you are worshipping in ***thankfulness to God.***

3. Paul and Silas, after being thrown in jail for the gospel sake. Prayed and sang hymns to God at midnight. **Before** the prison doors opened.

4. The outcome may not be instant, so keep waiting on the Lord.

V. **Slide10a ETHICAL DILEMMA OF WAR**

A. Understand *the character of God* in the midst of this.

B. **Why does God declare war on the Canaanites?** Is it genocide? **Or** hyperbole? Let's look.¹ There are **3 reasons** given to us earlier in the biblical story:

¹ Bible Project, Joshua.

1. The Canaanites, and become extremely **morally corrupt** (Lev.18). They also widely practiced **child sacrifice** (Deut.12). [so the Canaanites had to **go out** of the land]
2. Did God actually command the destruction of **ALL** the Canaanites, like a genocide? Some of the phrases used: **“totally destroy them”, “they left no survivor” or “anything that breathes”**.
 - a) **But** when you look more closely, these phrases are clearly **hyperbole** not literal. *It was a normal style of writing in that day.*
 - b) Go back to the original command in Deut.7. Israel is first told to **drive out** the Canaanites. **Then** to **totally destroy** them. **Then** that’s followed by **commands not to intermarry** with them, **or enter into business deals** with them.
 - (1) But, you can’t marry someone that you’ve destroyed.
 - c) eg. Joshua 10 it says **they left no survivors in the city of Hebron or Debir**.
 - (1) **Then** in Ch.15 we see the same towns are populated by **Canaanites**. **So**, we see Joshua fits in with other **ancient battle accounts** by using **non-literal hyperbolic language** as part of the narrative style.
 - d) **Also remember**, God was always open to the **foreigners** that would **turn to him**, **like Rahab** the Canaanite, **or** the story of the **Gibeonites**.
3. **We also see, this is a unique moment in history**. It was limited to the people groups living in the land of Canaan.
 - a) With all other nations, Israel was commanded by God to **pursue peace**. Deut.20

C. **Also remember**, in Joshua 2:10-13 **Rahab said**, the Canaanites all knew that the God of Israel was **the God of heaven and earth**.

1. **Some see** God in the NT as **God the Father**. **And some see** the OT God as **the Godfather**. **No**, He’s the same in both testaments.
2. God will exercise mercy when anyone calls upon His name. **But** He just assuredly will judge all those who **thumb their nose at Him**.

3. We are Rahab! Saved by her faith and works.

VI. Slide 10b ARCHEOLOGY

- A. Archaeologists found: Barrels of grain were found in the excavations, showing whoever took down the city didn't touch it. Backing up the story of don't take anything.
1. Also, there is a section that was found burned. (24)
 2. Slide 10c And the Germans in 1907–09 excavated a small portion of the northern wall that had not fallen. Rahab's house? They did go *into* her house to rescue her. (22)

VII. Slide 10d WRAP UP:

- A. (26,27) 500 years later this happened: 1 Kings 16:34 *In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.*
- B. The love of God is like the entire Amazon river flowing down, to water one daisy.
1. i.e. Rahab. And you and me! :)
- C. Keywords: