



The Battle Belongs to the Lord

JOSHUA 5:13 - 6:27



Joshua 5:13 NIV

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

A misty, mountainous landscape with a winding road in the foreground. The scene is hazy, with soft light filtering through the fog. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth. The road is a thin, light-colored line that curves through the valley. The overall tone is serene and atmospheric.

Joshua 5:14a NIV

“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”

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Joshua 5:14a NIV

“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”

Joshua 5:14b-15 NIV

Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” ¹⁵ The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.



Anchor Truths in Joshua

Presence of God

Promise of God

Participation with God



Presence of God

Promise of God

Participation with God

Joshua 6:1-2 NIV

Now **Jericho was tightly shut up** because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. ² Then the LORD said to Joshua, **“See, I have delivered Jericho** into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.”



Joshua 6:1-2 NIV

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Presence of God

Promise of God

Participation with God

Joshua 6:3-5 NIV

“March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in.”

Participation with God

- “Love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you...”
- Forgive even when there’s no guarantee of repentance.
- “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances...”
- Give generously from the first of your income, even before your other expenses.
- Serve the least of these as a means to becoming the greatest of all.
- Lose your life as a way to find it; die to self as a path to God’s greatest reward.

Joshua 6:16-19 NIV

The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷ The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸ But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹ All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.”



Herem

“under the ban”

“destroyed as an offering” NLT
“holy curse” MSG

Joshua 6:21 NIV

They **devoted** the city to the Lord and **destroyed** with the sword every living thing in it — men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.



Why the *Holy Curse* of Canaan?

- Punish Sin
- Purge the Land

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast, misty landscape. In the foreground, a winding dirt road leads through a valley. The middle ground shows rolling hills and valleys, some with patches of green vegetation. The background is dominated by large, rounded mountains that fade into a thick mist or fog, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The overall color palette is muted, with earthy tones of brown, tan, and grey, accented by the soft white of the mist.

Why the *Holy Curse* of Canaan?

- Punish Sin
- Purge the Land
- Provide the Land
- Protect His People

Punish Sin
Purge the Land
Provide the Land
Protect His People

Deuteronomy 9:4-5 NIV

After the Lord your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, “The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.” No, it is **on account of the wickedness of these nations** that the LORD is going to drive them out before you. ⁵ It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, **to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**



At Jericho We See:

Whose battle it really is.

Presence & Promise

Joshua 5:13b-14a NIV

Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”... “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”

Joshua 6:2a NIV

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands...”

At Jericho We See:

Whose battle it really is.
Presence & Promise

How we join God.
Participation

Joshua 6:20 NIV

When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground shows the textured, undulating slopes of sand dunes in shades of tan and brown. In the middle ground, a thin, light-colored road or path winds through the valley between the dunes. The background is a vast, flat expanse of desert stretching to a distant, hazy horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall atmosphere is one of solitude and vastness.

We participate with the promise of
God through faith and obedience.



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Faith is living at the
intersection of promise
and obedience.

- S A M H A N N O N