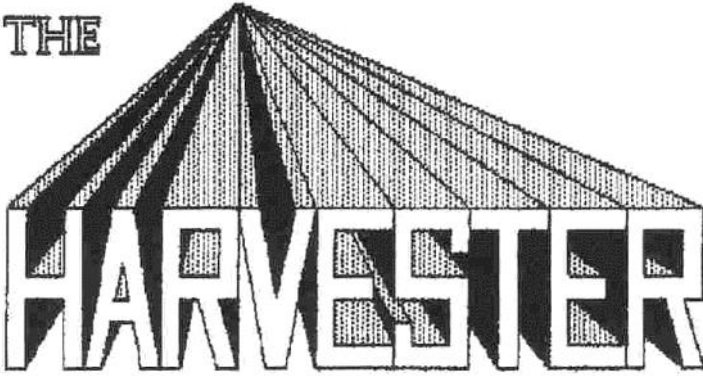


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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THE VICTORY IS WON BUT THE BATTLE MUST STILL BE FOUGHT

God led Joshua to victory over Jericho only after Joshua followed God's exact instructions. Let's look at a parallel of Joshua's steps to victory over Jericho and our steps to victory over sin and the prize of eternal life.

Recognize the Opportunity for Victory

God assured Joshua a victory over Jericho after His instructions were followed.

And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king

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thereof, and the mighty men of valour. (Josh. 6:2)

God assures us of salvation after obedience to His Word.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (Tit. 2:11-13)

Acknowledge God's Ways

Joshua was required to acknowledge God's ways and obey even if he did not completely understand the reasons for God's instructions.

And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. (Josh. 6:3-5)

We today might not understand God's ways but we still must honor and obey them.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? (Rom. 11:33-34)

Exercise Obedient Faith

Joshua was required to perform the instructions given by God exactly in order for the walls of

Jericho to fall, to take the city, and seize the victory.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. And 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 rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. (Josh. 6:12-16)

So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. (Jos. 6:20)

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. (Heb. 11:30)

We today must be obedient to God's word to obtain victory (salvation) through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (Heb. 5:8-9)

Which battle steps could Joshua have omitted and still obtained the victory in taking Jericho? - Day 1,2,3,4,5,6,7?

What commands to obedience could we omit today and still hope to have the victory over sin and have eternal life in Heaven?

Hear the Word

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom. 10:14)

Believe and Have Faith

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb. 11:6)

Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. (Mat. 10:32)

Repent of Our Sins

Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (Acts 17:29-30)

Be Baptized

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

Remain Faithful

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Mat. 24:13)

...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Rev. 2:10)

Keep Marching Until?

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:51-58)

We, just like Joshua, must follow God's instruction exactly, and keep on marching until the trumpet sounds, and then we as well can seize the victory and have eternal life in heaven.

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APOLOGIA

QUESTION: Is There unrighteousness with God?
(Romans 9:14)

ANSWER: Look at the text of Romans 9:13-18.

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. (14) What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God

forbid. (15) For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. (16) So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. (17) For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. (18) Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

These verses serve a beautiful purpose in showing two primary things:

1. God's favor and blessings upon those who will humble themselves and serve Him.
2. God's right to extend His mercy to whom in His righteous will He determines should receive it.

Even before the world began (2 Timothy 1:9, Titus 1:2) God determined to provide redemption for those who would sin, but who would also desire to repent and serve Him faithfully. This provision was to be through His Son's sacrifice upon the cross. In Genesis 12:1-3 God expressed His intent to Abraham, explaining that through him three blessings would arise:

1. Abraham would be the father of a great nation (Israel).
2. This nation would be favored and blessed with a great land possession.
3. Through these people (Abraham's descendants)

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would come a Messiah in Whom *"all families of the earth be blessed."*

Normally the first born inherited the family's line of descent. Abraham's first-born grandson, Esau, proved unworthy (Hebrews 12:16-17). As a consequence, God "hated" Esau and loved Jacob. The word "hated" is not to be understood as we normally do in today's society, but rather he was "loved less." Jacob was chosen instead to carry-on Abraham's line of descent through his children. This is the meaning of Verse 13.

Verse 14 explains that God was not unjust in making this change, but properly did so with the understanding that Esau had rejected his rightful place.

Verse 15 quotes Exodus 33:19. Israel had greatly sinned. During Moses' forty day absence on the mountain where he received the two tables of stone, the people had rejected God and made a "molten calf." But God had disregarded their lack of loyalty and continued to lead them toward the promised land (Exodus 33:1-3). Thus God *"saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion"* (Verse 15). When He could have destroyed these ungrateful people, God instead extended His compassion and mercy. Our God is a merciful and forgiving God, for which we must be ever grateful.

Verse 16 explains that it is not a matter of what we would desire (perhaps for those we love) or what is the desire of the person involved (who may want favoritism), but it is for the Lord to grant mercy, as in His wisdom He knows best.

The situation is noted in Verse 17, where the Israelites remained in bondage by Pharaoh who refused to let them go as God had commanded. In Exodus 9:16 Moses was told by God to tell Pharaoh, *"For this cause have I raised thee up, for*

Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
August 1 - 3	Freefield Stateline, MS	Harry Cobb & Hunter Bulger
August 1 - 3	Willow Oaks Russell Springs, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 8 - 10	Mt. Carmel Road Gay, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 14 - 17	Ashlock Near Celina, TN	Hunter Bulger (Fort Deposit, AL)
August 15 - 17	Dowell Hill Columbus, IN	Donald Thompson (Wedowee, AL)
August 18 - 20	Hopkinsville Hopkinsville, OH	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
August 24 - 29	Fairview Mount Vernon, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
August 29 - 31	Verona Verona, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

to shew in thee My power; and that My name may be declared throughout all the earth." As with other wicked rulers, God's use of them demonstrated His power and glory.

It is then evident by Verse 18 that God was not merciful to Pharaoh who had refused to obey Him, while He was merciful to the Israelites through whom God's Son would eventually come.

Indeed our God is all-knowing and all-wise; wonderful in showing mercy where it is fitting and proper and then permitting those who will be rebellious to so harden their hearts that they will reject His mercy. "Is there unrighteousness with God?" (Verse 14). Absolutely not! There is just judgment, but at the same time unlimited mercy and compassion.

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