

Whose Side Are You On? Siding with the Lord by Faith

Joshua 5-6

I. Introduction

- A. We are entering a new section of Joshua
 - 1. Ch. 1-4 Entering the Land
 - 2. Ch. 5-12 Conquering the Land
- B. But we have not left behind the realities of what God said back in Joshua 1:7, 9

II. Living by Faith: Allegiance to God (Chapter 5)

- A. Scene: God Brings His People in the Land; The Inhabitants Fear (Josh. 4:23-5:1)
- B. The Old Covenant Sign of Allegiance to God: Circumcision (Josh. 5:2-9)
 - 1. What is the reason for circumcision?
 - 2. Why do this now?
- C. The Blessing of Allegiance to God: Passover (Josh. 5:10-12)
 - 1. What is the reason for Passover?
 - 2. The manna ceases: extraordinary and ordinary providence reveal God's sovereign care.
- D. Allegiance to The Commander of the Lord's Army (Josh. 5:13-15)
 - 1. Who is this commander? (cp. To Moses and the burning bush Ex. 3:4-6)
 - 2. Why does this happen here?
- E. Living by Faith is First and Foremost about Relating Rightly to God

III. Living by Faith: Depending on and Obeying the Lord (Chapter 6)

- A. Hearing the Lord's Instructions (Josh. 6:1-5)
- B. Doing the Lord's Commands (Josh. 6:6-25)
- C. "Devoted to Destruction"
 - 1. Preliminary questions:
 - a. **Is this the way war should be carried out generally?**
 - (i) No, even Israel is told that this is only to happen to nations in the land / under certain circumstances (See Deut. 20:10-20)
 - (ii) There is something unique going on here in redemptive history
 - b. **Was this some sort of ethnic cleansing?**
 - (i) No, it is not based on their ethnicity but their rampant evil (see Gen. 15:16, Deut. 9:5)
 - (ii) Israel, too, would face judgment if they rebelled (see Lev. 18:26-29)

2. How should we understand this total destruction/ban?
 - a. **All people are sinful and deserve nothing but judgment** (cp. Gen 6)
 - b. **God is often patient with the wicked, yet they continue storing up wrath and judgment** (Gen. 15:16)
 - c. **God gives the people reasons to repent by showing his power and authority** (Josh 2:9, 11; Josh. 5:1)
 - d. **When a person repents, the Lord relents of his judgment** (see Rahab in Josh. 6:17)
 - e. **God is committed to holiness and justice.** Israel will face judgment if they reject Yahweh too (Lev. 18:26, Josh. 7:1, Is. 10:5-6)
3. What the “ban” points to:
 - a. The “ban” is a precursor, a foretaste, of final judgment
 - b. A foretaste of where history is going
 - (i) God will bring his people into his place, under his rule
 - (ii) And all who continue in rebellion must be judged
4. The gospel offers salvation and warns of judgment (Romans 1:16-18)

D. Joshua 6:26-27 a curse against any that would rebel against God (1 Kings 16:29-34)

IV. What does the conquering of an ancient, fortified city have to do with us?

- A.** Tells Us about God – Our God
 1. He fulfills his promises
 2. He will judge all sin
- B.** Calls Forth Our Faith in God – Allegiance to God and Depending on God

Hebrews 11:30-31 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.*