

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 46 (November 6-12, 2016)

Now that Joshua has led the Israelites over the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, we will look at some of the adventures of the Jews as they move forward to conquer the land.

**Sunday**, November 6 (read Joshua 6:1-5)

*“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.” (Joshua 6:5)*

God promises victory to those who walk with Him daily. The only catch is this: We must walk in total obedience to His Word! That’s why I emphasize the truth that His Word is infallible. If we have doubts that it is true, we will not surrender our wills to His perfect will. In today’s text, Joshua is given specific instructions as to how the victory will be accomplished. The walls around the city are tall and sturdy, and the people stay within those walls because of their fear of the Jews, yet God says that He has already declared victory for His chosen people (v. 1-2). You are probably familiar with His unusual instructions given to Joshua. The commander is not to deviate from them! In the next few devotions, we will see how Joshua does in following God’s orders.

**Monday**, November 7 (read Joshua 6:6-19)

*“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.” (Joshua 6:18)*

Joshua relays God’s instructions to the people and commands the priest to carry the Ark of the Covenant in front of the procession behind the trumpeters (v. 6-7). This symbolizes the Word of God going before us so that we will also gain the victory. The people remain silent as they march around the city each day for six days, so the sound of the trumpets is the only noise that is heard (v. 8-14). On the seventh day, the people march around the city seven times in obedience to the instructions of God (v. 15). This time, however, the people are commanded to shout (v. 16). Joshua tells the people that this victory is for the glory of God alone and not for their personal financial gain (v. 17-19). This will become significant as we continue the story in the following devotions.

**Tuesday**, November 8 (read Joshua 6:20-27)

*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. (Joshua 6:20)*

As far as we will learn from reading today’s text, everything goes according to Joshua’s instructions as dictated by the Lord. The people obey, the wall collapses and the city is devoted to God as a burnt offering (v. 20-21, 23). Joshua fulfills his promise to Rahab, the prostitute, by saving her entire family (v. 22-23, 25). After burning the city, everything of value is placed into the treasury of the Lord (v. 24). Since the city of Jericho has been offered up to God as a firstfruit offering, Joshua pronounces a curse on anyone who attempts to rebuild it (v. 26-27). Unfortunately, during the days of King Ahab, a man named Hiel of Bethel rebuilds the city at the cost of two of his sons according to the curse (see 1 Kings 16:34).

**Wednesday**, November 9 (read Joshua 7:1-5)  
*So the Lord's anger burned against Israel. (Joshua 7:1b)*

Are you aware that your actions have consequences for others? You should have learned that lesson when we studied the life of King David. In this text, Achan disobeys Joshua's command and keeps for himself some of the valuables that are supposed to go into God's treasury (v. 1). Soon after the conquest of Jericho, Joshua sends men to explore the town of Ai (v. 2). The men come back and tell Joshua that two or three thousand soldiers will be able to defeat this minor enemy (v. 3). Ai turns out to be a tougher opponent than they thought and they lose 36 men while being routed by their enemies (v. 4-5). These men are not aware of the sin of Achan, so they are not aware that the Lord is not with them in battle. Because of the sins of one man, the entire nation of Israel loses heart (v. 5b).

**Thursday**, November 10 (read Joshua 7:6-12)  
*"I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction."  
(Joshua 7:12b)*

Not only do the people lose heart, but **Joshua** also goes into mourning, questioning God's decision to have them cross over the Jordan. He reminds the Lord that His reputation is at stake now that they have been humiliated (v. 6-9). God asks his leader (v. 10), "What are you doing down on your face?" God reveals that there is sin in the camp and that He will not go into battle with them until they remove it (v. 12b). What if He says the same words to the leader at your church? What if He appears in your service and declares that there is sin in the camp? How comfortable will you feel as everyone is looking around? Will you use the same words that the disciples said in the Upper Room (Matthew 26:22), "Surely not I, Lord?" Are you ready to give an account for every sinful deed and every idle word? Is there sin in the camp?

**Friday**, November 11 (read Joshua 7:13-18)  
*"You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it." (Joshua 7:13b)*

In today's text, God tells Joshua the procedure for determining the guilty person. Obedience to God's plan is imperative, because the fate of Israel depends on it (v. 13). The Lord will choose the tribe, the family, the clan, and finally, the person as He narrows down the list of suspects (v. 14). The person responsible will be destroyed by fire, reminding us of the fate of those who do not come to faith in Jesus Christ (v. 15). Because of God's presence, the process exposes Achan as the guilty party. Try to imagine how this man feels before we finish his tragic story in tomorrow's devotion. Try to imagine how you would feel if your sins were exposed to the entire congregation.

**Saturday**, November 12 (read Joshua 7:19-26)  
*Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done."  
(Joshua 7:20)*

Were it not for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, all of us would have to stand before a holy God and repeat the words of Achan. I shiver when I think of the eternal consequences for a life of sin. Thanks to Calvary, we who have accepted God's Son as our Savior will never face judgment (see Romans 8:1). Achan confesses his sin and tells Joshua where the forbidden treasures are buried (v. 20-22). Like David and Samson, Achan's sin began with his eyes (v. 21). The entire family of Achan suffers death because of the sins of the father (v. 24-27). This is the opposite of God's beautiful promise in Acts 16:31. What legacy are you leaving for your family?