

**Lecture 10- Joshua: God's Conquest (III)**

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?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"  
Josh 5:13-14

**Key Terms**

Conquest, captain of Yahweh's army, God's faithfulness

**Lecture Objectives**

- Briefly outline the flow of the book of Joshua.
- Describe Joshua's encounter with the captain of Yahweh's army and its significance in the flow of Joshua.
- Describe the theological significance of the fall of Jericho.
- Identify applications of God's behavior (not Joshua's behavior) for the current mission of the church.

**Preliminary Questions**

- If you had to describe in twenty words or less what the book of Joshua was about, how would you do it? If you had twenty more words to describe its place in the development of the scriptural storyline and its application to the people of God today, how would you do it?

**Joshua: God's Conquest (III)****I. Reading Method**

- A. Learn to listen and ask questions
- B. Reflect and explore, using tools
- C. Read holistically

**II. The Broad Sweep of the Book of Joshua**

- A. Conquest (divinely) initiated (chs. 1-6)
- B. Conquest (humanly) mitigated (7:1-10:28)
- C. Conquest (divinely) consummated (10:29-12:24)
- D. Conquest allocated (13-21)
- E. Conquest consecrated (22-24)

**III. Ritual Renewal (Chpt. 5)**

- A. Gilgal-from the Hebrew word "to roll away"
  1. What is "reproach of Egypt"?
    - a. The people dying in the wilderness
    - b. But now, they are in the Promised Land
- B. Joshua encounters captain of Yahweh's armies on holy ground (5:13-14)
  1. "Are you for us or for our enemies?" (v. 13)
  2. "Neither." (NIV) (v. 14)

(NRSV)-"Are you with us or with them?" "Are you ours or theirs?"

What is the theological significance of this exchange?

Is he pointing forward to the inclusion of all nations under Christ? Be careful about reading such a broad-sweeping theological idea into this account.

In the Civil War, Lincoln was asked, “Is God on our side?” He replied, “It is more important for us to be on His side.” Can this be applied here? Joshua, don’t begin to think that this is your work alone.

Is the issue here agendas? Our agenda may be different than God’s agenda.

IV. Walls Fall Because God is Faithful (Chpt. 6)

A. Sometimes what God calls us to do seems crazy at the time.

B. David Livingston- speaks of a legend in Ugaritic culture that he hypothetically links up with the Jericho account. If this is true, God is mocking the gods of the Canaanites.