

## **Joshua 6:1-17 – Dominion by Decree! Dominion by Obedience!**

Calvin, TSK, Trapp, Geneva, JFB, Poole, HebrewLexicon, Gill, Henry, Bezuyen, Delitzsch, Maclaren,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If I decreed 下令 that the CN Tower will fall next Sunday at 4:00PM, you have the right to snicker 暗笑. I have no power to accomplish what I decree. But **when God decrees 谕旨 something**, based on **your knowledge of him and your experience with him**, you can **trust that he will do what he has decreed**. And if God then tells you to do something, in association with what he has decreed, it is easier to **trust him and obey**. That is what you will hear from God today.

Our headings are:

**God Decreed: The Land is Yours**

**God Decreed: Here's how you will get it**

**Man Response: We will Trust and Obey you**

Our goals are: **That knowing Almighty God sovereignly 主权地 decreed the expansion of Christ's kingdom, you can be confident that he will carry out what he decreed and you'll let him use you, his redeemed 蒙救赎 child, to accomplish that!**

**God Decreed: The Land is Yours**

1 Now Jericho was **securely shut up** because of the children of Israel; **none went out, and none came in**.

1. **The people of Jericho securely shut their city gates and kept watch on the walls to make sure no spy sneaked in or out of their city**. Their human security may have fooled the Canaanites into thinking that they were outside the reach of God's justice. They ignored God's power to make bricks into brine and houses into heaps of rubble.

**Job 15:25 For he stretches out his hand against God, And acts defiantly against the Almighty,**

2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor 英勇的战士

2. **Knowing Jericho's tight security might have caused some worries for Israel, Jesus Christ, Israel's General, declared that he had given Canaan into Israel's hands - the land of Canaan, the king, and the mighty giants that Israel had feared.**

**Deuteronomy 1:28** `Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people *are* greater and taller than we; the cities *are* great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."

And the language that Jesus used (like our perfect tense) suggested that the work was already done. So speaking like this would have **encouraged his people's faith** to move forward into battle 争战

The Lord also knew that when his people later spoke of this **prophecy to their children**, it would encourage them and strengthen their faith. Miracles are intended to strengthen the faith of the weak.

## **God Decreed: Here's how you'll get it**

3 "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; **you shall go all around the city once**. This you shall do **six days**. 4 "And seven priests shall bear **seven trumpets of rams' horns** 羊角 before the ark. But the **seventh day** you shall march around the city **seven times**, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the **people shall shout with a great shout**; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall **go up every man straight before him.**"

**1. God then decreed how he was going to give Israel the Land of Canaan. God always ordains the goals and the means to achieve those goals.**

**2. God decreed that Israel (soldiers, priests, and people) march around the city 1X every day for 6 days and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day they had to march around the city 7X.** Seven priests had to have 7 trumpets made out of ram's horns, blowing as they circled the city. There are some peculiar things here.

a. Israel had to march around the city for 6 days and nothing would happen. Why? This was to show that man was ineffective in bringing down the walls. **The number 6, is man's number**. It would take the 7<sup>th</sup> day, (7-God's number) the Sabbath when you gather to hear the Word of God, that God's Words would miraculously 神迹般的 bring down the walls of Jericho. And isn't it the Word of God, and only the Word of God which tears down walls today?

**b. What about the use of 7 ordinary, not-so-loud "ram's horns," as part of the equipment for bringing down the walls of Jericho,** rather than the silver trumpets that were usually used in the tabernacle? The ram's horn was notably blown on the year of jubilee 禧年 when slaves were set free and were no longer dependent on their masters.

**Leviticus 25:8** 'And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. 9 'Then you shall cause the **trumpet of the Jubilee** to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.

So the blowing of the 7 horns **was a Divine declaration of Israel's freedom**. No longer were they subjects of Egypt.

**Numbers 10:9** "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses 欺压 you, then **you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets**, and you will be **remembered before the LORD** your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.

**Surely these 7 ordinary ram's horns trumpet point to the simplicity of the Gospel from God that brings freedom to spiritual slaves.**

**1Corinthians 1:18** For the message of the **cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 25** Because the **foolishness of God** is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**3. God decreed that when they marched around Jericho 7 times, blew their horns, shouted, that all the walls of the city would fall flat to the ground** and the Israelites could march in and take the land he had given to them!

**4. After God acted the covenant people would then occupy Canaan, establish his rule, and then use Canaan as the base for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.** It took a while for it to be done in earnest, but it finally was!

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

### **Man Responds: We will trust and obey you**

6 Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "**Take up the ark** of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." 7 And he said **to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city,** and let him who is **armed advance before the ark** of the LORD."

#### **1. Joshua immediately did what God said and went and spoke to the people.**

Joshua instructed the **soldiers** to lead the march.

He instructed the **priest** to follow the soldiers with the ark of the Lord.

He instructed the **people** to follow the priests.

**Why did they have to carry the ark and carry it in the middle? The Ark** 约柜 represented the Christ, so it was strategically placed in the midst of the people, between the soldiers and the citizenry. This was a teaching lesson to Israel that he was among them. This is why John wrote (John1) that the Jesus came and "tabernacled 会幕" among us.

8 So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and **blew the trumpets**, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. 9 The **armed men went before the priests** who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

**2. Everyone, including the priests and the leaders did what Joshua said.** They marched around the city as the priests made short blasts of the trumpet. They didn't build siege ramps or battering rams. They didn't sharpen their swords. They patiently marched around the city as God said! Brothers and Sisters, in the business of your lives, don't you want everything done yesterday? Who wanted to wait patiently for their electricity to be turned on last month? Who has the patience to wait for CAA to come to jump start a car with a dead battery? This is a firm lesson to **learn to wait patiently** for conversions. Keep using the right methods and wait. God will save when he is good and ready!

10 Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

**3. During their marches around Jericho all the people remained silent.** Can you imagine how hard this would have been? But why would God tell them to be quiet? God's decrees are

accomplished with God's devices. This silence was a reminder that they were in God's presence and who could argue with God? Who could challenge God's ways?

Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD is in His holy temple. **Let all the earth keep silence before Him.**"

Zechariah 2:13 "**Be silent, all flesh,** before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation! 因为他从自己圣洁的居所被激动起来了"

Exodus 14:14 "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall **hold your peace.**"

If you want to have dominion for Christ, **you must listen only to the voice of Christ** ...not the directions of man who "thinks" he knows what is best, but doesn't. If you want dominion for Christ **you have learn to display Christ** 彰显基督. It is not always about constant talking! Actions speak louder than voice.

11 So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp. 12 And **Joshua rose early in the morning**, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. 13 Then 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 rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. 14 And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

**4. Israel then showed their trust in Jehovah by obeying everything everyday as God directed.** Every morning they got up and did exactly as God said. It may have been counter-intuitive 违反直觉 to them, but it was a great **test of trust**. Let this be a reminder to you today that if you want to conquer 统管 the world for Jesus Christ, you must **use the methods God's has established**, and you must be **patient and wait for his timing!**

15 But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. 16 And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!

**5. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day, they woke up extra early and marched around the city 7 times.** And the priest blew loudly and long.

**6. But note what was different on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. The people were commanded to shout with loud shouts.** It was the day of victory and entering into Jericho.

What was God's point of the shout on the 7<sup>th</sup> day? God was teaching his people that the greatest wall of hindrance 障碍 will come down by the **powerful message from our lips**.

2Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Psalms 24:8 *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.*

Exodus 15:3 "The LORD *is* a man of war; The LORD *is* His name."

## **Conclusion:**

The Lord decreed that Canaan was Israel's! He decreed how Israel would get it! Who could stop God decrees from coming true? This decree gave hope and confidence to his people. This encouraged their faith. This gave them the confidence to obey.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: **The Lord has decreed that Christ shall have dominion** over land and sea. **You have been redeemed by his blood.** Let the knowledge of what Christ has promised, and what Christ has done for you, strengthen your faith in him. **Then fight for his dominion** over the earth. You are his soldiers. Faith is what opened up Jericho's walls. Hebrews 11:30 "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days." Yes, Christ shall have dominion over land and sea! **Fight with the Word of God – verbally and through your life and lips.** This is the most potent **最强效** weapon. This is the only potent weapon to bring the world under Christ's dominion.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, the Lord has declared you guilty and you are marking time on this earth waiting for hell. But with life, there is hope. Your hope, your only hope, is that God counts his Son's death as your death so you can be saved. Will you call on the Father today to ask him to free you from your condemnation? And will you then serve him as his child? His yoke **轭** is easy and his burden light.