

Finishing the Job

Joshua (text vs. ,)

Dr. Bob Jones Sr., founder of Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, used to exhort the students, "Finish the job!" God gave Joshua a job to do, and here in Joshua : we read, "...so did Joshua; HE LEFT NOTHING UNDONE of all that the Lord commanded Moses."

➡ Joshua's strategy was to split the land in two, then move into the south (Joshua). Now the northern kings come together (Joshua).

I. The ENEMY OPPOSITION (vs. -). The enemy coalition.

- A huge army was formed by Jabin, King of Hazor. Hazor was the largest city-state and fortress north of the Sea of Galilee. Jabin was the most powerful king throughout northern Canaan.

A. The HEARING of the enemy (v.).

- All men are given an opportunity to repent. Rahab heard and sided with Israel... The Gibeonites heard and sided with Israel.

B. The HOSTS of the enemy (v.).

- . This is the greatest opposition Israel has faced. The Jewish historian Josephus says that the northern coalition of armies numbered , infantry, , cavalry, and , chariots.
- . The battles get bigger and tougher as you progress in the Christian life.
 - The first battle was relatively easy (Jericho).
 - From then on, the battles get increasingly more difficult.
 - The battle in the north was the hardest yet.
 - There were no miracles like at Jericho and Gibeon.
- . Proverbs : — *"Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished."*

II. The ENCOURAGING OATH (v.).

- Things didn't look promising for Joshua. Therefore, God countered the enemies' appearance with a word of encouragement.
- God still encourages His people through the testimonies of God's people, the preaching and teaching of God's Word, and the personal devotions of

the individual believer. However, many miss out on the encouragement because they do not avail themselves to it.

● **Two-Fold exhortation to Joshua** (a promise and a precept):

- A. The PROMISE— *“Be not afraid because of them: for to-morrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel...”* A promise to be fulfilled within hours.
- God’s enemies are not as strong as they appear, and God’s people are not as helpless as they often think!
- B. The PRECEPT— *“...thou shalt hock their horses, and burn their chariots with fire.”* (cf. v.). Two reasons for this:
- The horses of the Canaanites were involved in acts of bestiality and God commanded them to be destroyed (see Lev. : - cf. : -).
 - Also, Israel was not allowed to have a calvary lest they trust them instead of God (read Dt. : ; Isa. : - ; Ps. :).

III. The EFFECTIVE OFFENSIVE (vs. -).

- A. The STRATEGY— Surprise attack (v.). Israel didn’t wait to be attacked. They took the offensive.
- We must be swift to grasp opportunities as they present themselves.
- B. The SUPERNATURAL (v.). God was helping in the battle.
- God delivered without performing any obvious miracles. Israel still had to use the sword (vs. -), as God assisted at their side. **God’s help can come in very ordinary and common ways.** God is not limited to miracles in helping His people.
 - This is seen in the ministry of John the Baptist (John : -). The message is more important than miracles.

IV. The EXACTING OBEDIENCE (vs. -). Joshua was THOROUGH (v.).

- A. The SPOILS of the cities (vs. -).
- Not all cities were to be destroyed (vs. -). Some were left “in tack” for the children of Israel to possess according to God’s promise (cf. Dt. : -). When God makes a promise, He will fulfill it!
 - Proverbs : — *“The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.”*
- B. The SUCCESS of Joshua (v.).

- Bob Jones Sr. would say, “Success is knowing the will of God and doing it.” True success is only in complete obedience to God’s directives.
 - Joshua gained control of the promised land, but it was the task of the individual tribes to conquer the smaller towns scattered throughout the territory they were to inherit (cp. Joshua 1 : 1 ; 2 : 1 ; 3 : 1).
 - The VALLEY—Valley experiences of life: Speaks of the challenge to overcome trials, troubles, and disappointments.
 - The PLAIN—Challenge of living victoriously in the ordinary experiences of life. The hum-drum easy levels. It is easy to backslide here.
 - The MOUNTAINS— Challenge of doing great things for God. Never be satisfied with being average or living a mediocre existence. Attempt great things for God.
- C. The STEADFASTNESS in the conflict (v. 14).
- It is estimated that the total time in conquering the land was 7 - 8 years (cf. Joshua 1 : 11 , 12).
 - Some sins take longer to defeat than other sins.
 - The lesson is one of being steadfast (1 Cor. 13 : 12). **Accomplishing great things for God requires two things:**
 - Patience. We don’t accomplish great things for God overnight.
 - Faithfulness: God wants us to be faithful until the job is done.

SUMMATION (vs. 15 - 17): The world will rest from war when Jesus comes to rule and reign (Isa. 2 : 4).