

ISRAEL'S FAITH (PART II): A CONQUERING FAITH HEBREWS 11:30

Introduction

The faith of Israel was a conquering faith. This was the kind of faith Israel needed in conquering Jericho — a faith that God could give victory over insurmountable forces (cp. Exo. 14: 1f). This is also the kind of faith that any person needs — a conquering faith. We need a faith that God will give us victory over the insurmountable forces of life no matter what the forces are, even the force of death.

I. *Hebrews 11:30 A Conquering Faith*

Israel's faith was a conquering faith. This is the story of Joshua leading the people of Israel against Jericho (Josh 6:1-20). The fall of the walls of Jericho is a well-known story. Jericho was a fortress, completely surrounded by a wall and apparently manned by a strong people. How was Israel to take the city? Humanly speaking, the task was utterly impossible. Their only hope was God, and God was willing to give them victory over their enemies. It was just a matter of whether or not they would believe and trust God for victory. God issued His command:

- => The people were to march around the walls of Jericho once a day for six days.
- => Seven priests were to lead the march with the ark of the covenant following and then the people following it.
- => The march was to be in total silence for six days.
- => On the seventh day, the people were to march around the city seven times. After the seventh march, the priests were to blow seven trumpets and the people were to shout as loud as they could.

God said that if the people did this — believed His instructions and His promise — the walls of Jericho would fall down. Of course most of the citizens of Jericho would be on top of the wall because of the change of events on the seventh day, expecting this to be the day that Israel was going to attack.

The point to see is the strong faith in God and in His instructions and promise. The people clearly trusted God to conquer their enemies for them. And He did. He conquered the enemies because the people believed His instructions and promise.

Thought 1. God will conquer the enemies of any person if the person will just believe the instructions and promise of God. The instruction may seem unreasonable and appear foolish to the world. What Israel did must have seemed very foolish to the

citizens of Jericho. But if a person will go ahead and do what God says, God will conquer his enemies even as He did for Jericho.

Rom 8:31-39 *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2 Cor 2:14 *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.*

Heb 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

1 John 5:4-5 *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Psa 44:5 *Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.*

Rom 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

1 Cor 10:13 *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Rev 3:21 *To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. ■*