

## Joshua 3-5:12 - A strange war



### Personal Preparation - before your meet...

Read through Joshua 5:13-6:27 and see if you agree with the following break up.

Setting: 5:13-15

Issue: 6:1

Tension: 6:2-19

Climax: 6:20-21

Resolution: 6:22-27

What elements do you see introduced and repeated that lead to the climax of the story?

What elements of the story didn't you understand?

The first step in Israel's conquest of the land isn't quite how they pictured it happening I imagine. This passage is a little bit like a jig-saw puzzle. There are a few ideas put forward, and what we need to be able to work out is how we put them together to form one picture. Let's start off by reading the passage.

### Read Joshua 5:13-6:27

1. What did you learn, or what questions did you have when you did the Personal Preparation during the week?

Keep in mind as you read Biblical Narrative, that it's put together very particularly. The symbolism is intentional, the way in which the story is told is intentional, and (especially with Joshua) there are often allusions as to what has come before, or major biblical themes. The question we're going to ask and discuss this week is this, "What would Israel have learnt or been reminded about God & their conquest through these events?".

2. So, let's look at the three key areas of this story and see what we can learn.

Jericho (See 5:13-15; 6:1, 17-21, 26)<sup>7</sup>

Conquest (See 6:2-16, 20-20)

Rahab (See 6:17, 22-25)

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<sup>7</sup> Might help to look read Leviticus 27:28-29 and Deuteronomy 13:12-18

3. What does this story communicate to us about about God bringing Israel into His "rest"?<sup>8</sup>

4. If Jericho is the "paradigm" for how God is going to bring Israel into rest, who is going to be able to claim credit?

It seems that Israel were intended to see something very clearly in their antics in regards to Jericho. But even while it was clear who's work it was to bring Israel into the promised land, there was always the problem of staying there. And with Israel's track record, and from what we read following the book of Joshua, keeping the covenant (Deuteronomy 29-30) so as to stay in the land was going to be a difficult prospect.

What was needed was for God to make a covenant with people where he fulfilled both sides. So that people could enter a relationship with Him by grace (as with Israel)...and stay in that relationship by grace.

**Read Hebrews 8:1-13 and 9:11-15.**

5. Just one question - what does this passages say are the differences between the old covenant and the new covenant, and what does that mean for us?

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<sup>8</sup> i.e. What that rest is supposed to look like, how God will do it, what God wants the land to look like, what God requires of Israel in the process...