

# JOSHUA

## HOW TO FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES

By Rev. Dr. Jerry Schmoyer [jerry@schmoyer.net](mailto:jerry@schmoyer.net)

<http://www.mainstreetbaptist.org/> - <http://india.mainstreetbaptist.org/>

Main idea: fighting for victory in life

Magic: Samson pad – power in Jesus, not us

### INTRODUCTION

THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN once who thought it would be great to be a soldier when became a man war going on near his home, joined local army thought it would be great: prestige, glory, travel, spoils of victory, etc before long, though, changed his mind - enemies trying to kill him!

### True of GOD'S PEOPLE, too

commit to follow God, live for Him

surprised when find in a battle!

Salvation = joining God's army

Salvation doesn't mean life fine, smooth

-doesn't end the battle, really just starts it!

-In effect switching sides in conflict - Satan/world/flesh not let go easily

-find self in middle of war don't like, understand, want

### TRUE OF JOSHUA'S TIM AS WELL

IN HIS DAY it was the Egyptians, Cananaites, etc.

IN YOUR DAY still battling, but different enemies

### FORCES ATTACKING GOD'S PEOPLE:

Satan - prince of this world, attacks God's kingdom

Flesh - sin nature, tendency to be selfish, prideful,

World - values and priorities of world system

Weapons used against me: swords, spears, arrows

Weapons against you different:

Greed      Selfishness    Fear    Lust    Pride

GOOD NEWS: we don't fight alone

We don't fight in our own strength

*THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD!*

### TRANSITION:

What they went through physically is a picture of what you go thru spiritually

let me try and explain it all to you ...

OT physical events to teach us spiritual truths

I Cor 10:11; Romans 15:4

START of the war between God and Satan was in EDEN

Continued from then on - Genesis 3:15

Since Satan can't hit God easily, hits God's people  
OT times: against Jews (anti-Semitism)  
NT times: against Christians

## **REVIEW SO FAR**

Battle started in Genesis 2!

## **CONTINUATION: SPIRITUAL WARFARE SO GROW**

# **I. INTO THE LAND 1-12**

## **A. CLAIMING THE LAND 1-5**

### **1. JOSHUA COMMISSIONED 1**

**NEW LEADER** - Joshua - 80 years old

MOSES HARD ACT TO FOLLOW!

Ex thru Deut - #1 leader

Ever follow very great, effecient leader? Esp if you are more ordinary, quiet man

**SLAVE** in Egypt Joshua = Jehovah is Salvation

Same as Jesus in Greek

**SOLDIER** perhaps in Egypt, where got to know Moses

**SERVANT** Moses' assistant, helper, since in Egypt

1 or 12 spies into land – only he & Caleb faithful

Tried to kill them and Moses

Had been wandering last 40 wasted years!

**PROMISES FROM GOD** given Joshua

## **TRANSITION**

Important to understand how they went from defeat and wandering to victory in the land  
apply to your life, too

### **2. JERICHO CONVASSED 2**

#### **1. PREPARATION IS A MUST**

True in football, basketball, etc

**Don't be surprised when attacked, when battles rage in life – prepare ahead**

PEOPLE 3 days to prepare selves, things to enter land

2 SPIES into Jericho to gather information, prepare army with intelligence

NOT lack of faith

BUT common sense

**LEARN ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE so prepared**

### **3. JORDAN CROSSED 3-4**

#### **2. STEP OUT IN FAITH**

FLOOD STAGE, 12' DEEP UP TO ½ MILE WIDE  
Follow ark through (Follow God's Presence into Pr Land)  
RED SEA: God parted waters while people watched  
JORDAN: step into water, as foot hits water opens and cross  
**As mature God expects more of our faith!**

**WET FEET CONCEPT – what stands in way of your being in center of God's perfect will?  
That's your Jordan to cross!  
Step in faith first!**

#### **3. FOLLOW AFTER GOD**

ARK goes first, must follow His leading and direction carefully  
**Follow God through difficulties, etc.**

#### **4. REMEMBER PAST VICTORIES**

Pile of rocks on other side  
**WAY TO REMEMBER God's deliverances, etc.**

### **4. JEWS CIRCUMCIZED 5**

#### **5. CONSECRATION COMES FIRST**

SET APART FOR God 100%

JEWS: circumcision  
Passover

**US: Discipleship after salvation  
Turn from all sin, set aside flesh  
Commit to battle in power of Jesus, blood shed**

#### **TRANSITION**

Battle strategy in 3 stages: conquer through middle to divide  
Then fight southern nations  
Finally fight northern nations  
British Field Marshal Edmund H Allenby did same in WW I

## B. CONQUERING THE LAND 6-12

### 1. CENTRAL CAMPAIGN 6-8

#### 6. SEEK GOD'S BATTLE PLAN

Humanly impossible to defeat Jericho, only through God  
Joshua got alone with God to pray, listen

– **spend time seeking God's guidance, listen!**

Discovered he wasn't alone – **WE are never alone**

Discovered he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command

- **we aren't in command, Jesus is commander**

Discovered he had already won the battle

– **our battles are already won!**

Now had to go fight it as Jesus directed and would win!

- **we must fight them!**

God's directions may seem very strange

– march around city 7 days, 7x 7<sup>th</sup> day, walls fall!

#### 7. FOLLOWING JESUS BRINGS VICTORY

Walked 1x day for 7 days, on 7<sup>th</sup> day shouted, walls fell outward, all killed but no Jews died

**Fight in total obedience to God and His plans**

**Be patient, do it His way, no matter how strange**

**Persevere until HE gives the victory – never quit**

**Don't get ahead of His plan**

**God keeps His promises!**

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

#### 8. SMALL SINS BRING LARGE CONSEQUENCES

Ai attacked next, small outpost

Joshua not seek God, people not pray, seemed like easy for them on own

Defeated – 36 men killed!

Achan had kept some money & materials for self, hid in tent – **no little sin to God**

Consequence of sin on all – **our sin affects others**

Achan and family killed, sin removed

– **quickly confess, remove any & all sin**

Then clear victory, Ai destroyed

– **after confession God gives victory**

#### TRANSITION

Having split the country, now easier to attack south then north, south first

## 2. SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN 9-10

### 9. NEVER ACT IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH

Gibeonites came to make surrender as slaves so not killed  
as God commanded  
Deceived Joshua and Jews into thinking they came from far  
away but didn't  
Joshua and leaders thought could handle this without going  
to God but were deceived  
Make treaty to protect those called to destroy!

**Satan very deception – us no match**  
**Unless always totally listening to God make mistakes**  
**Think, plan, own strength without God = disaster!**

### 10. GOD STOPS AT NOTHING TO BRING VICTORY

Other nations in south come together, attack Gibeonites because treaty with Israel  
Jews had to go help defend them, fight for them  
God used it for good – opportunity to defeat so nations  
God sends hail down to kill and destroy southern nations –  
can't fight against God!  
Jews winning battle but many escape in dark of night  
Joshua prays for sun to stop in sky so can round up all and  
none escape – it does!

**No matter what is necessary, God will bring us victory**  
**We don't see the battle in the heavens**

#### TRANSITION

After south defeated, then attacked northern nations

## 3. NORTHERN CAMPAIGN 11a

### 11. PERSEVERE UNTIL VICTORY IS COMPLETE

Other nations in south come together,  
attack Gibeonites because treaty with Israel  
More time to gather  
Some cities 50x as large as Jericho  
Giants that sacred them away 40 years earlier in this group  
**Fighting gets harder, not easier, as time goes on**  
**Stretching faith muscles as battles get harder**  
**Each battle fought a bit differently, no 2 exactly alike**

CALEB great example in patient endurance whole life  
Asked for land with the giants  
– defeated them when nation afraid to before  
**Believed God's promises, key to victory**

## 4. SUMMARY 11b-12

### 12. THE BATTLES NEVER END

Warned there will be battles in future as long as in land  
Jews today still battling enemies in land of Palestine  
Battles go in cycles, time to refresh, grow, get stronger

**We will have battles as long as we live on this earth**  
**But we will have God's help as well**  
**Stay strong, skillful in warfare**  
**Stay alert, always watching for attacks**

#### TRANSITION

INTO the land complete Joshua 1-12

IN the land now covered 13-24

Conquered, now must settle, claim, grow in the land  
God wins our battles so we can live for Him

## II. IN THE LAND 13-24

### A. COLONIZING THE LAND 13-21

1. 2 ½ TRIBES (EAST OF JORDAN) 13
2. CALEB 14
3. 9 ½ TRIBES (WEST OF JORDAN) 15-19
4. LEVI 20-21

### B. CONSECRATE LAND 22-24

1. SANCTIFICATION 22
2. SEPARATION 23
3. SERVICE 24

Served God through Joshua's whole life  
JOSHUA; CONQUEST – battles in the time of Joshua  
LIFE IS A BATTLE FOR US  
In each case THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

***Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."***

## **1. PREPARATION IS A MUST**

Daily time with Him, read, pray, worship, sp warf

## **2. STEP OUT IN FAITH**

Don't let FEAR of people, failure, pain keep you

## **3. FOLLOW AFTER GOD**

Taking your life in a direction you aren't sure

## **4. REMEMBER PAST VICTORIES**

Not enough money for bills, working

## **5. CONSECRATION COMES FIRST**

Commit life to Him: salvation, Discipleship, bapt

## **6. SEEK GOD'S BATTLE PLAN**

Watch decisions, things you think you can do without God's help

Financial investments, job moves, new rel

## **7. FOLLOWING JESUS BRINGS VICTORY**

Get advice from others, but only Godly believers

Make sure lines up with God's Word

## **8. SMALL SINS BRING LARGE CONSEQUENCES**

'Little' sins of attitude, thoughts allow in own

## **9. NEVER ACT IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH**

Lust (food, sex, materialism) can't defeat on own, ask for, rely on Him

## **10. GOD STOPS AT NOTHING TO BRING VICTORY**

Miracles done for you in past

Doesn't remove obstacle - have to fight

Gives us strength to keep fighting until victory

## **11. PERSEVERE UNTIL VICTORY IS COMPLETE**

Don't quit, slow down,- keep fighting!

Weary with problem relationship at work family

Tired of struggling with same sin

Give up praying for person God put on heart

## **12. THE BATTLES NEVER END**

See as opportunity to trust God, see His del

Watch His deliverance, His victory in your life

## **CONCLUSION**

Power in Jesus., not us (give examples)