

Conquest of Canaan – The Destruction of Jericho Josh. 6:1-27

Thesis: To remind us of the fact that God always keeps His promises.

Introduction:

In Joshua 6, we see at least three promises of God that are either made or fulfilled. We can see these same promises (in a different manner) today.

I. The promise to conquer.

- A. Notice the following passages.
 1. **6:1-5** – The promise is made and the command is given on exactly how to destroy Jericho.
 2. **6:6-14** – Israel obeys the command of the Lord.
 3. **6:15-21, 24** – The fulfillment of the promise to conquer Jericho.
- B. God had promised that Canaan would be conquered, and Jericho was the first city that was conquered by Israel.
 1. This city was going to provide the encouragement that Israel needed to continue destroying the cities of Canaan as they were commanded.
 2. This city would be a lasting impression for all of Israel.
- C. Today, we have God's promise to conquer.
 1. **Rom. 8:31-39** (**esp. v. 37**)
 - a. Some use this passage to say that because of the love of God, we can never be lost eternally.
 - b. However, this is not what the passage is saying.
 - c. The term “conquerors” in **Rom. 8:37** literally means “to gain a decisive victory” (Strong's).
 2. We must abide in that love.
 - a. **Jn. 15:9-10** - **As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. { 10 } If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.**
 - b. **I Jn. 3:17** - **But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?**
 3. When we abide in the love of God, “**we are more than conquerors through**” Christ because we have “gained the decisive victory” of heaven.

II. The promise to deliver (6:17, 22-25).

- A. The promise of deliverance was given to Rahab.
 - 1. **Josh. 2:12-13** (Rahab begs the spies to promise to deliver her and her family) - Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, {13} and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.
 - 2. The men agree to this, provided that Rahab hangs the scarlet cord in the window when Israel comes to take the land.
 - 3. This promised if fulfilled in Joshua 6.
 - a. **Josh. 6:17** (Joshua speaking to the people) - Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.
 - b. **Josh. 6:22-23** - But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." {23} And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.
 - c. **Josh. 6:25** - And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.
- B. God has also given us the promise of deliverance in many ways.
 - 1. God will deliver us from temptation
 - a. **II Pet. 2:4-9** - For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; {5} and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; {6} and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; {7} and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked {8} (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—{9} then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,
 - b. **I Cor. 10:13** - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

2. God will deliver us from evil.
 - a. **Gal. 1:4-5** - who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, {5} to whom be glory forever and ever.
 - b. **Col. 1:13-14** - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, {14} in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
3. God will deliver us from death.
 - a. **Heb. 2:14-16** - Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, {15} and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. {16} For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.
 - b. **I Cor. 15:54-57** - So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." {55} "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" {56} The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. {57} But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. God will deliver us from hell.
 - a. **I Thes. 1:10** - and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

III. The promise to punish.

- A. There are two curses that are pronounced by Joshua.
 1. The accursed things (6:18)
 - a. The “accursed things” were simply those things that they were not supposed to take for themselves.
 - b. Because this was the first city that Israel destroyed, they were to give all of its treasures to the Lord.
 - 1) Concerning the accursed things of Jericho, everything was to either be destroyed or taken into the treasury of the Lord (6:18-19, 24).
 - 2) After the destruction of Jericho, anything that was captured was free for the people to take whatever they wanted (8:2).
 - c. We see this promise fulfilled in Josh. 7, when we read that Achan had taken of the accursed things.
 2. The one who rebuilds Jericho (6:26)
 - a. I Kgs. 16:34 (fulfillment of this promise) - In his (Ahab, king of Israel) days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.
 - b. According to Matthew Henry’s Commentary of I Kings, this was over 500 years after Joshua pronounced this curse.
- B. Today, God makes us a promise that He is going to punish those who disobey.
 1. Rom. 2:6-9 - who "will render to each one according to his deeds": {7} eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; {8} but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and wrath, {9} tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;
 2. II Thes. 1:8-10 - in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, {10} when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.
 3. God is going to fulfill this promise on the Day of Judgment.

Conclusion:

God is going to fulfill the promises that He makes to us.

Just as He fulfilled His promises in Josh. 6, He is going to fulfill His promises today.

- I. Conquer
- II. Deliver
- III. Punish