

# FAITH IN THE MOVE OF GOD

## PREAMBLE

"God is on the Move" continues to be the overarching theme of our February 2016 series of studies, based on the book of Joshua. Joshua, one of the only two surviving remnants from the desert generation, continues to lead the Israelites under the guidance of the LORD. However, there are ups and downs on the way for Joshua and his nation and, wrapped in the narrative, are lessons to draw us closer to God.

STUDY ONE

WEEK OF 31<sup>ST</sup> JAN

## WHEN THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN

### **Introduction:**

Faith in the move of God produces obedience. That kind of obedience brings victory. God's instructions may not appear reasonable but following Him gives the right kind of results.

**Read: Joshua 6:1-27**

**Observation:** (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. Why would no one go in or out of Jericho?
2. What did the Lord say He had delivered into Joshua's hands?
3. Who were to march around the city of Jericho?
4. How many times in total, were they to march around the city?
5. In what order were they to march around the city?
6. What was to happen on the seventh day?
7. Who was to be spared in the destruction of Jericho?
8. What would happen if the Israelites did not avoid devoted things?
9. What was sacred to the LORD?

10. What was the specific assignment for the two spies?

11. What would happen to any person who undertakes to rebuild Jericho?

**Interpretation:** (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

12. What can you find out about Jericho?

13. How does this passage demonstrate the centrality of trusting and obeying God?

14. How does it demonstrate the importance of obeying those in authority over us?

**Application:**

15. How much do you reason before you obey God and those in authority?

**Memory Verse:**

**Joshua 6:20**

*"When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city."*

**(NIV)**

**Joshua 6:20**

## THE OPEN SECRET

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Joshua 6:20]

### **Introduction:**

It is written, "...you may be sure that your sin will find you out" (Nu. 32:23). Many are lives which have been destroyed because of secret sins. Many are the homes and marriages which have been destroyed because of secret sins. Many are the relationships and fellowships which have ended because of secret sins. God wants these dealt with.

**Read: Joshua 7:1-26**

**Observation:** (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. Why did the LORD's anger burn against Israel?
2. Why did Joshua send men to Ai?
3. What report did the spies bring back to Joshua?
4. How did Joshua respond to the report?
5. What was the outcome of the Israeli invasion of Ai?
6. How did it affect Joshua and the people of Israel?
7. What did God reveal to Joshua about the defeat the Israelites had suffered?
8. What instructions did the LORD give to Joshua?
9. How was Achan discovered as the culprit?
10. How expensive was Achan's sin?

**Interpretation:** (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

11. How appropriate is the title of this study?
12. How successfully can one hide his sin?
13. Why would the sin of an individual affect the whole nation?
14. What is your understanding of verse 12?

**Application:**

15. Please share examples where you think the sin of an individual or a few people has affected many?

**Memory Verse:**

**Joshua 7:12**

*"That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction."*

**(NIV)**

**Joshua 7:12**

**RESTORED, RENEWED**

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Joshua 7:12]

**Introduction:**

With drastic steps of dealing with sin, Israel is restored to God and experiences renewal of their fortune. They had gone alone; now God is accompanying them.

**Read: Joshua 8:1-35**

**Observation:** (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. In what state of mind was Joshua when the LORD spoke to him?
2. Why did the LORD instruct Joshua to take the whole army and attack Ai?
3. How different were the LORD's instructions concerning Ai different from those He had given concerning Jericho?
4. What was Joshua's strategy to defeat Ai?
5. Why did the LORD ask Joshua to hold his javelin toward Ai?
6. How much loss did Ai suffer at the hands of the Israelites?
7. What happened to the king of Ai?
8. Why did Joshua build an altar on Mount Ebal?
9. What else did Joshua do in the presence of the Israelites?
10. How inclusive was the ceremony at Mount Ebal?

**Interpretation:** (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

11. How does this passage demonstrate that the battle belongs to the LORD?
12. How do this and the previous chapter demonstrate the importance of obedience in restoration and renewal?
13. Why did Joshua copy and read out the Book of the Law?

**Application:**

14. Do you have a testimony of restoration and renewal in your life or church? Explain.

**Memory Verse:**

**Joshua 8:30**

*"Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel."*

**(NIV)**

**Joshua 8:30**

**DISCERNING THE MIND OF GOD**

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Revelation Joshua 8:30]

**Introduction:**

Not only is there a danger of God moving and leaving us behind, there is also the danger of moving ahead of God. In our human wisdom we sometimes make decisions which we later regret because we did not seek the Lord first.

**Read: Joshua 9:1-27**

**Observation:** (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. Who came together to make war against Joshua and Israel?
2. What caused the people of Gibeon to resort to a ruse?
3. How did the Gibeonites convince the Israelites that they were from a distant country?
4. What did the Israelites and Joshua fail to do in their investigation?
5. How did Joshua and the leaders of the assembly fall for the lie of the Gibeonites?
6. What happened three days after making the treaty?
7. Why did the Israelites not attack the Gibeonites when the truth was established?
8. What curse did Joshua put over the Gibeonites?

**Interpretation:** (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

9. In the Gibeonite case, what do you think happened to the Joshua that used to consult God, spy or send out spies before reaching major decisions?
10. Why did Joshua and the Israelites find it necessary to enter a treaty with a distant country?
11. Why did the LORD not alert them to the deception?

**Application:**

12. Have you ever gone ahead of God? Explain.

**Memory Verse:****Joshua 9:14**

*"The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord."*

**(NIV)****Joshua 9:14**