

Devotional from Pastor Ho
July 2, 2020

Joshua 6:3, *“You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days.”*

This verse is part of a well-known event at the heels of the Great Exodus. God had brought his people out of the land of Egypt, and now this God was bringing his people into the land he had promised their ancestors to give to them. Jericho was the first city the people were supposed to conquer right after they cross over the Jordan river.

The conquest of Jericho looks more like a worship ritual than a military strategy. For sure, men of war were involved, but so were the priests with trumpets and the ark of the Lord. That this verse is part of God’s instruction for Joshua to lead the people of Israel to take over the city God has given into his hand is evidence that God was in control over the whole conquest.

There was no bloodshed in the conquest, other than those devoted to destruction, because this was more a battle of the Lord than of the people. The trumpet served as a declaration of God’s kingship claim over the land. Paul elaborates on this imagery when he exhorts us to put on the whole armor of God, “for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph 6:12). As if something is lacking after all the weaponries are mentioned, he tops them off with prayer – at all times, in the Spirit, for all the saints.

What a timely thought for our prayer walk tomorrow! As we step out into the open, we do well to remind ourselves that we are following God’s lead to fight the battle. We are claiming the territories he has given into our hand, and we do it in accordance with his instructions. As a result, we may join Paul in praise, “But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere” (2 Cor 2:14). May his name be feared by all who have breath!

Prayer: O Lord, may the nations fear you, beginning from your own people! Help us make every step in the honor of your name. Amen.

何牧師的靈修

2020年7月2日

約書亞記 6 篇 3 節：“你們的一切兵丁要圍繞這城，一日圍繞一次，六日都要這樣行。”

這節經文是出埃及之後耳熟能詳的事件的一個環節。神已把祂的子民帶出埃及，現在，這位神正把祂的子民帶入祂應許給他們祖先要賜給他們的地。耶利哥是他們跨越約旦河後第一個要征服的城市。

征服耶利哥看起來比較像是一種崇拜儀式，而不是軍事戰略。當然，其中有兵丁的參與，但更有帶著號角的祭司，和主的約櫃在其中。這節經文是神指示約書亞帶領以色列人民去佔領神已交到他手中的城市的部分情節，表明了神掌握控制整個征戰。

除了那些被定為當滅之物以外，征戰中沒有流血事件，因為這是神的爭戰而不是人的爭戰。號角的作用在於宣告神對那地的王權。當保羅勸誡我們穿戴神所賜的全副軍裝，他也闡述這幅畫像，“因我們並不是與屬血氣的爭戰，乃是與那些執政的、掌權的、管轄這幽暗世界的，以及天空屬靈氣的惡魔爭戰”（以弗所書 6:12）。但似乎在提到所有武器之後還缺少什麼，他以禱告來結束——是靠著聖靈，隨時多方，為眾聖徒的禱告。

這對我們明天的步行禱告來說是多麼及時的思想！當我們踏入公開場合時，我們得提醒自己，我們正在遵循神的帶領而爭戰。我們正在爭取他已經交在我們手中的領土，並且我們是按照他的指示來做。結果我們可以和保羅一起稱頌，“感謝神！常帥領我們在基督裡誇勝，並藉著我們在各處顯揚那因認識基督而有的香氣”（歌林多後書 2:14）。願凡有氣息的都敬畏他！

禱告：主啊，願萬國都敬畏你，從你自己的子民開始。求你讓我們所跨出的每一步都尊你的名為聖。阿門。

何牧师的灵修

2020年7月2日

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这对我们明天的步行祷告来说是多么及时的思想！当我们踏入公开场合时，我们得提醒自己，我们正在遵循神的带领而争战。我们正在争取他已经交在我们手中的领土，并且我们是按照他的指示来做。结果我们可以和保罗一起称颂，“感谢神！常帅领我们在基督里夸胜，并借着我们在各处显扬那因认识基督而有的香气”（歌林多后书 2:14）。愿凡有气息的都敬畏他！

祷告：主啊，愿万国都敬畏你，从你自己的子民开始。求你让我们所跨出的每一步都尊你的名为圣。阿门。