

SESSION 25: JOSHUA - LESSONS FROM THE CONQUEST

A. Important facts about the conquest.

1. Total time - about 7 years.
2. The conquest involves 3 primary campaigns
 - a. *Central Canaan - Jericho- Ai*
 - b. *The Southern Confederation.*
 - c. *The Northern Confederation*
3. The conquest dealt with the main strongholds of opposition.
 - a. *Completion of the conquest was left to the individual tribes after the division of the land.*

B. Some key lessons from the conquest.

1. **Man with the Drawn Sword (Lesson 1).**
Joshua 5:13-15
 - a. Joshua is contemplating the next move.
 - b. Lord appears to him in the form of a soldier.
 - c. Joshua "Are you for us or for our enemies?"
 - d. God's answer. "No"
 - i. *I am not on anyone's side.*
 - ii. *I am the captain of the hosts of the Lord.*
 - iii. *Issue is whether or not Joshua is on the Lord's side.*
2. **Man with the Drawn Sword (Lesson 2)**

- a. The Lord will reveal Himself to you exactly the way you need to do the will of God.
 - b. The Lord is with him as the head of an angelic army.
 - c. Pay attention to how God reveals Himself to you.
- 3. Lesson of Jericho - Joshua 6**
- a. Jericho was one of 31 fortresses in Canaan.
 - b. Basic approach to warfare was to retreat into the fortress and hope for frustration on the part of the attacker
 - i. *To attack is very costly since the defender has the advantage.*
 - ii. *To lay siege is costly in time. Often up to a year to conquer a well prepared city.*
 - c. How long will the conquest take?
 - d. God is able to do the exceedingly abundant.
 - i. *Walls falling down would be a great testimony to Israel of God's power.*
 - ii. *It would also be a trigger of great fear among the Canaanites. There would have to be another way.*
 - This led to large coalitions which fought in the open field.
- 4. Lesson of Variety**
- a. God directed every victory Israel

experienced. (19)

b. No two are alike.

- i. *Jericho- All God's work*
- ii. *Ai (final victory) - Mainly a natural military technique.*
- iii. *Victory over the southern coalition.*

- God- the sun stood still
- Israel- had to fight for 36 continuous hours.

c. All were faith-acts of obedient trust

Assignment

Read Judges 1 and 2. What are the reasons for Israel's failure. Keep reading in the book of Judges. How many different "cycles"?

