

Joshua 07-03-23b

Let's resume our study now in Joshua chapter 6. We have heard the voice of the prince or commander of the Lord's army and I don't care how many commentaries you check, you have a hard time finding one that does not say that this is in fact the Lord because the person changes and and he speaks on behalf in verse 2 of chapter 6 the Lord said to Joshua behold and so on they say well see this is an identity thing and I hope we are clear on the fact that this is transparent communication through a messenger. I just made a very similar point in the last day or two talking about the law of Moses. I was in a discussion talking about the commandments the Ten Commandments and one thing or another and I referred to it as the law of Moses and my respondent came back and said I don't understand why you call it the law of Moses.

Doesn't the Bible say that law came from God? And yet and so I cited passages where it says Moses said you should not divorce your wives. Moses gave you this, Moses said that. Well everyone in Israel understood that while Moses gave the law, remember John 1.14 is it? The law came by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

There is no reason to confuse the intermediate messenger with the ultimate speaker and source but that is what has happened here and there is a very popular notion that the Lord Jesus was busy in the Old Testament showing up and doing things and that the angel of the Lord is actually the Lord Jesus in a pre-incarnate form. All I can say is if you're standing there holding a sword in your hand you're not pre-incarnate, you're incarnate. If you wrestle with somebody till dawn and they think that's Jacob wrestling with Jesus essentially, you can't wrestle with an apparition.

He would have had to have been incarnate before he was incarnate. But my scriptural authority for believing this to be truly an angelic commander is A. Jesus Christ doesn't need to be the commander of the angelic army because there's an angel commanding the army. Secondly Hebrews chapter 1 tells us that in times past God spoke in various ways but in the latter days he has spoken by the Son.

That tells me that in former days, various parts, remember diverse says in the King James, he spoke in other ways, prophets, angels, visions, voices from heaven and so on in the latter days he has spoken. Well if Jesus was speaking in the Old Testament days then this is really not much in the way of new is it? This is the commander of the army of the Lord and your new King James rightly identifies him as such and so he says I have given Jericho into your hand. It's king, it's mighty men of valor and once again if this was only a town of eight or nine hundred souls of whom only say a quarter might be men of battle this wouldn't be much of a promise would it? You're talking to the general of a half million man army and you're saying well God has graciously given you this 250 soldiers into your hand it just wouldn't mean much.

There is a much larger force to be reckoned with here and there is the possibility of alliance. This is the confronting the entire land as it were. You shall march around the city all your men of war you shall go around the city once this you shall do six days.

So I asked myself the question based on archaeology we know what size the tell is where supposedly the town of Jericho was. It's not been definitively proven they haven't dug up an ostraca or an ostrakon or any other piece of pottery or something that says they didn't find a sign that said Jericho city limits or anything. It's an assumption it's a educated guess that this tell that's been excavated and identified as Jericho is in fact the place.

Well how big is it? They have have looked at this thing and and its size is actually not too large the the limits within the walls. According to the archaeologist Jericho is about two it's it's oblong it's not a perfectly circular city 225 meters long and about 80 meters wide. What is a meter? You know it's a little over three feet right thirty nine point thirty six thirty nine point thirty seven inches something like that.

So that would be about 740 feet by 260 feet actually pretty small. Now again we're talking about the area within the defensive walls there's for scale everybody's been to a football field football fields 100 yards 300 feet so this would be about two and a half football fields long and not quite a football field wide within the walls. Now how many people could you crowd in there during a siege or some sort of a defensive thing? Well probably quite a few but it's still small compared to half a million men.

So what's the deal? Well again this is not a battle being fought on numerical odds it's all about the walls it's all about the walls. So what is the deal on these on these walls? Well first of all if you figure the circumference of this the circumference would be about 600 meters which would be about nineteen hundred and seventy feet which is a little over a third of a mile. So you say well this entire army of Israel is going to march this third of a mile circumference well they wouldn't do that.

Would you march right under the walls of anything that was hostile to you? There's a little thing called gravity and stuff coming off the walls at you, weaponry, arrows, spears, rocks, sewage, whatever else they want to dump on you from on high to discourage you from attacking. Whatever they have on hand is going to be you know hot tar and boiling oil and so on. So you want to get well away.

How far away would you get to walk around these walls? Even if it was this size you would want to get I would think if it was me I would want to get beyond where an arrow could hit me. So then I as I said earlier I decided I needed to investigate how long is a bow shot because you want to be beyond a bow shot. Well on level ground a bow shot is a minimum of 175 meters and not more than about 325 meters.

So let's say that the outside range let's just call it 300 meters to to round off. So you take

this city of Jericho with its walls and you put a buffer zone of 300 meters all the way around it and then figure that circumference and I did this calculation converting meters to miles and so on and basically the circuit roughly speaking would be a mile and a half. To circle this city at a safe distance from arrows it would be a mile and a half journey.

Israel is encamped in Gilgal which is about a mile and a half away so this is about a three mile trek each day. Go out circle the city and come back give or take. So that's what we're talking about here.

Now I haven't done the calculation if you actually had 600,000 men all lined up you had six abreast twelve abreast whatever they're going to do how wide is the column how long would that column be that many men would they actually meet the tail of the column as they went around the city I don't know if you want to figure that out be my guest but I think you know I think they would probably not form a column longer than a mile and a half so they're going to basically circle the thing and then come back and they cannot really be attacked the people on the walls and up in this tower are going to see all of this thing taking place. The main thing is not everybody's going to be able to line the walls although a great number of them can but they're going to hear this sound this is a multimedia presentation by Israel not only do they march not only do they parade their military strength and the Ark of God if you are outnumbered already and if you've heard stories about the God of Israel there's nothing that is going to be more psychologically devastating than to see the entire military strength of your opponent parade this is kind of like what the Russians used to do in Red Square remember with the missiles and the tanks and the endless procession of military might that they spent most of their 40% of their gross national product was armament and so on back then that's why they had that big annual parade in Red Square. This is in a sense one of the psychological effects that and the seven priests bear seven trumpets of ram's horns before the Ark and so they are continually blowing verse 5 it's so kind of fast when they make a long blast with the ram's horn when you hear the sound of the trumpet all the people shout with a great shout that's on the seventh day and people will go every man straight before him so this tells you that this column and I'm guessing that how they probably sized the width of the column so that it pretty much by the time they came all the way around the city they did meet the tail and it pretty much encircled because God says at the point that the walls fall now every man rushed straight forward remember also by being out of bow shot it gives plenty of room for the rubble to dissipate without crushing anyone because these walls are going to fall outward downhill as Matt pointed out of the break not only do you have the height of these walls but you also have the revetments and the the mound underneath the walls because there was a slope upward just to get to the base of the walls and the walls rise above that and so all told here you have a significant conical hill here that that is under attack and when they blow this trumpet they're going to sound these trumpets as they march around and this is what it goes on to say in verse 6 Joshua after he gets these instructions from the from the

commander and you like this if you're you know we have UN forces and so on and you want to talk to someone at your own level so the commander of the Lord's army gives the battle plan to the commander of the earthly army and that's that's how it works generals talk to generals colonels talk to colonels and so on so now Joshua goes back and calls the priests and says take up the Ark of the Covenant let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams horn before the Ark of the Lord so they get their instructions first then he says to the people proceed and march around the city and let him who is armed advance before the Ark of the Lord this is interesting because you're not marching all the people of Israel around the city this is your army so if it's your army who are the armed men who are going before the Ark it's a bit of a puzzle if you think about it it's only the army that's going to march right you don't have women and children goats and things out there and then okay the walls fell everybody rush in that it's the army well the whole army is not in front of the Ark some of it's in front of the Ark is kind of an advance guard and others everybody else is behind so why would they be described as he who is let him who is armed be in front of the Ark who are these guys well you can't say definitively but I'll tell you who I think it is I think it is the men from the tribes of Gad and Reuben and a half tribe of Manasseh you remember the guys that came over from the other side and they sent their armed men across and they're identified as the armed men these guys seem to have been sort of a the if you will the Marine Corps of the Israelite army they were distinct they didn't have their families with them they had camped together since they don't have their families at all their folks their kin are on the other side of the Jordan and so where are they they're not bunking up with people in other tribes they they all stick together so they've got like a military encampment they're sort of the they're not exactly mercenaries but they're they are a distinct entity within the nation of Israel they're they're sort of professional soldiers they're not citizen soldiers going home to their families and and taking care of their animals and being parents and that kind of thing all they're there to do is fight and so they have come to be called I think the armed men that that's what they do that's why they're there they're just around to do the army stuff they're probably the guys providing perimeter security they're the guys manning the outposts and doing the reconnaissance that's all the reason they're there they don't have any other occupation so these guys are the ones who are going to be in front of the ark and we saw them described in chapter 1 verse 12 the Reubenites the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh that's this small contingent that goes in front and we're told in earlier on you know how many of them there are that came across so they're in front then the priests with the trumpets and the ark and then everybody else so these are your advance party and the point of the spear going around when they sound these trumpets it says the and of course you have this confirmed in the following verses here verse 7 proceed march around the city let him who is armed advance before the ark of the Lord so when Joshua had spoken to the people the seven priests bring the seven trumpets of ram's horn before the Lord advanced and blew the trumpets and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them the armed man went before the priests who blew the trumpets and the rear guard came

after the ark while the priests continually were blowing the trumpets and what's the deal with the blowing of the trumpets well I found a great little note summary on trumpets here in my trusty Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary which by the way is above average if you need a one-volume commentary of the one-volume commentaries the two I can recommend as being pretty good are one the Bible knowledge commentary it's technically two volumes old in New Testament but that's good Bible knowledge published by Dallas Seminary John Walvoord etc the other that I like for one volume commentary is this Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary the notes in here are surprisingly good I am I've gotten to where I actually check this looking for good stuff because there's a lot of good stuff in it here's what it says about the trumpet it's in a little it's a little gray box you know a little highlight box here beyond the commentary and it says that of course it's the Hebrew shofar Joshua 6 4 & 5 & 20 also Exodus 19 16 and Leviticus 25 9 it quotes Strong's the shofar is an animal horn typically from a ram or a goat used as a trumpet you also find it in Judges chapter 7 and verse 8 without looking I'm going to think that that's Gideon remember the pictures and the trumpets and that the word can also refer to a metal trumpet as in Numbers and Chronicles but the shofar was a signaling instrument used in warfare Judges chapter 3 and for assembling the people at religious festivals such as the Day of Atonement gives scripture for that a trumpet blast announced God's descent to Mount Sinai to reveal his law in Exodus 19 remember that people the fire and the smoke and the earthquake and they kept on hearing shofar noises coming from the mountain my question is who is blowing those shofars because all the people are down at the base of the mountain evidently there were angelic shofar blowers up there sounding this trumpet or God was using divine power to produce that sound you know well it makes me wonder anyway if they were actual shofars and if angels were blowing them well did they come from earthly rams or where did the shofars come from did they did the angels actually go down and you know do the thing with the rams and get the horns and process them and hollow them out and not just wondering but did they they sounded it says over and over again in Exodus 19 that they heard the trumpet blast coming from the top of the of the mountain why is that important here the trumpet blast is a sound associated with heralding announcing the presence of God God was present at Mount Sinai so much so that Moses face glowed this ark traveling and the priests are immediately in front of it and they are blowing the trumpets why this is in symbolic terms the presence of God the Ark of the Covenant God's it's the mercy seat I'm gonna dwell between the cherubim and the shofar this is kind of like playing Hail to the Chief with the president right behind you and it's not just a single blast to say hey everybody come here we're going to do something or let me have everyone's attention it's not like the horn at a football game where you score a touchdown or kick a field goal and blow the horn this is a continual blowing of the horn over and over again and people say why do they keep blowing that horn and they look over the walls they look from the tower and here is the Ark of God's Covenant do they see the gold do they see the cherubim negative they see those draped curtains over it and they wonder what's in there that probably the points of the wings of the cherubs

sticking up through there it's it's a lumpy looking thing they don't know what all is under there but the Israelites are spaced out in front of it and behind it and there are these priests blowing the trumpet and here comes this covered object and they don't know what's in there only who's the only person in Israel at this point who knows what that thing looks like it's the son of Aaron who is the current serving high priest all all of the workmen that worked on that thing and cast it have died in the wilderness they're gone Bezalel and Aholiab and those guys they're gone they're dead nobody knows what that Ark looks like except the priest the high priest and he's probably described it in intimate detail to the other priests but this is kind of a guarded piece of knowledge to this day if you look at representations of the Ark of the Covenant they can't make up their mind what it looks like sometimes the angels wings are straight sometimes the angels wings curve up forward sometimes the cherubim are big sometimes they're small they're all different imaginary representations just like pictures of Jesus nobody knows what he looked like nobody knows what the Ark looked like in detail just the primary elements why is this important all of this trumpeting and all of this heralding and if it was Steven Spielberg or somebody making a movie why they would uncover that thing the shining gleaming glory of the thing would shine forth to the Canaanites and dazzle them into submission or death or they'd all go up in smoke or something it's veiled it's hidden the power of God the glory of God the presence of God is behind a veil ever and always in the Tamarackland in the temple God is behind the veil even to his own people even to his own people you've got those mercenaries marching in front you've got the entire rest of the army behind they're looking forward they see those priests they see that thing they turn the corners going around the city and it's it's hidden much of the glory of God is invisible and unknowable and unseeable the carnal mind the fleshly mind cannot understand those things they're spiritually discerned we have the advantage of being priests and being initiated into the mysteries of God in the non weird sense of the word we are able to understand things why because our high priest has revealed them to us we still have not seen the glory of God directly but we see it through the Lord Jesus Christ just as the Levitical priests had intimate detailed knowledge probably a very accurate description well Eleazar do the wings curve or are they straight are they wide apart or narrow are they are their faces do they have multiple faces like Ezekiel's cherubs or do they have a single face well our priest could tell them in intimate detail what it looked like but they got their information from their high priest where do we get our information where do we find out about the glory of God the power of God from our high priest the Lord Jesus Christ no man comes to the father but by me no man has seen God in any time but it is the Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ who has revealed him he is the fullness of deity in bodily form he is our avenue of understanding of the father and nobody's going to understand God nobody's going to make sense out of God they're going to argue about the God of the Old Testament of the God of the New Testament they're not going to believe that he has power they're not going to believe that he ever performed a miracle because they don't see them today there's going to be complete lack of understanding it's all under wraps but there is a herald there is a sound and there

is the march of God's people within visible range they don't see the ark and they don't see God but they hear the sound of his approach and they see his people reverencing him obeying him following his instructions in faith and that's exactly the way it ought to be today for us how does the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God shine to the unbelieving world how does God's light shine let me ask you this if there were no believers on the earth today how would God's light shine where would it shine at a minimum we ought to be a thorn bush with the power of God flaming within us as we are in progress moving from that to the place where we can actually participate and contribute to victory that's what's going on here that's why the procession that's why the trumpets that's why the ark is out there because it is all of God why the ark it is an initiation of a new thing now let me ask you a question most of you were here when we did first Samuel remember a couple of individuals named Hophni and Phineas Eli's sons remember on an occasion when there was a battle and what did they do carry the Ark of the Covenant out as a good luck charm in the battle against the Philistines did God tell them to carry that Ark out there it's a different time it's a different place there's a different purpose in fighting the Philistines and God was not in that conflict that God was using the Philistines to discipline Israel because they were out of line and it was not the time this is like Moses striking the rock the second time this is inappropriate a wrong thing to do it's approaching it's putting it on the Ark's guard it's wrong wrong wrong and they can't just say well you know when they went into battle against Jericho they carried the Ark so we're going to battle this faulty superficial shallow application of what happened in the past with God we have to be careful people today say well you know there were healing and sign gifts and words of knowledge and all this at the beginning of the church age so we should be able to do that today if you do that today just write the word Hophni on a piece of masking tape and stick it to your forehead and write Phineas on another piece of tape and stick it to the person who agrees with you and you are going to fail and you're going to be defeated you're going to be confused you're going to be decimated you're going to be scattered and slaughtered because you do not understand God's timing God has a reason for doing things at the beginning miracles authenticated the new nation of Israel and Moses as its leader miracles authenticated prophets and their message as being from God miracles authenticated the Lord Jesus Christ when he came notice they did not persist throughout the history of Israel after the ten plagues after the wilderness wandering after a few miracles at the beginning of the conquest every city they marched up to didn't have its walls fall down only the first after that it's swing your sword might main drive them out go attack it faded out the story that we're going to see the rest of the book of Joshua is not miracle after miracle after miracle once in a while when there's a new thing going on wait till we get to Beth Shemesh and we get we get to the sun standing still and so on but the Valley of Ejlon and that whole thing but it becomes more and more rare as time goes on and it always has a specific purpose well in the same way we are going to see miraculous things happen often at the beginning of our entrance into the land as it were when we start reaching the place of maturity the place of function we will see extraordinary things it doesn't mean that that

should be our expectation it doesn't mean that we are going to watch for God to defeat every enemy and overcome every obstacle because these enemies in these obstacles are good for us the same way that a parent who trains a child let's them solve learn to solve their own problems we give a lot more help at the beginning than we do at the end don't we in the beginning we do their personal hygiene at the end we hope and pray that they can do their own personal hygiene at the beginning we spoon feed them at the end we hope they're feeding themselves at the beginning we tell them what to do at the end we hope they have figured out what to do at the beginning we have rules and we have criteria and we have standards and we badger and we cajole and we encourage and we try the carrot on the stick and we try to stick without the carrot we try all kinds of things to motivate and to teach principles and how to function and by the time you get finished with that child training you hope and pray that you don't have to do that kind of thing anymore and that they are self-sustaining that they are self-motivated that they have got the tools to go and become a parent themselves eventually in the same way at the beginning of the nation and at the beginning of this conquest of land God is going to provide a lot of help Angel of the Lord doesn't show up before every battle and have a little powwow with Joshua well on this one we're gonna march two times and blow three trumpets and we're just gonna carry around the table of showbread or something it doesn't change the the instructions he doesn't show up it's the first time it's this is the inception it's a new thing and you can't expect great divine interventions every time a problem comes up because God is trying to teach us to be mature to conform to the standard of Christ to be spiritually self-sustaining spiritually mature now what is like the experience like for the child with the child prefer that the laundry is always done for him and the meals are always prepared for him and the schedule is set and the instructions come down and the very minimal personal responsibility of course it's you know the first thing you do when you come out of the womb is cry and say why did you bring me out here I liked it in there and that process just continues for another couple of decades and you know kids look at adults and say I like being free and being able to play and having little responsibility it's dull being adult look they don't play they work they get tired they're falling apart at the seams are getting old and wrinkled and let me just stay a child well that's not the goal and it's uncomfortable to learn and sometimes it's a hardship and we have areas of weakness that show up in the course of our training that have to be overcome it takes work and it takes pain and sometimes it takes hard knocks to learn and to grow this is the story of God's people it's a story of us individually as believers so the armed man went before the priest in verse 9 who blew the trumpets and the rear guard came after the ark while the priest continued blowing the trumpets there's so many applications of this that you can think of people precede the ark there's an advanced guard then you have the presence of God and then you have more people what happens in our own experience typically we come to God we come to faith in Christ we come to knowledge of the scripture there are people who introduce it there's someone who communicates the gospel we have the knowledge of God in the same way the people in Jericho knew like Rahab they had heard of God before already the Holy

Spirit comes but our information our opportunity to believe the gospel and so on somebody presents it a friend a relative or whoever but at some point we come to an encounter with God himself and he becomes real to us and he becomes meaningful to us but as our spiritual life continues we find ourselves again with people we don't forsake the assembling of ourselves together there there are people on both sides of our relationship with God people who introduce him to us and people who follow up afterwards but it is centered on God God is in the midst God is the focus he is the power he is the reason that all these things are taking place and you can see this in the march of the army of Israel and you realize that different believers here's the point different believers have different functions we're not all in the advance guard we're not all evangelists we're not always advanced party some people are in the rear some people are back at the camp cooking supper for the guys who are going to come back after a long day of marching and trumpet blowing and they're hungry don't think because you see somebody marching the advance guard that you're a failure because you're not don't think that because you're in the advance guard that you're hot spiritual stuff and everybody back there sucking up the dust is not different believers have different functions and we need to be content with the place that God has assigned us the men of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh it's an accident of birth quote-unquote that they're in those tribes that they are of age at this particular point that they're in the army they didn't sign up for it there wasn't a volunteer sheet they're of age they made a promise here they are probably love to be over on the other side with the wife and kids and the flocks and the herds and enjoying the here comes the growing season in the on the others in the Transjordan but they're out here fighting but that's their assignment that's their job so verse 10 Joshua commanded the people saying you shall not shout or make any noise with your voice nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth now picture six hundred thousand men and nobody's talking in ranks you can't even get 20 people in a movie theater to shut up so you can watch the film a lecture in a classroom I haven't been anywhere other than here in a group of more than 15 or 20 people where somebody doesn't it just rises up it's and and Joshua says no talking you're gonna March three four mile March from the time they leave the camp until the time to get back no talking no shouting just keep your mouth shut these men have the discipline to obey by the way all-man army I'm just saying it's an all-man army I'm not saying anything else except that if there are no women in there probably made it a lot easier to obey this command catch it for that all these men no word proceed out of your mouth until the day I say to you shout then you shall shout look at the importance of respect for authority obedience to designated authority God has designated and called out Joshua he is the ruler in Israel he's the guy that says what happens and 600,000 men are going to shut up because Joshua says shut up and they're going to shout when Joshua says now shout doesn't mean Joshua is more intelligent than these men doesn't mean that he's stronger than these men doesn't mean that he's more spiritual or more holy he is the designated command giver he is the commander of the army when he says be quiet they're quiet when he says shout they shout and it's just that simple this is authority from God

delegated and expressed through an individual the same principle applies in a nation same principle applies in a family same principle applies anywhere where you find an authority structure the military company organization whatever it may be when there is someone who is given the authority and the responsibility that goes with it that is an expression of divine laws of establishment for civilization for society and that authority is to be respected and it is to be obeyed as if from God as if from God it is not a matter of who holds the office whether it is the father whether it is the husband whether it is the president or CEO whether it is the battalion commander whether it is the mayor of your city or the governor of your state or the president of your nation or the commander of your military unit or whatever it may be whoever that is treat them as one holding authority delegated by God because that's how God views it and that's how God views our obedience their personal merits are not an issue and we would have a much more united and prosperous country if the citizens of this country understood that principle and got behind our duly elected governmental leaders and didn't undermine them at every turn so Joshua had the ark of the Lord circle the city going around at once in verse 11 then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp Joshua rose early in the morning and a priest took up the ark of the Lord seven priests bearing seven trumpets of ram's horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually blew the trumpets why so much emphasis on seven you remember we figured out that there was a total of seven days preceding this whole thing right the three days for the spies and then the three days of the circumcision and the feast and so on and it's all about the sevens here because this is the perfection this is the completion this is the fulfillment and the number seven is the number of perfection completion and fulfillment everything is in sevens so the ark of the Lord is preceded by these priests blowing trumpets the armed men went before them the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord while the priest continued blowing the trumpets and the second day verse 14 they marched around the city once and returned to the camp so they did six days and you have to think that on the first day there was one attitude in Jericho second day curiosity and then by the third and the fourth and the fifth day they're thinking here come those crazy Israelites with what they've quit grabbing their bows and arrows they've quit grabbing their they quit lighting the fire and boiling the oil they quit these people I guess they're just gonna march us to death they're gonna trumpet us to death but it came to pass on the seventh day by the way I would be curious to know which of these days was a Sabbath I if I had to guess I would say that Joshua encountered the prince see if this makes sense to you I would guess that Joshua met the prince of the armies of the Lord on the Sabbath on Saturday he was out there viewing Jericho no other work was being performed people were in the camp observing God's Sabbath and he walked out there met the commander got his instructions and so bright and early Monday morning they marched and they marched our Sunday morning rather and they marched Sunday and they marched Monday and they marched Tuesday and they marched Wednesday they marched Thursday and they marched Friday six days they labored and did their work so to speak and on the seventh day and I think this may have been the seventh day not only numerically but we wise on

the seventh day they rose early about the dawning of the day and marched around the city seven times in the same manner on that day only they marched around the city seven times and the seventh time it happened when the priest blew the trumpets the Joshua said to the people now here you go shout for the Lord has given you the city remember the Sabbath day was the day of reflection the seventh day was a day of rest where you cease from your own labors and you contemplate the work of God the seventh millennium of human history is going to be the enjoyment of the work of God not only in the prosperity and the fulfillment of the covenants to Israel but what happens toward the end of that day you have the Gog Magog rebellion and you have the ultimate victory over the prince of the power of the air and the rulers of the darkness of this age right you have both the enjoyment of prosperity and the completion of Israel's own labors in the Millennial Kingdom and you have the final victory consummated at the end of it so after the seven times marching around they shout 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 her house because she hid the messengers that we sent remember I told you that I think that there will be some people in the Millennial Kingdom who get their first chance at salvation those who are certainly born during that age and perhaps others and I think that you can see a foreshadowing of this with Rahab who is not an Israelite and yet who comes on that experiences her deliverance in that day you by all means abstain from the accursed things lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things make the camp of Israel a curse and trouble it all the silver and gold the vessels of bronze and iron are consecrated to the Lord they shall come into the treasury of the Lord and it is a reminder that there's only a fate there's two fates that can befall what's in Jericho it's either precious things that survive fire and go to God or they are combustibles and are going to be incinerated and the destruction layer in Jericho is thick and severe and it reminds us of the fruit of our lives the trial by fire gold silver precious stones that reflects God's glory belongs to God it's his righteousness that is produced in our lives everything else of human energy is wood, hay and stubble fit only to be burned so this is the nature of the of the spoils the distribution of the spoils or the treatment of the spoils and verse 20 is what we're going to have to pick up next time let's close here in a word of prayer father thank you for the graphic illustration we have in this story of so many truths pertaining to our lives and our opportunities before you we pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress them on our hearts we ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.