CHAPTER 7
The Battle Begins
Joshua

THE STORY

Introduction
Have you ever faced a challenge in your life that caused you great fear?
The Israelites faced an overwhelming military challenge.

I. Before they could enter the land there were three obstacles they needed to overcome.

THE STORY

They needed to:
• Cross the Jordan River – Joshua 3
• Consecrate themselves to the Lord (Circumcision) – Joshua 5
• Conquer their fears – Joshua 1-2

THE STORY

God’s timing is not our timing.

6 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
7 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:8-9

THE STORY

Why does God do it this way?
So everyone knows God did it.
II. God tells Joshua and the people three things they need to be successful.

Be a people of the book. Joshua 1:7-8
• Be careful to obey everything. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Success means you will accomplish all that God intends.
• When Israel obeyed, Jericho was defeated. Joshua 6
• When Israel disobeyed, they were defeated. Joshua 7
• Obedience leads to victory and disobedience brings defeat.
• After that loss, Joshua read the entire book of the law to the people. Joshua 8:34-35

Be a people of prayer.
• When Israel sought the Lord for guidance and direction, he answered.
• When they did not consult the Lord, they were deceived. Joshua 9
• "The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD."

Be a people who identify with God.
• God commanded all the males in Israel to be circumcised.
• Joshua needed to bow before the Lord in obedience. Joshua 5:13-15
• Even Rahab, the prostitute from Jericho, chose to be identified with the God of Israel and she and her family were saved.
• Victory comes after consecration.

The key to victory is not in superior weapons or numbers, but in obedience to God.

III. The battles begin and the land is taken.
God performs miracles on their behalf.
• Damming up the Jordan River. Joshua 3
• Causing the walls of Jericho to collapse. Joshua 6
• Causing the sun to stand still at Gibeon. Joshua 10
• Defeating 5 kings in the Southern campaign and 14 kings in the Northern campaign.
• Dividing the land among the tribes of Israel. Joshua 13-22

God commanded Israel to totally destroy the nations before them. Why?
• The Lord is the judge of all the earth and only he knows the hearts of men, women and children.
• God gave them 600 years to repent. “For the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” Genesis 15:16
• Their sin included detestable idolatry, prostitution in worship and child sacrifice. Deut. 12:31, 20:18 and Exodus 34:15-16
• There comes a time when God says enough.

God wanted to use Israel to make him known among the nations. To do that they needed to be a holy people, set apart to follow him.

Conclusion
What do we learn from this chapter of the story?
• The key to victory over sin is trusting God and walking in obedience.
• To experience greater victory and growth in our walk with God, we need to be people of the book, people of prayer and people who openly identify with God.

• “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15
• “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34