

Sermon Notes – January 19, 2020

[#7] *The Commander of the LORD's Army*

Joshua 5:13–6:2

Children's Sermon: What I Pray for You

Philippians 1:19–21 (NLT)

¹⁹ For I know that *as you pray* for me and *the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me*, this will lead to my deliverance. ²⁰ For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust *that my life will bring honor to Christ*, whether I live or die. ²¹ For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

I pray that our lives, with God's powerful help, will bring honor to Jesus!

Taking the Land (5:13–12:24)

Notes:

- A. Covenant Renewal (5:2–8:35)
 - 1. Signs of the Covenant (5:2–12)
 - a. Circumcision (2–9)
 - b. Passover (10–12)
 - 2. **The Battle Belongs to the LORD**
 - a. Commander of the LORD's Army (5:13–6:2)
 - b. Yahweh Destroys Jericho (6:3–27)
 - c. Covenant Disobedience (7:1–26)
 - d. Yahweh Destroys Ai with Israel (8:1–29)
 - 3. Covenant Affirmations (8:30–35)

(5:13-8:29) Main Point:

This is God's war and he is in complete control of the outcome.



Commander of the LORD's Army (5:13–6:2)

I. Who is this Captain?

- A. The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:2, 4–6

² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ... ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; *take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.*" ⁶ And

he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

B. The Commander of the LORD’s Hosts (Angel of the LORD?)

Exodus 23:20–22

²⁰ “Behold, **I send an angel** before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ²¹ Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, **for my name is in him.** ²² “But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

C. And he said, “No...

And **Joshua** went to him and **said to him**, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” ¹⁴ And **he said**, “No; but **I** am (“No. For **I**, **I** am...”) **the commander of the army of the LORD.** Now **I** have come.” And **Joshua fell on his face** to the earth and **worshiped** and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”

II. What is He Communicating to Israel?

A. A Drawn Sword...

Numbers 22:31–33 (Cf. 1 Chronicles 21:16)

³¹ Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, **with his drawn sword in his hand.** And he bowed down and fell on his face. ³² And the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. ³³ The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live.”

Main Point for Israel:

This is the LORD’s war against the wicked, Israel is on his side.



B. Yahweh Has Given Jericho Into Your Hand

6 (Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in.) ² **And the LORD said to Joshua**, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.



Why did God Give Jericho into their Hand?

Deuteronomy 9:4-5

⁴ “Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of my righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land,’ whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you. ⁵ ***Not because of your righteousness*** or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may ***confirm the word that the Lord swore*** to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

God's loving choice to save, not his choice of the lovely is what saved Israel!

Jesus the Commander of the LORD's Army

- I. Joshua is Prophecy
 - A. Joshua...Promised Land
 - B. Crossing the Jordan...Death & Resurrection of Jesus
 - C. Circumcision...Of the Heart
 - D. Passover...Jesus Our Passover Lamb, Keep the Feast!
- II. How we Think about the Story of Our Life...
 - A. **#1 What/who are you fighting?** (My boss? People...? My lack of resources? ...The world, the flesh & the devil?)

Romans 8:13

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but *if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body*, **you will live**.

Are we fighting with Jesus against sin & death 
or against Jesus to cling to sin & death?

Kris Lundgaard “...the flesh hates everything about God. Since it resists everything about God, it resists every way we try to taste him and know him and love him. And the more something enables us to find God and feast on him, the more violently the flesh fights against it.

It takes its battle to every quarter of the soul: When the mind wants to know God, the flesh imposes ignorance, darkness, error, and trivial thoughts. The will can't move toward God without feeling the weight of stubbornness holding it back. And the affections, longing to long for God, are constantly fighting the infection of sensuality or the disease of indifference.” ⁱⁱ

B. **#2 Who is the Hero of Your Story?**

Jeff Vanderstelt “As I listen to many Christians share their stories, I often find that Jesus has become a supporting character, not the hero.

Often, a person spends large chunks of time describing his life before meeting Jesus, going into more detail about his sin than anyone needs to know. Jesus is just a small blip on the radar: “I realized I needed to be forgiven of my sins, and Joe introduced me to Jesus and how he died on the cross for me, so I asked him into my heart.” Then the person goes on to share how hard he has tried to be a better person, but he fails a lot. For instance, he is going to church more often and trying to read his Bible and pray, but life is busy. “Thank God he forgives us!”

By the end of the story, you have heard a lot of sin, self, and self-effort, but very little Jesus and very little good news.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Philippians 1:18–21 (e.g. Paul)

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, ***Christ is proclaimed***, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always ***Christ will be honored*** in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

God is the hero of our story! 

ⁱ Howard, D. M., Jr. (1998). [Joshua](#) (Vol. 5, p. 158). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

ⁱⁱ Lundgaard, Kris. *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin*. P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱⁱ Vanderstelt, Jeff. *Gospel Fluency* (p. 158). Crossway. Kindle Edition.