

Sermon Notes – January 26, 2020

[#8] *Living in Light of the Last Trumpet*

Joshua 6:1–27

Children’s Sermon: Stop or I’ll Shoot!

Why do the “good guys” give a warning before they shoot?

Why do you think God warns us about his coming judgement?

Hebrews 9:27–28

²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man *to die once, and after that comes judgment*,
²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

In what ways has God warned us that judgement is coming?

The Battle Belongs to the LORD (5:13-8:29)

Notes:

- I. Commander of the LORD’s Army (5:13–6:2)
- II. **Yahweh Destroys Jericho (6:1–27)**
- III. Covenant Disobedience (7:1–26)
- IV. Yahweh Destroys Ai with Israel (8:1–29)

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

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



A Sign of Yahweh’s Judgment & Mercy (6:1–27)

A. Signs of the LORD’s Judgment (8 things)

1. The LORD’s Commander is in Charge (Joshua 5:13-15)
2. The Ark & the Priests
3. Mystery Marching
4. The Miracle Wall Collapse
5. The Number Sevenⁱ
6. The Trumpets – *yôbēl* & *šôfār*

Exodus 19:13 (NASB), 16–18 (ESV)

‘No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the **ram’s horn** (*yôbēl*) sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.” ...

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud *trumpet* (*šôfār*) blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out... ¹⁹ And as

the sound of the *trumpet* (*šôfâr*) grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

7. Devoted to the LORD for Destruction – *hērem* הָרַם

“The basic meaning is the exclusion of an object from the use or abuse of man and its irrevocable surrender to God. ...

Usually *hārem* means a ban for utter destruction, the compulsory dedication of something which impedes or resists God’s work, which is considered to be accursed before God.”ⁱⁱ

Leviticus 27:28–29 (Relationship to Holiness)

²⁸ “But no *devoted thing* that a man *devotes* to the LORD, of anything that he has, whether man or beast, or of his inherited field, shall be sold or redeemed; every *devoted thing* is **most holy** to the LORD. ²⁹ No one *devoted*, who is to be *devoted for destruction* from mankind, shall be ransomed; he shall surely be put to death.

¹⁶ And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, **Joshua said to the people**, “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city. (¹⁷ And the city and all that is within it shall be **devoted to the LORD for destruction**. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. ¹⁸ But you, keep yourselves from the things **devoted to destruction**, lest when you have **devoted** them you take any of the **devoted things** and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. ¹⁹ **But all silver and gold**, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.”) ²⁰ So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and **the wall fell down flat**, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and **they captured the city**. ²¹ Then **they devoted all in the city to destruction**, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword. (1 of 2 verses on the battle itself)

8. Joshua’s Curse & Fame (Why Announce?)

²⁶ **Joshua laid an oath** on them at that time, saying, “Cursed before the Lord be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. ... (Hiel... Ahab & Jezebel 1 Kgs. 16:34)

²⁷ **So the Lord was with Joshua**, and his fame was in all the land. (e.g. Gibeonites - Joshua 9:3 & 24)

B. Signs of the LORD's Mercy (4 things)

1. The Patience of God (Gen. 15:16; Lev. 18:24–27; Dt. 18:9–12)
2. Israel is on the LORD's Side (Not righteous - Deut. 9:4–5)
3. Rahab's Family Rescued (*only 2 verses on the battle*)



²² But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, *as you swore to her.*” ²³ So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and *put them outside the camp of Israel.* ²⁴ And **they burned the city with fire, and everything in it.** Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. ²⁵ **But Rahab** the prostitute and her father’s household and all who belonged to her, **Joshua saved alive.** And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.



4. Giving a Warning...Why? (e.g. Jonah)

Main Point

Jericho's destruction is a sign of God's coming judgment & his great mercy.



God has Repeatedly Warned Us about His Coming Judgment & Mercy

View this life through the lens of the coming judgement of Christ

A. When the Last Trumpet Sounds, Be on the Right Side

Matthew 24:30–31

³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of **the Son of Man**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels *with a loud trumpet call*, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Cf. 1 Thess. 4:16–17)

Psalm 37:34

³⁴ Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

B. God's Merciful Call to Repentance (Rev. 8-11 – 7 Trumpets)

Revelation 9:20–21 (After the 6th Trumpet)

²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent** of the works of their hands nor give up worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, ²¹ **nor did they repent** of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

C. Giving Thanks for the Return of the King

Revelation 11:15–18

¹⁵ Then **the seventh angel blew his trumpet**, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.*” ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, “**We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.**” ¹⁸ The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

D. Our Labor in the Lord is not Meaningless

1 Corinthians 15:51–58

⁵¹ ...**For the trumpet will sound**, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed... ⁵⁴ ...then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

ⁱ “Seven” is the number of totality, completion, and perfection in the Scriptures” [in a footnote: “The number’s significance as seen in the Scriptures is found in almost all ancient Near Eastern cultures as well.”] Howard, D. M., Jr. (1998). *Joshua* (Vol. 5, p. 169). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

ⁱⁱ Wood, L. J. (1999). 744 חַרְמָה. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 324). Chicago: Moody Press.