

# The Combat-Ready Christian



*“take unto you the whole armour of God”*

# The Combat-Ready Christian



- ✧ Having been sufficiently drilled and prepared, we head out to war.
- ✧ It does not matter how large the enemy stronghold is.
- ✧ It does not matter how small your army feels in comparison.
- ✧ It does not matter how long the enemy has been there or how entrenched and protected they are.
- ✧ When God sends you out, telling you not to fear, He has given the enemy into your hands!
- ✧ Let's examine some past battles to learn some lessons.

# The Combat-Ready Christian



- ❧ Jos 1:2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, **arise**, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them – the children of Israel.
- ❧ Jos 1:3 **Every** place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.
- ❧ Jos 1:5 **No man** shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.
- ❧ Jos 1:6 **Be strong** and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.



# Conditional Promises



- ❧ Jos 1:7 *Only **be strong** and very courageous, that you may **observe to do** according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; **do not turn** from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*
- ❧ Jos 1:8 *This Book of the Law shall **not depart** from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to **all** that is written in it. **For then** you will make your way **prosperous**, and **then** you will have good **success**.*
- ❧ Jos 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

# God's Preparation



❧ God prepares the way before you

❧ *Jos 2:9 and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.*

❧ *Jos 2:10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.*

❧ Our history plays a role in our future, our testimony works for us.

# Battle Strategy



- ❧ God will give you the battle strategy
- ❧ *Jos 6:1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.*
- ❧ *Jos 6:2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.*
- ❧ *Jos 6:3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.*
- ❧ What seems strange to you makes sense to God
  - ❧ *Isa\_55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

# Battle Strategy



- ☞ God will give you the battle strategy
- ☞ *Jos 6:3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do **six** days.*
- ☞ *Jos 6:4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.*
- ☞ *Jos 6:5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."*



# Added Condition



- ❧ Jos 6:16 *And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!"*
- ❧ Jos 6:17 *Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it...*
- ❧ Jos 6:18 *And you, by all means **abstain** from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.*
- ❧ Jos 6:19 *But all the **silver** and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are **consecrated** to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."*



# The Battle Won



- ❧ *Jos 6:21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.*
- ❧ *Jos 6:24 But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.*
- ❧ *Jos 6:25,27 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country!!!! Yahoo!!*

# Treachery!



- ❧ *Jos 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a **trespass** regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.*
- ❧ *לַחַן, ma'al, mah'-al*
- ❧ *From H4608; treachery, that is, sin: - falsehood, grievously, sore, transgression, trespass, X very.*
- ❧ *The sin of one was the sin of all. Sin is not a private matter!*
- ❧ *Joshua was **unaware** this had happened and did **not** seek the Lord before the next battle!!!!*

# More Mistakes!



- ❧ *Jos 7:2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai...*
- ❧ *Jos 7:3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."*
- ❧ *Jos 7:4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they **fled** before the men of Ai.*
- ❧ *Jos 7:5 And the men of Ai **struck down about thirty-six men**, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.*

# Time to Pray



- ❧ Jos 7:8 *O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?*
- ❧ Jos 7:10 *So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?"*
- ❧ Jos 7:11 *Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even **taken** some of the accursed things, and have both **stolen** and **deceived**; and they have also **put** it among their own stuff.*
- ❧ Jos 7:12 ***Therefore** the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.*



# Time to Root out Sin



- ❧ *Jos 7:13 Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies **until** you take away the accursed thing from among you."*
- ❧ *Jos 7:14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man.*
- ❧ **Sin cannot be hidden**

# Time to Root out Sin



- ❧ *Jos 7:18 Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.*
- ❧ *Jos 7:19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."*
- ❧ *Jos 7:20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done:*

# Time to Root out Sin



- ❧ *Jos 7:21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."*
- ❧ *Jos 7:22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it.*
- ❧ *Jos 7:23 And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.*

# Time to Remove the Sin



- ❧ *Jos 7:24 Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.*
- ❧ *Jos 7:25 And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.*
- ❧ *Jos 7:26 Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.*
- ❧ *Jos 7:26 Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.*



# God Brings the Victory



- ❧ God brings us the victory against larger, entrenched enemies
- ❧ God gives it on **His terms**
- ❧ God has two main conditions
  1. That we obey the voice of the Lord
  2. That we refrain from sin
- ❧ Israel fell for a short time due to greed and rebellion
- ❧ The small wedges of gold were not worth the wrath and their value was nothing compared to the inheritance that lay before them.
- ❧ Sin is not worth the problems, nor is sin a good trade

# God's Promises are the Best

No sin is worth trading them away



- ❧ *Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*
- ❧ *Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away **every** tear from their eyes; there shall be **no more** death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be **no more** pain, for the former things have passed away."*
- ❧ *Rev 21:6 And He said to me, "**It is done!** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*
- ❧ *Rev 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit **all things**, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*