

A DEEPER DIVE

March 1, 2026

Micah 6:8 – He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. – NIV.

Prayer Focus – Each day this week as you meet with your savior. When you do, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war and little hope, also the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading – Joshua 6:12-27

Consider this – Victory over the enemy.

In explaining the whole of the victory over Jericho (verses 1-25) Wiersbe breaks it down into the following parts.

- They obeyed their leaders
- They had patience and faith
- They trusted God for the impossible
- They obeyed Him in every detail

If the people would have skipped or did a short-cut around one of these areas, what would have happened?
How can we exercise these same principles in our lives today in order to see victory?

Tuesday: Reading – Joshua 6:12-14

Consider this – 6 days

Every day for six days they marched around Jericho one time, and were silent except for the trumpet blasts. Have you ever done anything and asked yourself, why am I doing this? Apparently, Joshua did not tell them about the seventh day yet. So for six days they do the marching and the trumpeting and nothing happens. What do you think the army of marchers are saying to themselves? What do you think the people in Jericho are saying or thinking at this time? Remember that in 5:1 it says that all the kings were afraid. This, no doubt, led the leaders of Jericho to barricade the city. 5:1 reminds us of what Rahab told the spies in chapter 2. When they first saw the army marching on day one of the six-days of marching, what do you suppose they thought was going to happen? After six days of watching the army march around the city, do you think those in Jericho were still afraid?

Wednesday: Reading – Joshua 6:15-20

Consider this – The Seventh Day

What do they do differently on this day? Read what Joshua tells his army now. Compare that with what he said in verses 6-7. Why do you think Joshua did not tell the entire strategy earlier? The Lord told Joshua what He was going to do, and I don't see anywhere where Joshua was forbidden to tell the entire strategy to the army and the Priests—so why do you think he kept it to himself until now?

Thursday: Reading – Joshua 6:21-24

Consider this – Kill, Destroy, Rescue, Keep.

This is a section that has bothered a lot of people over time. Who did the soldiers kill? What did they do to the city? What did they keep—and for what reason? Who did they rescue—why? Does this part of the conquest story bother you?

Friday: Reading – Joshua 6:25-27; 1 Kings 16: 34.

Consider this – Standing on the rubble

You get the idea that Joshua is looking over the smoking ruins of a mighty city when he delivers his curse. Paraphrase the curse that Joshua delivers. Why do you think Joshua said these things about Jericho and what would happen if someone tried to build there? Apparently 500 years later Hiel rebuilt Jericho. Read the verse in 1 Kings to see what it cost him, and how that fulfilled Joshua's curse.

Saturday: Reading – Joshua 6:12-27; Deuteronomy 32:43; Romans 15:7-12.

Consider this – Jericho's destruction.

Chris Wright, an Old Testament scholar, wrote a book called, *The God I Don't Understand*. In this book he takes on such topics as the existence of evil and suffering, the cross, the end of the world, and, for our purposes, he spends two chapters on the issue of the Canaanites.

Chapter 4 of his book is called *The Canaanites—Three Dead Ends*, in which he explains three ways people have tried to “lessen the difficulty” of understanding “why God said, did, and commanded some of the things recorded in the Old Testament.” These three dead ends are as follows. 1. It's an Old Testament problem, which the New Testament puts right. 2. The Israelites thought it was what God commanded, but they were wrong. 3. It's all meant as an Allegory of spiritual warfare. Wright honestly says, “We need better ways of looking at the problem. So, in Chapter 5, Wright first admits that he has “wrestled with this problem for many years...I have to include [this part] in the basket of things I don't understand about God and his ways.” So Wright spends time discussing *The Framework of the Old Testament Story*, and *The Framework of God's Plan of Salvation*; There is way too much detail in these sections to give it fair treatment here. But it is worthwhile to ponder these points, and to ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom. For further reference, *The God I Don't Understand*, is available from many outlets; a quick google search will give you the links.

Wright concludes these two chapters with some thoughtful comments. He says, “when this great King takes up his reign, then all the nations will be the beneficiaries...the history of Israel, including even the conquest, will be the subject of praise among the nations, for whose benefit it happened.”

Finally, Wright says he reads about the conquest in “light of the Cross.” He continues, “the cross too involved the most horrific and evil human violence, which, at the same time, also constituted the outpouring of God's judgment on human sin. The crucial difference, of course, is that, whereas at the conquest God poured out his judgement on a wicked society who deserved it, at the cross, God bore on himself the judgment of God on human wickedness, through the person of his own sinless Son—who deserved it not one bit.” (Italics from Wright).

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.