

The Plan – given first to Moses



Exodus 23:20-25 "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. **Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him.** If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. Worship the LORD your God.

This happened before the Battle of Jericho

FIRST ... THEN ...



Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.

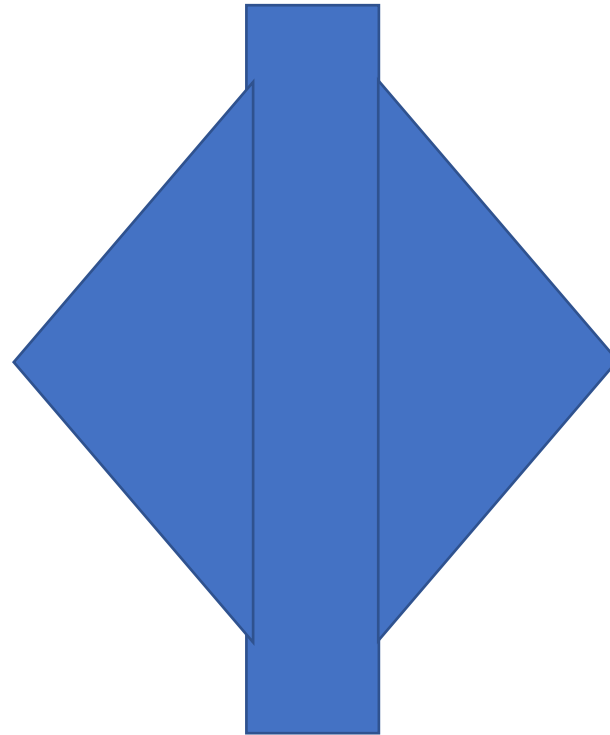


Where did he appear from?
What did he look like?

Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

Whose side are you on?

US



THEM

"Neither," he replied,

Is he

neutral

?

No !

He 'creates' sides
For him or against him

"Neither," he replied,
"but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."

He has come to take charge.

What is the army of the Lord?

Angels or Joshua's troops or both?



**ARMY
OF THE LORD**

— — — — —
**THOU THEREFORE ENDURE
HARDNESS, AS A GOOD SOLDIER
OF JESUS CHRIST.
2 TIM 2:3**

Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence,



This is no “ordinary” angel

He is different kind of angel to the one who spoke to the apostle John.



Revelation 19:10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus."

and *Joshua* asked him,
"What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

Ready to hear and obey



The commander of the LORD's army replied,
"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy."
And Joshua did so.

A 'Moses experience' for Joshua as he begins his work



Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.



Why? And what made that place holy ground?

Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites.
No one went out and no one came in.



Afraid but confident in their walls?

Then the **LORD** said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.

*The Assured
Hope of Victory*

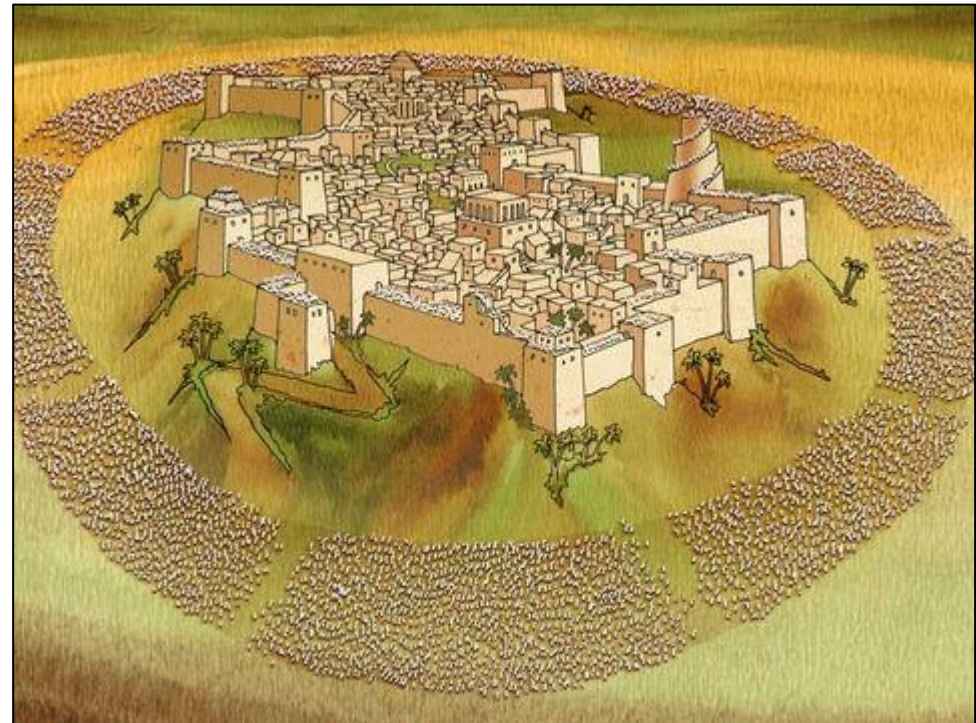


Victory assured – it is done (I HAVE delivered)

The plan of attack?

March around the city once with all the armed men.
Do this for six days.

Devoted/marked out to destruction



Have **seven** priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark.



The people just walk quietly. Good exercise
Only the 'shofars' are sounded

On the **seventh** day, march around the city **seven** times, with the priests blowing the trumpets.



The sound of the trumpet for Israel and their enemies?

When you hear them sound a **long blast** on the trumpets,
have all the people give a loud shout;



God's power in the "weak things" Confident by faith

then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up,
every man straight in."



Joshua didn't need to know how God would do it –
He just had to trust Him

The angel of the Lord

He's been around before this time with Joshua ...

Genesis 18:1-2 And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him.

Good news for the old couple



Jacob's wrestling match at Peniel



Genesis 32:24-25 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

A new name – a new nature

Guidance and protection in the wilderness



Exodus 14:19-20 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

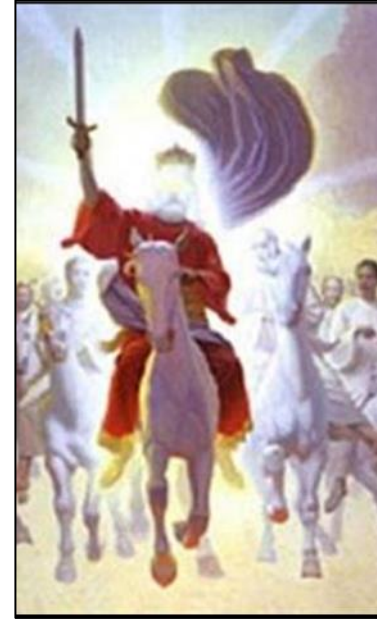
So who is the person called the Angel of the Lord?

Commander of God's army

God's name is IN him (Exodus 23:21)

Makes the place where he stands holy ground

Worshipped wherever he appears



Colossians 1:15-16 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Verse 14

and asked him,
"What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

Ready to hear and obey



What did God want Joshua to do first?

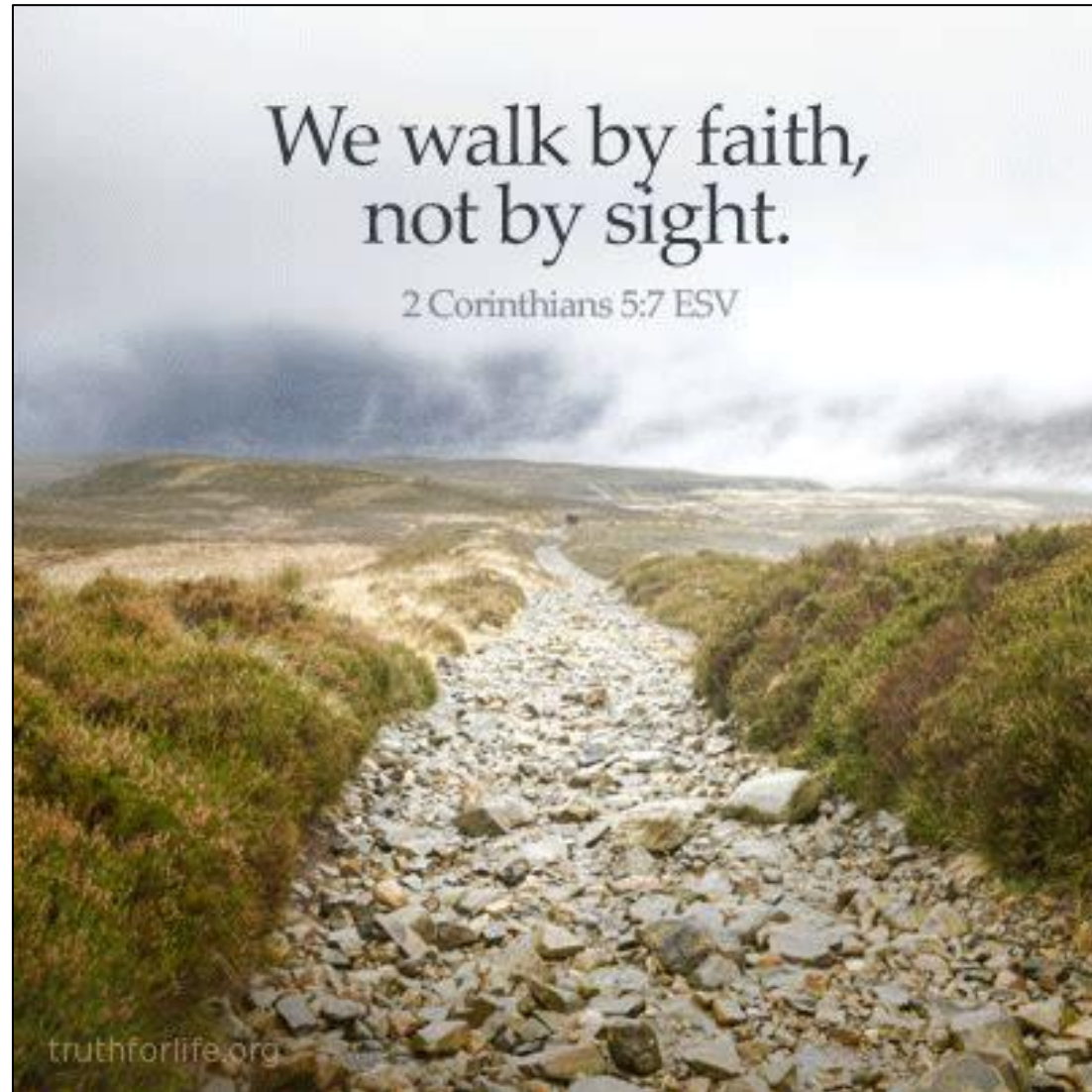


It was the same for Moses and it is true for us also

We must be worshippers before we are 'doers'



For Joshua, as a worshipper,
what seemed as an impossible plan, by faith is possible



He must have first place



Exodus 20:2-3 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
"You shall have no other gods before me.

Matthew 22:36-38 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
This is the first and greatest commandment.



And when we do, we'll want to worship Him