**PREFIGURING OF JESUS (#3)**

***Jesus and Joshua***

In 1949 G. A. Thacker wrote a catchy hymn that children have sung for 71 years called *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*. It was a song about Joshua and Jesus and how their lives connected. When I sing it, either with adults or kids, I feel like standing up and marching with Israel around those Jericho walls and then standing back to behold the power of God as He brings those massive walls to the ground.

Would you like to sing it with me? Let’s do it!

1:  The Lord told Joshua to go to Jericho, And to march seven times a round;
 He followed faithfully the blessed Lord’s command, And the walls came tumbling down. Chorus: Yes, the walls came tumbling down; Joshua, marched seven times ’round,
 Then the walls came tumbling down, And the walls came tumbling down.
2:  If you are trusting in the power of the blood, And you hope to wear a crown;
 Go forward quickly, and obey the holy word, Walls of doubt will tumble down.
Chorus:
3:  The Lord is calling, sinner, come to Him today, Turn from this vain world’s renown;
 If you will follow Him in faith, like Joshua, Walls of sin will tumble down.
Chorus:

Yeshua. Joshua. Jesus. If ever there was a name with significance then surely this is the name. It is “*the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow – in heaven and on earth and under the earth*” (Phil. 2:9). Unlike the name Rick or Ryan, unlike the name Mary or Martha, in Jesus “*there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved”* ([Acts 4:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%204.11%E2%80%9312)). The name Jesus, announced by the angels to Joseph and Mary (Matt. 1:21; Lk. 1:31), means “*Jehovah saves*,” or “*Jehovah is salvation*.” The English spelling of the Hebrew *Yeshua* is Joshua, but when translated from Hebrew into Greek the word becomes Jesus. They are the same name. In fact Joshua is a prefigure of Jesus. Let’s talk about that.

The Old Testament character of Joshua was so popular due to the great leader who was Moses’ assistant and later was the conqueror of Israel over the Promised Land. Many parents wanted to name their child Joshua (i.e. Jesus) in hopes their son would grow up to be like him. That name was so popular that when the angels told Joseph and Mary to name their child Jesus, he had to be distinguished from thousands of other boys with that name, thus He became *Jesus of Nazareth* (Mk. 1:9,24; 10:47; 14:67; 16:6).

None of the Joshua’s of future generations could live up to that name. None, that is, except One. And that One far exceeded his greatness in every respect. The name has a special place in the heart of all Bible students.

Just as the Joshua in the Old Testament led his people to victory over the Canaanites, the Yeshua/Jesus in the New Testament led His people to victory over sin and their spiritual enemies. Just as I picture Joshua leading his army when those Jericho “walls come tumbling down,” so I picture Jesus leading His army “*having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them*” (Col. 2:15).

I also personally believe that Joshua met Jesus. Some might call it a Theophany (vision of God), while others call it a Christophany (vision of Christ). Read it in Joshua 5:13-15,

13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” 14 So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?” 15 Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

This was no angel, for He accepted worship, which no angel would do (Rev. 19:10). He is standing on “holy ground” – much like Moses before God on Mt. Sinai (Exo. 3). He called Himself “*The Lord of Hosts*” which is a name given only to God the Father and Jesus Christ. Read Isaiah 6:1-13 to realize Christophanies are real, for he saw Jesus too.

Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land so that all God’s people could sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, enjoying the land of milk and honey, the land of corn and wine (Josh. 5:6; Deut. 33:28). But Jesus went far beyond that. While Micah foretold that Christ’s followers would also “*sit under his vine and under his fig tree”* (Mic. 5:4-5), God also promised we would become “*heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ… in His glory*” (Rom. 8:17). I’ll take that over vines, figs, milk and honey anyday.

Be honest now, how many of you have posted in your house a display with the words, “*As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord*?” Joshua said that (Josh. 24:15). For 110 years Joshua had faithfully served the Lord (Josh. 24:29), then joined his friend Moses in his real Sabbath rest. Jesus offers us a chance to join them, along with all those “*great cloud of witnesses*” in perfection (Heb. 12:1), enjoying our final Sabbath rest (Heb. 4:1-11). Ahhh, just think of it, when all of God’s singers get home.

Joshua. Jesus. I just love those names. One brought salvation to Israel. The other brought salvation to you and me. Would you join me in one more song?

We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Spread the tidings all around, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Bear the news to every land, Climb the steeps and cross the waves,
Onward! tis’ our Lord’s command, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

I love you. - Rick