



# A JOURNEY THROUGH JERICHO

**January 12, 2025**

Joshua 5-6; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

Warren Wiersbe has an excellent summary statement regarding the land of Canaan as an illustration of the Christian life. He begins by asking a question,

“What does Canaan represent to us as Christians today? It represents our spiritual inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:3, 11, 15–23). It is unfortunate that some of our hymns and Gospel songs use Canaan as a picture of heaven, and “crossing the Jordan” as a picture of death. Since Canaan was a place of battles, and even of defeats, it is not a good illustration of heaven! Israel had to cross the river by faith (a picture of the believer as he dies to self and the world, Rom. 6) and claim the inheritance by faith. They had to “step out by faith” (Josh. 1:3) and claim the land for themselves, just as believers today must do. Now we can understand what the wilderness wanderings represent: the experiences of believers who will not claim their spiritual inheritance in Christ, who doubt God’s Word and live in restless unbelief. To be sure, God is with them, as He was with Israel; but they do not enjoy the fullness of God’s blessing. They are “out of Egypt” but they are not yet “in Canaan.” (*The Bible Exposition Commentary*).

God wants you to enjoy the fulness of His blessings in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 10, Paul warns us about “fortresses” or “strongholds” that prevent us from walking in the abundance of all that is ours in Christ. The word ***strongholds*** is found once in the New Testament, used metaphorically by Paul in a description of the Christian’s spiritual battle (2 Corinthians 10:3-4). What are these “strongholds” or “fortifications” we face? Paul interprets the metaphor in 2 Corinthians 10:5. The “arguments” are the philosophies, reasonings, and schemes of the world. The “pretensions” have to do with anything proud, man-centered, and self-confident.

The Old Testament story of Joshua conquering Jericho is a great illustration of this spiritual truth (Joshua 5-6).

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS

### **What is a stronghold?**

A stronghold is anything that exalts itself in our minds and appears to be bigger and more powerful than our God.

**Spiritual stronghold** – an area of wrong thinking, the enemy invades your mind and sets up wrong thinking and wrong thinking always leads to wrong actions.

- They prevent you from entering into the promises of God.
- They prevent you from experiencing the power of God.
- They prevent you from exalting the person of God.

## **THE SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CONQUERING STRONGHOLDS**

- You must return to the Lord – Joshua 5:2-ff
- You must remember the Lord – Joshua 5:10
- You must recognize the Lord – Joshua 5:13

## **THE SUPERNATURAL WEAPONS FOR CONQUERING SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS (See Ephesians 6:17-19)**

- The Word of God
- Prayer

## **THE STRATEGY FOR CONQUERING SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS**

- Claim the promise of God – Joshua 6:2 - “I have given” – you can count on it in advance.
- Carry out the plan of God – Joshua 6
- Confess the promises of God – Joshua 6:16
- Cleanse yourself to be pure before God – Joshua 6:17