

writer thinks there are possible traces still of the very wall that fell before the Israelites. "No hand of man interposed to bring about this catastrophe, no merely natural causes precipitated the fall; by faith, as the author of the Epistles to the Hebrews declares, 'the walls of Jericho fell down,' Heb. 11: 30." (Macleay.) The defences of the city fell, so that the people were thrown

into a panic of helplessness, and the children of Israel, entering in *every man straight before him*, slew them and destroyed the city. This shows the meaning of the vision of Joshua (ch. 5: 13), and was fitted to teach the people that success in the conflict would depend on their fidelity to God and avoidance of contamination with the sins of the land rather than upon their own valor.

APPLICATION

Early in the morning, v. 12. God is pleased to see us take up the duties He has assigned to us not only in faith and with submission to His wise will, but also with alacrity and promptness. How unworthy of His condescension in pointing out our tasks and the grace He has offered to give for the performance of them, is the tardiness and even unwillingness with which we turn to unpleasant or painful and difficult tasks. We are slow to learn the lesson of the Psalmist-prophet who said, "Lo, I come . . . I delight to do thy will, O my God," Ps. 40: 7.

The seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns, v. 13. The means appointed were utterly inadequate and disproportionate to the end aimed at. Their efficacy lay alone in that they were appointed by that God who makes no mistakes, and who has often in the history of human affairs the more revealed His glory by choosing the weak things of this world to confound the mighty. In His hands a Moses influences human history more than did all the dynasties of Egypt and Assyria. He chooses a few fishermen of Galilee and they triumph "over all the might of kings and rulers; over all the influence of priesthoods and systems of worship enshrined in the traditions of centuries; over all the learning and intellect of the philosopher, and over all the prejudices and passions of the multitude." It still pleases Him by the "foolishness of preaching" to save them that believe. Those who announce His gospel are in themselves as weak and their preaching oftentimes appears as foolish and useless as the blast of a ram's horn before the ramparts of Jericho. And yet the same old miracle repeats itself, for the battlements of injustice and oppression and sin go down before the

proclamation of God's judgments, and sinners become alarmed and listen to the trumpet of the everlasting gospel of the grace of God proclaiming liberty to the captive and the opening of the prison door to them that are bound.

The armed men went before them, v. 13. God has marvellous modes of preparing His way and making straight His paths. Not once, but often, in history, not in ancient times alone, but frequently in the last two centuries, has He allowed armies and fleets to be the pioneers of the evangelist and missionary. He makes the very wrath of man to praise Him. It would appear that the Boxer uprising and the invasion of China by the allied armies is already being used by God for the speedier and more complete awakening of China to its need of the Gospel. Similarly the famine has spoken to India of its need of the Bread of Life. What is needed now is more missionaries—more consecrated servants of the Lord to follow, blowing upon the Gospel trumpets and bearing the ark of the testimony.

Only on that day they compassed the city seven times, v. 15. The silent marching of the six days were trying enough to faith and patience. This of seven times round the city at one stretch was more trying still. But God has always some wise end to serve when he keeps us waiting. Let us rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; in the end God's hand will be unmistakably manifested in the salvation of His people.

Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city, v. 16. No matter what our toil or planning may have been, the success of it belongs to God who giveth us the victory in life and over death. The victory of God's people comes ever and anon in some new