

rigid restraint from all hostile action, bearing arms and making no use of them, must have been most irksome. (b) And why this protracted delay? Seven long days spent in what must have seemed to impetuous warriors doing nothing. It was necessary that the trying of faith should work patience, and that "patience should have her perfect work" (James 1:3, 4), in order to succeed in the great campaign before them. And this discipline was specially needed by a people who had long shown themselves to be fickle, fretful, rebellious. We all need to learn to "wait upon the Lord." We are too prone to ask unbelievably, peevishly, "Where are the signs of His coming. Why are not the nations converted at once?"

4. *The reward of faith and patient self-control.*

(a) The reward of faith and patience is largely realized in the spiritual profit of those who cultivate these virtues. In addition to this, in the case of Joshua and the people, the hostile city was overthrown and the way opened to the conquest of all Canaan.

(b) In the case of Rahab the faith of one saved whole families, v. 23. It was so with Noah. His faith saved himself and all his family from the flood. Rahab's faith and its issue deserve to be emphasized as typical of the place taken in the history of the church by believing, godly women. Let us have faith in God under all circumstances, and let us often breathe the prayer, "Lord, increase our faith."

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

In the lesson of last Sabbath we had an instance of safety through trust. It is appropriately followed by an instance of victory through faith. A review of the previous lesson is a good preparation for this second manifestation of the virtue of calm, unflinching reliance upon God. Priests who could stand still in a dry river bed, with the sound of the raging floods above them in their ears, and people who could pass over without haste, were ready, one would say, for almost any demand upon their faith.

1. *The new demand had high warrant.* To go no further back, read ch. 5:13-15, and then this promise of ch. 6:2. It came direct from the great Captain of salvation. It

stands in the same class as that command of His in Matt. 28:19, 20.

2. *The various steps were made clear.* God does not try His servants beyond reason. Here is a lofty act of faith required. But the steps are made easy. Priests and people are told just what they shall do. It will interest the class to have it worked out under the heading "Plan of Campaign": verses 3-5 supply the material, and also (besure to pick them out) two great promises.

3. *Joshua, wise general as he was, made complete preparation.* Impulse may be and is good on occasion; but when there is stern work to be done, well-planned preparation is what tells. Witness Lord Kitchener's successes in the Soudan and in South Africa. It was thoroughness in previous preparation that brought about the results. No church, Sabbath School, religious organization of any sort, will "run" itself. Good planning is half the battle.

4. *The appointed programme was carried out to the letter.* It required faith to arrange it. It required faith multiplied to carry it through. Try to imagine how much it cost Joshua, the priests, the soldiers, the people, to go through the apparently senseless parade day after day. Picture the suspense of the seventh day, which almost made hearts stand still. But faith triumphed.

5. *And the victory was complete, v. 20.* It brought these three great gains, at least: God's promise was made good; evil men who had long deserved punishment were destroyed; a place was found for God's people.

6. For the destruction and consecration of the spoils, and for Rahab's faith and deliverance, See Exposition and Light from the East.

Some Test Questions

At what season was the crossing of the Jordan by the Israelites?

When did the manna cease?

Describe Joshua's vision?

What promise given him?

What instructions, in detail?

What did Joshua do?

Describe the order of the march for the first six days, and what was done.

On the seventh day.