

Joshua 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rearward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

Analysis

The seven priests bearing seven trumpets continue their processional before the ark, maintaining the sacred order established on day one. The emphasis on 'went on continually' (halok v'taqa, עַלְקָה וְתָקַע) stresses unceasing proclamation. They blew the trumpets without stopping throughout the entire circuit. This sustained witness proclaimed God's sovereignty without wavering. The armed men going before and the rearward coming after maintain the protective formation. The phrase 'going on, and blowing' appears again, underlining persistence. This second day's repetition—identical to the first—would have seemed anticlimactic to human observers. Yet God was building faith through obedience, testing perseverance through routine. The continuous trumpet blast symbolizes the constant proclamation of God's Word—not intermittent or convenient, but sustained and faithful. Believers are called to 'sound the trumpet' of gospel witness continually, not merely when it feels impactful (2 Timothy 4:2).

Historical Context

By the second day, Jericho's inhabitants would have begun wondering about Israel's strategy. The repetition of the identical pattern—same time, same formation, same trumpet blasts, same silence—created mounting psychological

pressure. Ancient military tactics relied on surprise, adaptation, variation. Israel's unchanging pattern suggested either madness or supreme confidence in divine power. The sustained trumpet blowing would have prevented any sense of normalcy within Jericho—a constant reminder of impending judgment. This persistence also trained Israel in corporate discipline. Thousands of people maintaining formation, silence, and coordinated movement day after day built unity and obedience that would be essential in future conquests throughout Canaan.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the call to 'continual' proclamation challenge your pattern of witness and prayer?
2. What does God's use of repetition and routine teach about the value of spiritual disciplines?
3. How can you maintain spiritual fervor when obedience feels repetitive or routine?

Interlinear Text

מִבְּלִימָד בְּשׁוֹפְרוֹת: שְׁבַע הַנְּשָׁאִים הַכְּהָן יָמִים שְׁבַע הַ
And seven priests bearing And seven trumpets of rams' horns
H7651 H3548 H5375 H7651 H7782 H3104

בְּשׁוֹפְרוֹת: וַיָּמָת קְרָב הַזָּבָן וְעַל הַזָּבָן וְלִפְנֵי מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים
before the ark of the LORD came came and blew trumpets
H6440 H727 H3068 H1980 H1980 H8628 H7782

אַחֲרֵי הַזָּבָן וְבְמִתְּאֵן מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים וְלִפְנֵי מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים
and the armed men came before them but the rereward came after
H2502 H1980 H6440 H622 H1980 H310

בְּשׁוֹפְרוֹת: וַיָּמָת קְרָב הַזָּבָן וְעַל הַזָּבָן וְלִפְנֵי מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים
the ark of the LORD came and blew trumpets
H727 H3068 H1980 H8628 H7782

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Matthew 24:13 (Parallel theme): But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

1 Chronicles 15:26 (References Lord): And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams.