

Joshua 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

Analysis

At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua commanded the people to shout. The moment of silence ends with explosive proclamation. The Hebrew *hari'u* (הָרִיעוּ) is imperative—'Shout!' This shout isn't self-generated enthusiasm but commanded obedience to God's word through Joshua. 'For the LORD hath given you the city'—note the past tense. In God's sovereign decree, victory is already accomplished; Israel's shout is response to promise, not an attempt to create reality. This is faith's shout: claiming God's promise before physical evidence appears. The command emphasizes divine gift: God gives the city; Israel doesn't take it by force. This distinction matters profoundly—conquest succeeds through God's sovereign grace, not human achievement. The shout must wait for God's timing (seventh day, seventh circuit, trumpet blast, Joshua's command). Premature shouting would be presumption; this shout is obedient faith. Faith waits for God's word and timing, then responds wholeheartedly.

Historical Context

The coordinated shout of possibly two million people (the fighting men alone numbered 600,000, Exodus 12:37) would have created massive noise. But this wasn't merely acoustic warfare—it was covenantal proclamation. The shout declared faith in God's promise. In ancient warfare, victory shouts typically followed battle success; Israel shouted before walls fell, demonstrating faith. Joshua's leadership shines here: he maintained six days of disciplined silence,

knew exactly when to command the shout, and exercised authority based on God's word. The past tense 'the LORD hath given' reflects prophetic certainty—God's promises are so sure that they can be spoken of as already accomplished (Romans 4:17). This prefigures the church's proclamation: we announce Christ's victory as accomplished fact, though its full manifestation awaits His return.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between faith's shout (responding to God's promise) and presumption's shout (trying to manipulate outcomes)?
2. How does understanding victory as God's gift rather than human achievement change your approach to spiritual battles?
3. What promises has God given you that require faith to claim before physical evidence appears?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי H1961	בְּפַעַם H6471	הַשְּׁבִיעִי יָת	תָּקַע וּ	הַכֹּהֲנִים יָם
time	And it came to pass at the seventh	blew	when the priests	
		H7637	H8628	H3548
בְּשׁוֹפָר וְ	אָמַר	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ עַ	אֶל	הָעָם
with the trumpets	said	Joshua	unto the people	Shout
H7782	H559	H3091	H413	H5971
נָתַן	יְהוָה	לְכֶם	אֶת	הָעִיר:
hath given	for the LORD		you the city	
H5414	H3068	H0	H853	H5892

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 6:5 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

2 Chronicles 13:15 (Parallel theme): Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

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