

# Joshua 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

## Analysis

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The people's immediate obedience—'as Joshua had spoken'—demonstrates covenant faithfulness. The seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns (shophar yobel, שׁוֹפָר יוֹבֵל) before Yahweh emphasizes the theocentric nature of this military operation. These weren't battle trumpets but ritual instruments, particularly associated with Jubilee celebrations (Leviticus 25:9) and divine revelation (Exodus 19:16). The trumpet blast proclaimed God's kingship and coming judgment. 'Before the LORD' (lifnei YHWH, לִפְנֵי יְהוָה) indicates the action occurs in God's presence, under His direction, for His glory. The ark following symbolizes God accompanying His people into battle. This coordination creates a unified act of worship-obedience. This prefigures spiritual warfare where believers advance not by carnal weapons but through prayer and God's presence (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

## Historical Context

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The use of rams' horns (shofar) connects this conquest to Israel's worship life. The shofar sounded at Mount Sinai when God gave the Law (Exodus 19:16-19), at Jubilee announcing liberty, and at festivals celebrating God's kingship. By using liturgical instruments in warfare, Joshua signals that conquest of Canaan is

fundamentally about establishing God's kingdom rule, not merely territorial acquisition. The Ancient Near East commonly believed that warfare involved conflict between national deities—when armies clashed, so did their gods. Israel's procession with the ark declared that Yahweh was personally present to fight for His people. The silent marching (verse 10) heightened the solemnity, turning military campaign into sacred ritual. This was holy war in the truest sense—God Himself waging war against wickedness.

## **Related Passages**

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## **Study Questions**

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1. How should understanding spiritual warfare as fundamentally about God's kingdom change our strategies?
2. What is the significance of using instruments of worship in the context of judgment?
3. In what ways does the church advance through worship rather than worldly power?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי י	כַּאֲמֹר	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	אֶל	הָעָם	
H1961	had spoken	And it came to pass when Joshua	H413	unto the people	
	H559	H3091		H5971	
שִׁבְעָה הַ	הַכֹּהֲנִים	נֹשְׂאִים	שִׁבְעָה הַ	בְּשׁוֹפָר וְ	הַזִּמְבְּלִים
that the seven	priests	bearing	that the seven	trumpets	of rams' horns
H7651	H3548	H5375	H7651	H7782	H3104
לִפְנֵי י	יְהוָה הַ	עָבַר וְ	וַתִּקַּע וְ	בְּשׁוֹפָר וְ	וְאֶרֶן
before	of the LORD	passed on	and blew	trumpets	and the ark
H6440	H3068	H5674	H8628	H7782	H727
בְּרִית	יְהוָה הַ	הָלַךְ	אַחֲרֵיהֶם:		
of the covenant	of the LORD	followed	them		
H1285	H3068	H1980	H310		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 32:20** (References Lord): And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the LORD to war,