

Bethel

Prayer Meeting Addresses

Number 60 Rams' Horns Trumpets

Reading: Joshua 6. 1-16

1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

2 And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

5 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.

6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord

7 And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the Lord.

8 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.

9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

11 So the ark of the Lord compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.

13 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 rereward came after the ark of the Lord, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that

day they compassed the city seven times.
16 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.

Address

The Lord uses strange means to accomplish His purposes, and not only strange means, but small means, insignificant means. Look at this situation – a great, a vast, a mighty city, well armed, well fortified, and what is the weapon? Trumpets of rams’ horns being blown seven days round the city, seven times the seventh day, and then a shout. But they acted in obedience to God’s command, and they depended on Him completely, and they had a promise, a simple promise, a clear promise, a promise of a miracle, and they relied on it. That is why in Hebrews chapter 11 the apostle takes this up as one of the wonderful acts of faith.

Now what has that to do with us? Well, you do not need me to tell you there are a lot of strong cities, armed cities, and all that we can do, or think, or plan, or accomplish will never overcome them, never break down their walls, never cast down their gates. “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal” – these rams’ horns were not – “but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”

So you can think of a few things. John Newton’s hymn: “The castle of the human heart.” How securely it is defended by Satan and his emissaries, spiritual death and darkness and unbelief! And what are we to do? We cannot open a single sinner’s heart. We cannot overthrow the unbelief of anyone. We cannot overthrow any prejudice. We cannot give faith.

“The castle of the human heart,
Strong in its native sin,”

says John Newton.

Well, we have to blow the trumpet two ways. In the preaching of the everlasting gospel, we have to blow the gospel trumpet. Now then, we have been reading about it. It was not the silver trumpet of the jubilee; it was a ram’s horn. It must have been a very inferior kind of trumpet, and I do not think it made a very melodious sound, but the Lord used it. There is so much in the New Testament that God has chosen the weak things of the world, the things that are

not, to bring to nought the things that are. The people of Jericho must have been amazed; the Canaanites must have mocked; but it was God's way, God's purpose, God's will, and it availed. So we have to go on blowing the gospel trumpet with no uncertain sound and we leave it to the power of the Lord to cause those walls to fall down.

But it is not just the preacher; it is the people in prayer at the prayer meeting blowing their rams' horns trumpets, in secret in your homes, in wrestling prayer, in obedience, in dependence, relying on the Lord's promise to do impossible things; blowing the ram's horn trumpet in prayer and watching for the walls to fall down.

But you can open up this subject at some length, these strong-walled cities. Well, not only the human heart in its hardness and rebellion against God. What about all the evils in this world? What about things that are taking place at present? What about opposition to the truth? What about things in high places? What about the evil laws? What about Parliament? How helpless we are before these strong-walled, defended cities. But the blowing of the trumpet attended by the divine, almighty power of God will bring these cities tumbling down.

No doubt you can think of many other things tonight – your problems, great, strong-walled cities; your afflictions, great, strong-walled cities; things in your life, things in your circumstances, things in the church of God. But you have a helpless sinner, and you have an almighty God and Saviour, and you have the means He has appointed. So may you each be encouraged in public and in secret to blow that ram's horn trumpet, even if it seems insignificant, even if it does not seem to give a melodious sound, but in obedience to the Lord and relying on Him and trusting His promise. The Lord help you to pray.

This address was given at Bethel Chapel, Luton, by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom, on Monday, 27th February, 2012

