

# Christ the Conqueror (IC XC NIKA)

*How the Conquest of Canaan is typological of Christ conquering the world.*

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## Introduction

War is simple and straightforward.

War is binary, black and white, life and death.

Spiritual warfare is no different.

**Last time I spoke** it was about A Tale of Two Cities—Two Kingdoms!

Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of Hades, New Jerusalem and New Babylon  
—— “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

**We spoke on how we, the Church, are the light of the world — a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.**

This city has “no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.” — C.S. Lewis

**The battlefield is you—all of you.** B/c you are made in the image of God to worship and glorify God, whom must be worshipped (not by choice, by but necessity).

**Today**, I'm continuing on with that Kingdom City theme with how the spirit of Babylon, or the Kingdom of Hades, has invaded humanity in every city, state, province, country and empire throughout time.

There have been many different types of spiritual Babylons throughout history — Sodom, Gomorrah, Tyre, et cetera

Today we are focusing our attention on the City of Jericho.

## 1. The Battle of Jericho

The battle of Jericho recorded in Joshua chapters 2–6 is famous for its epic imagery:

Jericho was a terribly wicked, yet mighty fortress city in the land of Canaan with enormous, impenetrable walls that no army could conquer.

So, Joshua sent spies into the Promised Land to seek out Jericho — the first city. In Jericho, they spies meet Rahab living in the walls.

### **Read Joshua 2:9-14**

After this Israel crosses Jordan River with the Ark of the Covenant (*baptism*), they build memorial stones, circumcise those in the wilderness, celebrate Passover (*communion*), and then Joshua meets the Commander of Lord's Army (preincarnate *Christ*).

### **Read Joshua 5:13-15**

The commander of the Lord's army instructed Joshua and the Israelites to walk around the city seven days in row and to blow seven trumpets continually each day — they were to walk around the city only once for six days, but on the seventh day they were to walk around the city seven times and blow the trumpets until the marching was complete.

On the last trumpet call, the walls came tumbling down and God's people took the city. Rahab and her family saved.

It is a triumphant story of faith and divine judgment.

What I find very fascinating is how the conquest of Canaan, especially the swift destruction of Jericho, is an antitype of our Christian call to spiritual warfare.

The city of Jericho is a type of spiritual stronghold that we will no doubt encounter in our lives.

In fact, God wants us to see it that way.

## 2. On the Attack!

For perspective, the Conquest of Canaan was the sole offensive war made by the Israelites to conquer territory.

Centuries before, God promised Abraham and his descendants that land (**Genesis 12:7, 15:18-21, 17:8**). Throughout the OT, Israel always stayed within their boundaries and never claimed territory beyond what God had allotted to them. They were simply taking it back.

The kingdom Israel was not called to be on the physical or spiritual offensive. Their covenant was not about conquering the world by force or influence—it was not missional.

They did not wear spiritual armour—that was to come later through Christ. They played defense, so to speak. God was their fortress (**Psalms 18:2, 46:7, 48:3, 59:9-17, 62:2-6, 71:3, 91:2, 144:2**).

They were guarded by the Law of Moses until the Deliverer, who was prophesied to lead them, would come (**Galatians 3:24-29; Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:17-26**).

Then, Christ came. Not only to conquer sin, death, and Satan, but to lead Israel (us) through the battles ahead.

It should come as no surprise, then, that our fearless leader's name, Jesus, is the Latinized form of *Yeshua* in Hebrew, which is Joshua in English. And like Joshua, Jesus is leading true Israel to the Promised Land to build New Jerusalem through divine conquest. (**Romans 16:20**)

And just as Joshua's victories gave Israel physical rest in the Promised land (**Joshua 21:44**), so too will Jesus give us a greater victories and spiritual rest through salvation (**Hebrews 4:8-10**).

**And that's the pattern:** As the Israelites were sent by the commander of the Lord's army, who was Christ preincarnate, to conquer the Promised Land, to establish the kingdom Israel, we too are sent by Christ into battle to be on the offensive, to build His kingdom, to be like Christ, wearing His armour and wielding His sword to slay celestial dragons and take back dominion over the strongholds of Satan—rulers, authorities, dark cosmic powers, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (**Ephesians 6:10-13; Luke 10:1-23, 17:20-21; Matthew 6:10, 28:19**).

### 3. The Armour of God — Holy Spirit

We enlisted for battle at our baptism. Upon enlisting, we received the King's seal—Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit comes the king's armour:

- (1) helmet of salvation
- (2) breastplate of righteousness
- (3) belt of truth
- (4) shoes of the gospel of peace
- (5) and the shield of faith, which can extinguish the flaming arrows of Satan  
**(Ephesians 6:10-20)**

*Isaiah prophecies about this offensive armour in Isaiah 59 that the Messiah would come to restore justice and redeem Jerusalem wearing His armour:*

**Isaiah 59:17** — He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

- (6) and last but certainly not least, we are to wield the sword of the Spirit, that is the word of God—Scripture—in all prayer and supplication, which is our sole offensive weapon against the enemy.

Sharper than any two-edged sword, He (the Word of God) is able to pierce the darkness and separate the light from it, to discern the innermost thoughts and intents of the heart, to render true judgment.

**Hebrews 4:12-13** — For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**That is, Christ wages war against sin—spiritual strongholds—in and through us:**

- (1) passions of the flesh in us**
- (2) the ways of the world through us**
- (3) the devil and his demonic forces under us**

In fact, that is why He came: God sent His Word, His only begotten Son, to destroy the works of the devil (**1 John 3:8; Psalm 107:20**); the works of which that lead to death (**Hebrews 2:14-15**). Since He was sent, He also sends us (**John 20:21-23**).

## 4. Waging the Good War

The first thing Paul tells Timothy about Eldership and being in ministry is this:

**1 Timothy 1:18-19** — This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare**, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,

**1 Timothy 6:11-12** — But as for you, O man of God, ~~flee these things~~. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. **Fight the good fight of the faith**. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

### ***How do we wage the good war? Fight the good fight?***

First you have to identify the enemy to understand his tactics.

We are at war with three distinct yet overlapping fronts (Ven diagram):

- (1) the passions of the flesh (personal)
- (2) the ways of the world (communal)
- (3) the devil and his demonic forces (both/and)

\* **Acronym:** F.W.D. = like “Forward”, *marching forward against the enemy*

### **1. Passions of the Flesh:**

**1 Peter 2:9-12** — Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from **the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul**. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God...

**Romans 7:21-25** — So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but **I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind** and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. **Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

## 2. Passions of the Flesh + Ways of the World:

**James 4:1-4** — What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that **your passions are at war within you**? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! **Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

**James 3:15** — ungodly wisdom “earthly, unspiritual, demonic.” (3 categories)

## 3. The Devil and his Demonic Forces:

**Ephesians 6:10-13** — Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Explain not a glob, but distinct areas of evil that overlap but try to make it a glob...

i.e., if you swear, that is not Satan’s fault — control your mouth! This is sin.

**One of the points of the armour** is to separate you from these areas of darkness so they do not coalesce or overlap anymore, to more effectively conquer the sin within you, so that Christ can conquer the world through you — through y’all

**2 Corinthians 10:3-6** — For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to **destroy strongholds**. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

## 5. The Jericho in Your Life — Spiritual Strongholds

That is our call to spiritual warfare:

to contend against “the passions of the flesh, which wage war against our soul”,

To “destroy arguments and lofty opinions raised against the knowledge of God”,

to hold every thought captive in obedience to Christ,

to share in His battle scars as a good soldier, to please Him who enlisted us.

All in all, to direct all worship in heart, mind, soul, body, and strength to God in order to destroy enemy strongholds, to conquer the Jericho in your life

### **Everyone has a Jericho in their life**

For some of you, you’re in that battle right now. Perhaps God has already allowed you to overcome it, while others might be in the thick of battle and, perhaps, don’t even know it!! Still, there are some who have not seen their Jericho yet, we have not seen our great sin for what it is.

*It’s Life or Death. Truth and Lies. Meaningfulness or Emptiness.  
Eternal Love or Bottomless Pit of Want.*

Our enemies — F.W.D. (aka. Sin) — build enormous walls and defensive barriers around themselves to hide inside the stronghold within you — so you cannot see it — in order to slowly destroy you from within over time...

i.e., Conquest Canaan: Philistines

You see, the enemy—that includes our old self, not just Satan—wants us to live *in* sin, to live *with* sin, to not purge sin from our lives... just let it be: “it is what it is” ... “get used to it!”). Our sin builds a wall around itself so that we either:

- (1) won’t attack it face on
- (2) it’s too big for us to deal with right now, too daunting, and over time we become callous to it, then indifferent or apathetic (despondent/slothful)
- (3) out of sight, out of mind — we forget about it (oblivious, ignorant)

**What is the Jericho in your life? Consider that for a moment.** Bring it to the forefront of your mind. Make sure you can see it clearly for what it is. Do not let sin fog or cloud your judgment.

You cannot conquer the sin if you cannot see it clearly.

Israel sent spies into Jericho to understand the city before they attacked it.

**Perhaps the sin is obvious**, say, it's addiction (alcohol, smoking, drugs; pornography) — lust, greed, gluttony. Perhaps the sin is lack of self-control, you have loose lips (“you talk too much”), perhaps you have a haughty temper (rage attacks). **Perhaps the sin is subtle** — too defensive / easily offended

Whatever it is, everyone has an insurmountable, impenetrable stronghold like Jericho in their spiritual life that has to be conquered as they enter the Promised Land. Those who practice sin will not inherit the kingdom of God (**1 Cor.6:9–10; Gal.5:19–21**)

Now before we engage the enemy head on, the walls need to come tumbling down.

**What are some practical examples of these walls or the bricks that build them?**

1. Flesh: you get in a fight “**I’m sorry BUT...**” — do not deflect or parry the attack — Repent. Period. Word of God is sharp/pierces soul and spirit. **Pride/Vainglory, Rage**

2. Flesh: “**One more time wouldn’t hurt...**” OR “**I just don’t feel like it...**” — stuck in iniquity, chipping away at your spiritual armour. **Gluttony, Sloth /Despondency**

3. Flesh: “**This doesn’t hurt anybody so it’s fine...**” OR “**Well, this company makes millions so it’s fine..**” — private pleasures do hurt people, but in fact they do. **Lust, Greed (thievery)**

4. Flesh: Everything is an argument “**Ya, I know, but...**” — you’re easily offended, too sensitive, too defensive and, therefore, contentious, combative, and quarrelsome, and you’re a know it all to boot!

5. World: Commercials/Reality TV creates Communal Spiritual Strongholds that we are all affected by — Wokism = **Envy, Greed, Want, Schismania, Racism**

6. World: “**I’m a good person...**” OR “**we’re all good people**” — a bald-faced lie. If you believe this, you’re not engaged spiritual warfare. In fact, the enemy has a stronghold in your life right now. If you think you’re a good person — then there’s your Jericho! **Pride/Vainglory, Self-Deception — Pride is a Lie — Proverbs 16:18 — “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”**

7. Demonic: unnatural, off-putting — at first, you can quite put your finger on it, and then over time it rears its ugly face and reveals itself.

**Demons more often modulate behaviour**; they don't just take control of you (i.e., possession) unless you let them take control. **"I love sin."** (i.e., Psychedelics, etc.)

**I hope it is clear**: The bricks to make these walls are built by lies, delusions, falsehoods, wrong beliefs, illusions, presumptions, self-justifications, self-deceptions and excuses that we (our old self) built around our own sins and evils.

All Satan wants to do is seize the opportunity and take advantage of you!

**I have good news for you**: The only reason the enemies built walls around themselves in the first place was to protect themselves against their archenemy whom they fear the most—Christ working in and through you—those who put on the new self and have engaged in active warfare against the powers that be.

**You are in the Lord's Army!** — now and forever. Some of you are in active duty right now, while others are still in training. Either way, we're all being battletested for a bright and glorious future.

**Revelation 19:7-8, 11-16**

Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his Bride has made herself ready;  
it was granted her to clothe herself  
**with fine linen, bright and pure**—  
for the **fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints**....

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the **armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses**. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Just like the conquest of Canaan and the destruction of Jericho, God is conquering all of your sin and devoting it to destruction in order to bring you to the Promised Land

**Revelation 17:4** — They [the world of darkness] will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and **those with him [the church]** are called and chosen and faithful.”

That’s why the walls crumble at the sound of the trumpet!  
Lies cannot stand against the Truth.

**How do we go on the attack to conquer this spiritual Jericho in our life?**

**How do we break down these walls and attack sin head on?**

## **7. Conquering Jericho: Spiritual Tactics — Application**

Jericho is one of many types of spiritual strongholds.

This stronghold cannot be defeated in your own strength — it requires the same tactic used against the *city of Jericho* to defeat it.

How was Jericho defeated? How did its walls come tumbling down?

**Hebrews 11:30-31** — By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

## 1. Faithfulness & Obedience to the Truth (God's Word)

Israel listened to the command of God and did not waiver as they marched around the city—**not just along, but altogether.**

Be faithful to the Lord in all things — Everything is accomplished in the Lord's timing.

Faith conquers and moves mountains (implies spiritual stronghold)

**You cannot bust through the walls — God will take down the walls for you.**

Therefore, put your trust in Him no matter how unconventional or counterintuitive or undesirable it may seem at the time.

Give it all to God. Then do as He says.

All schemes and strongholds of the enemy are defeated by:

**Faith working through love in truth — all in all, God!**

## 2. Praise His Holy Name — At All Times

**Psalm 34:1** — I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Now if you are a couch potato — that doesn't mean walking around a bag of Doritos on the couch... *or maybe it is!*

**Psalm 98:4-6**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Praise is the trumpet of God. PRAISE IS WHAT CONQUERED JERICHO!!

**The trumpet (ram's horn, shofar) is a royal and military symbol — blowing the sound of the trumpet meant proclaiming that the King is here!**

**The enemy melts in fear (Joshua 2).**

***Always praise God no matter the circumstances. Sing it. Say it. Never forsake it.***

Praise him with your heart, soul, body, mind, and strength

Praise is the trumpet of God — **alone and together, privately and publicly, personally and communally.**

***MUSIC! PRAISE! WORSHIP! SPIRITUAL SONGS!***

**2 Chronicles 20:21-23** — And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say,

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever.”*

And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

**Praising the Lord of Lord and King of Kings together tears down communal strongholds.**

**Spirit is thicker than blood!**

Before Israel went to war against the Philistines:

**1 Samuel 16:21-23** — And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.” **And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.**