



# The Perfect Obedience of JOSHUA

By Lynne Wardach

**Joshua 6:1-5** Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. The LORD said to Joshua,

*shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."*

*"See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. Also, seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then, on the seventh day, you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. "It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people*

God told Joshua that he would be the one who would lead the Israelites into the land that they had been promised. He had a hard time understanding God's plan because a very hostile nation occupied the city that God had promised to them. The Israelites were afraid to enter it! Three times, God told him he had to be courageous and do exactly as he was told. Have you ever been scared to do something you were told to do? Joshua listened.

God instructed him to get seven priests with seven trumpets to circle the city for seven days. He told him they should march around the city walls seven times on the seventh day. Then, and only then, at Joshua's command, as instructed by God, should the people shout and expect the city walls to fall so that they could easily enter and occupy the city that God had promised them.

So now we must ask ourselves, what's with all the sevens?

The number seven in Hebrew numerology symbolizes the perfection of God. Let's think a bit about the virtue of perfection. Some people consider themselves to be followers of God, yet they hardly follow God at all. They do the necessary bare minimum to call oneself a Christian. They follow only those directives that are pleasing to them and are easy to do. This is not what God requires of us.

What would have happened if the Israelites had decided that they were too tired and had only marched around the city three or four times? What if they chose to shout on the second day instead? God would not be pleased. It would not be perfect, as He is perfect, and His perfect plan would not have been achieved.

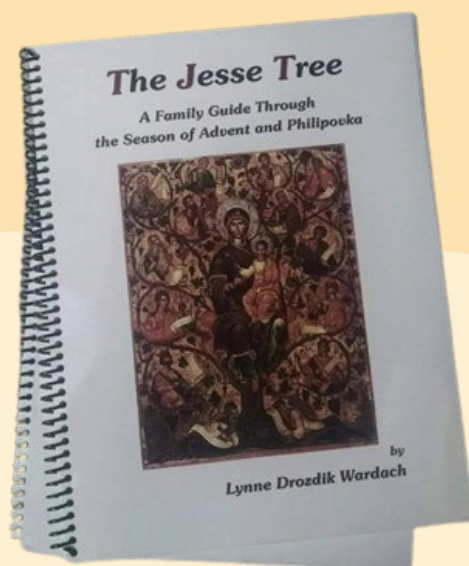
Why would God give such specific instructions? We do not know. Presumably, Joshua didn't know either, but one thing he DID know is that he believed and trusted in the power of God to do what seemed impossible. He knew that God had expected him to follow the instructions exactly as they were given to him, without

deviation, and that if he did so, God would be faithful to His word, and he would achieve His goal. God wants us all to follow His directives perfectly! If we do so, we can expect great things to happen!

*Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city.*

So, what is the lesson we must learn today? God gives us all instructions, just as he gave instructions to Joshua. We are taught by our parents, His Word, and the teachings of His Church. When we learn our catechism, we must be perfectly obedient, even if we do not entirely understand why the directive is so. Yes, we must investigate and discover why God has ordained things this way, and we must always pray for enlightenment and His will. Meanwhile, we must obey, even if we don't yet understand.

Many things must remain a mystery to our simple human minds while we remain here on this earth. We just can't grasp everything yet. We must remain faithful to the God who created all things and knows the order of everything in the universe. We must trust that He has a perfect plan for us and that His perfect love would never lead us astray. We must offer Him the gift of our love and trust and always strive to obey Him perfectly!



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