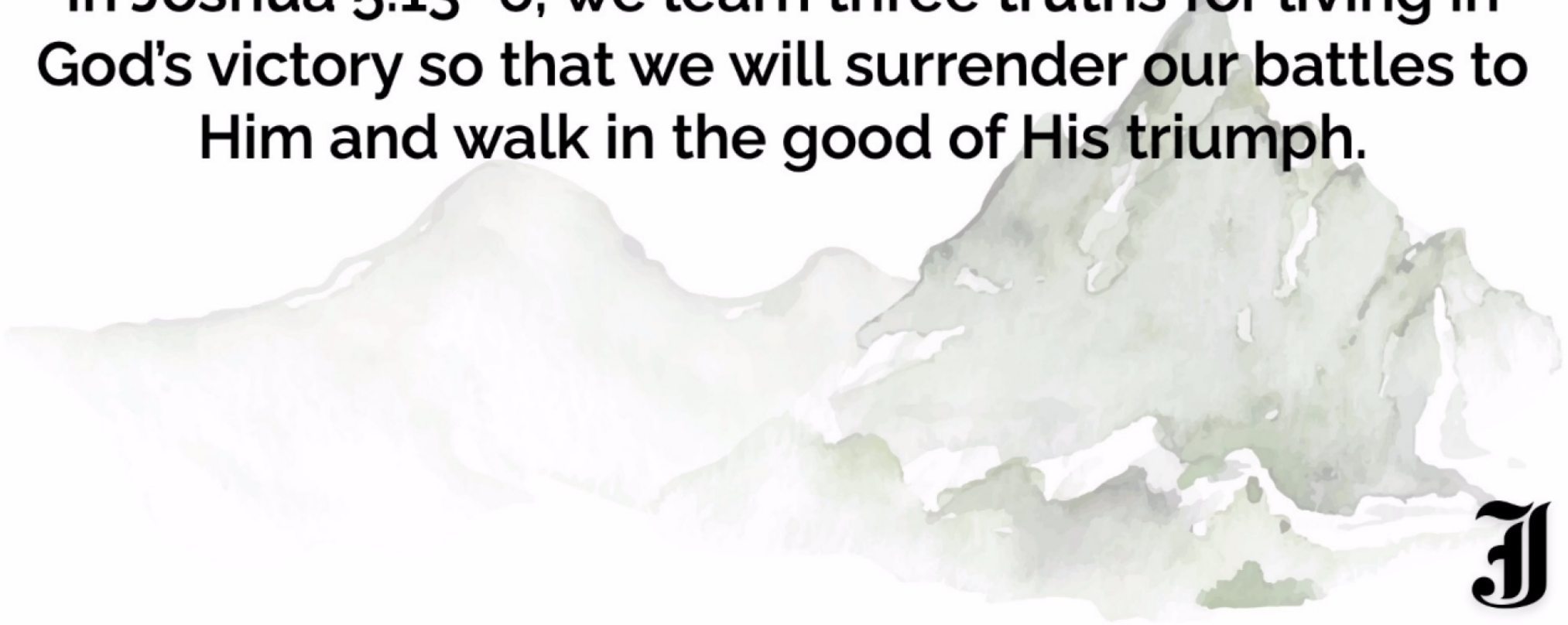


Joshua

The Story of
The Promise-Keeping God

MAIN IDEA

In Joshua 5:13–6, we learn three truths for living in God's victory so that we will surrender our battles to Him and walk in the good of His triumph.



5:13 When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua approached him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"
14 "Neither," he replied. "I've come as commander of the LORD's army."



¹⁴ ... Then Joshua bowed with his face to the ground in homage and asked him, "What does my lord want to say to his servant?" ¹⁵ The commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did that.



In 5:13-15 is another echo of Exodus.

In Exodus 3, before Moses leads the people out of Egypt, he meets the angel of the LORD in the burning bush and is told, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." (Ex 3:5). And now, before Joshua leads the people into the land, he meets the commander of the LORD's army and is told the same thing. (5:15)



The Promise Land is a kind of Eden restored.

In its description—a land flowing with milk and honey.

In its goal—the place where God's presence will dwell with His people.

And in its geographic orientation.



6:1 Now Jericho was strongly fortified because of the Israelites—no one leaving or entering. **2** The LORD said to Joshua, “Look, I have handed Jericho, its king, and its best soldiers over to you. **3** March around the city with all the men of war, circling the city one time. Do this for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry seven ram’s-horn trumpets in front of the ark. But on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the rams’ horns. ...



5 When there is a prolonged blast of the horn and you hear its sound, have all the troops give a mighty shout. Then the city wall will collapse, and the troops will advance, each man straight ahead.



JOSHUA 6:2-5

Notice, two things:

1. God claims the battle as His own.
2. This is a war of worship.



JOSHUA 6:2-5

Before they've taken one step, before they've lifted one sword, or even shouted once, God promises, "...I have handed Jericho, its king, and its best soldiers over to you." (6:2)

Israel fought *from* victory, not *for* victory.



⁶ So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and have seven priests carry seven rams' horns in front of the ark of the Lord." ⁷ He said to the troops, "Move forward, march around the city, and have the armed men go ahead of the ark of the LORD. ⁸ After Joshua had spoken to the troops, seven priests carrying seven rams' horns before the Lord moved forward and blew the rams' horns; the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. ...

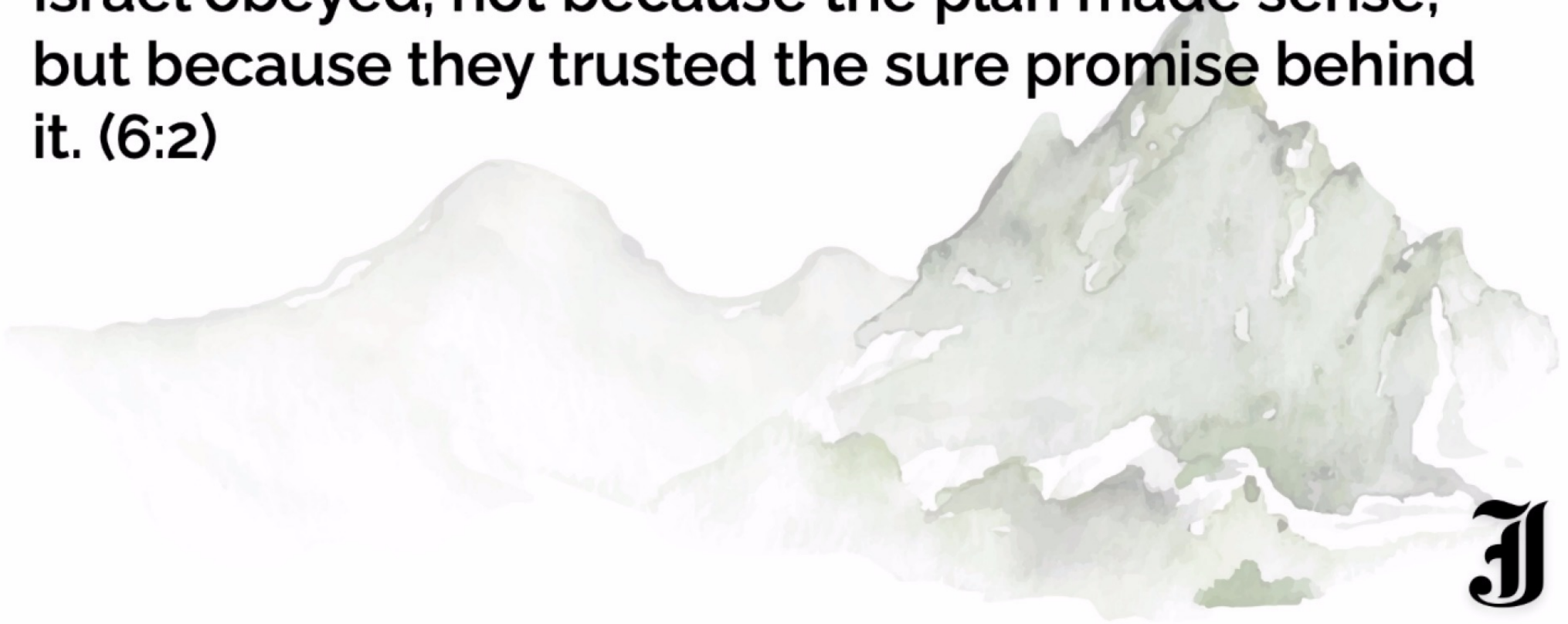


9 While the rams' horns were blowing, the armed men went in front of the priests who blew the rams' horns, and the rear guard went behind the ark. ¹⁰ But Joshua had commanded the troops, "Do not shout or let your voice be heard. Don't let one word come out of your mouth until the time I say, 'Shout!' Then you are to shout." ¹¹ So the ark of the LORD was carried around the city, circling it once. They returned to the camp and spent the night there.



JOSHUA 6:6-21

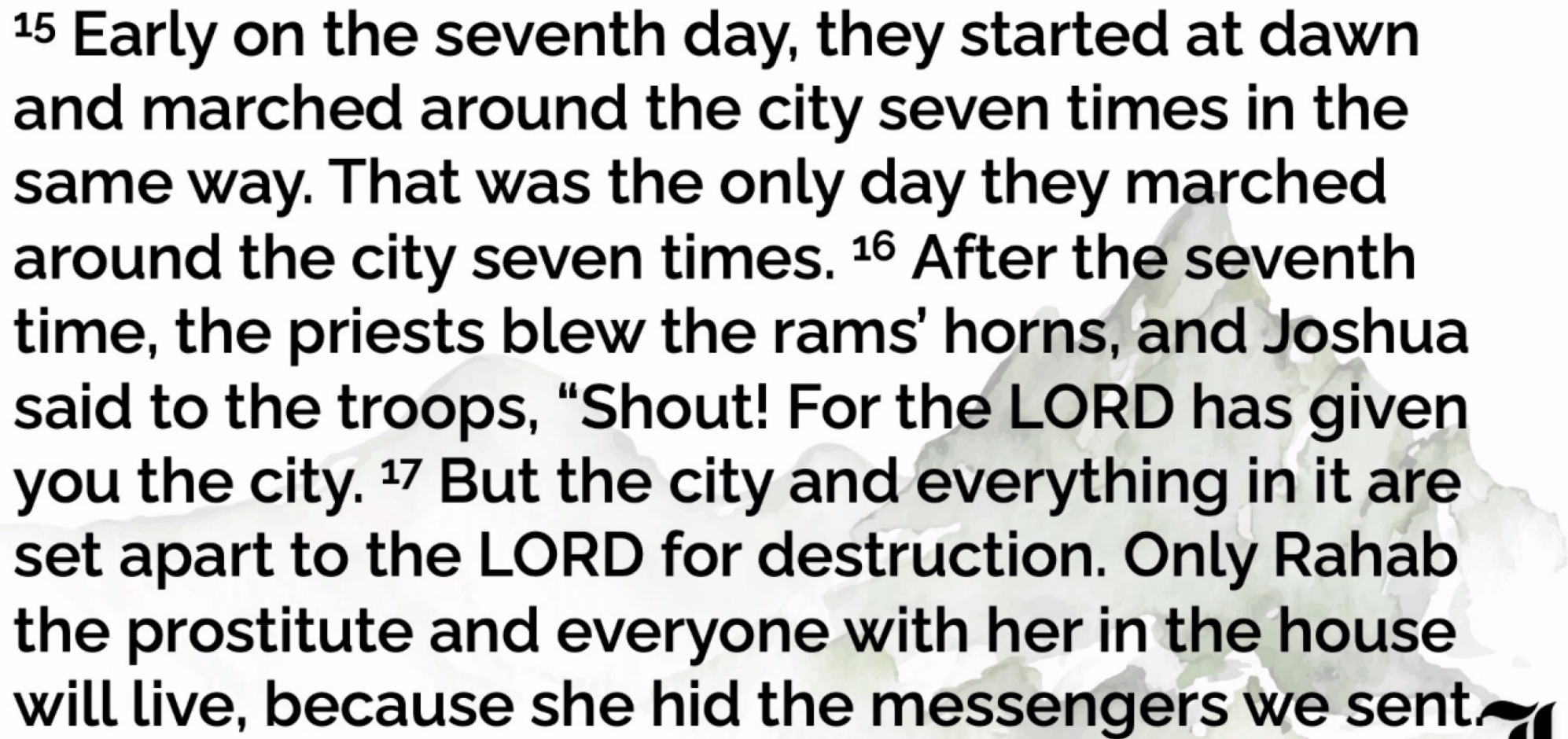
**Israel obeyed, not because the plan made sense,
but because they trusted the sure promise behind
it. (6:2)**



¹² Joshua got up early the next morning. The priests took the ark of the LORD, ¹³ and the seven priests carrying seven rams' horns marched in front of the ark of the LORD. While the rams' horns were blowing, the armed men went in front of them, and the rear guard went behind the ark of the LORD. ¹⁴ On the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. ...



¹⁵ Early on the seventh day, they started at dawn and marched around the city seven times in the same way. That was the only day they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶ After the seventh time, the priests blew the rams' horns, and Joshua said to the troops, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city. ¹⁷ But the city and everything in it are set apart to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the messengers we sent.



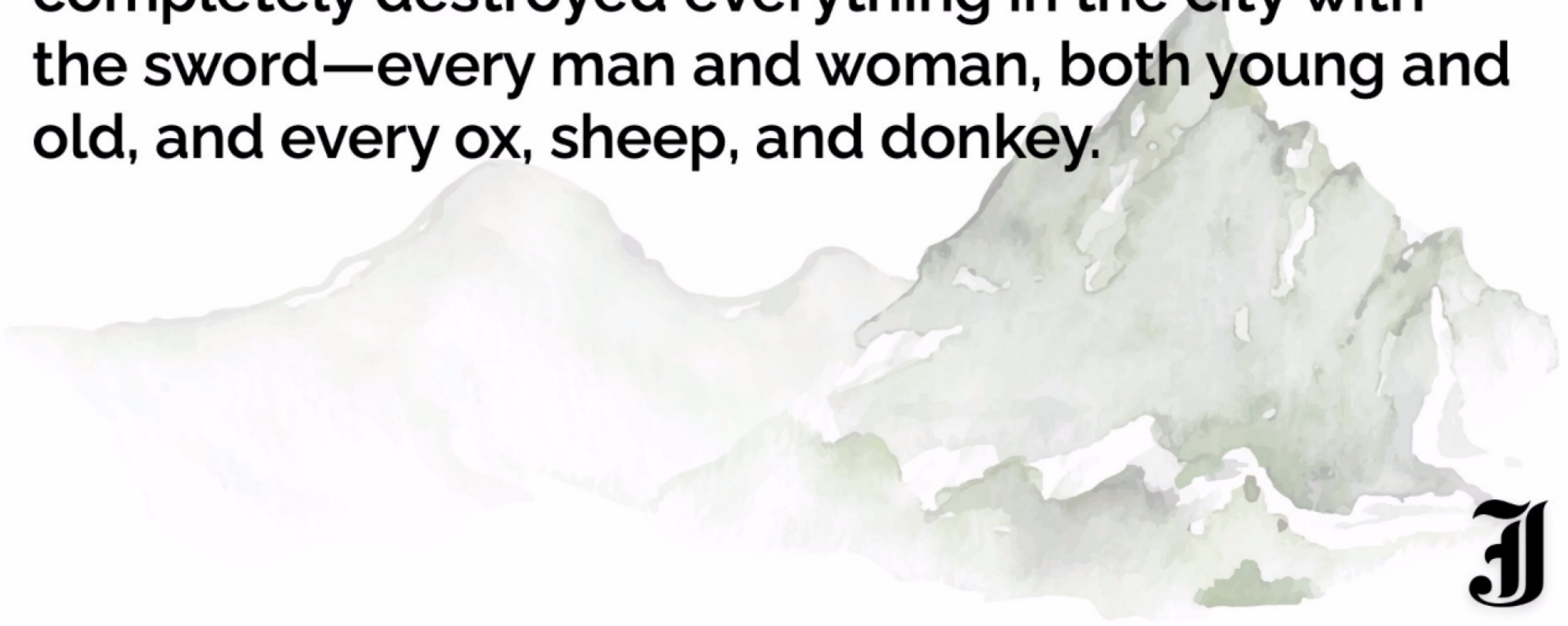
...



¹⁸ But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and make trouble for it. ¹⁹ For all the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the LORD and must go into the LORD's treasury. ²⁰ So the troops shouted, and the rams' horns sounded. When they heard the blast of the ram's horn, the troops gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. ...



The troops advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city. ²¹ They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword—every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey.



JOSHUA 6:6-21

Seven priests, seven trumpets, seven days, and now seven laps. Seven in Scripture often signals fullness or completeness.

God's battle plan is complete.



JOSHUA 6:6-21

Verse 17, “...the city and everything in it are set apart to the LORD for destruction.” Verse 21, “They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword.”

This is what Deuteronomy called “the ban”—a holy war command (Deut. 20:16-18).



²² Joshua said to the two men who had scouted the land, "Go to the prostitute's house and bring the woman out of there, and all who are with her, just as you swore to her." ²³ So the young men who had scouted went in and brought out Rahab and her father, mother, brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her whole family and settled them outside the camp of Israel. ...



²⁴ They burned the city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house. ²⁵ However, Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, her father's family, and all who belonged to her, because she hid the messengers Joshua had sent to spy on Jericho, and she still lives in Israel today.

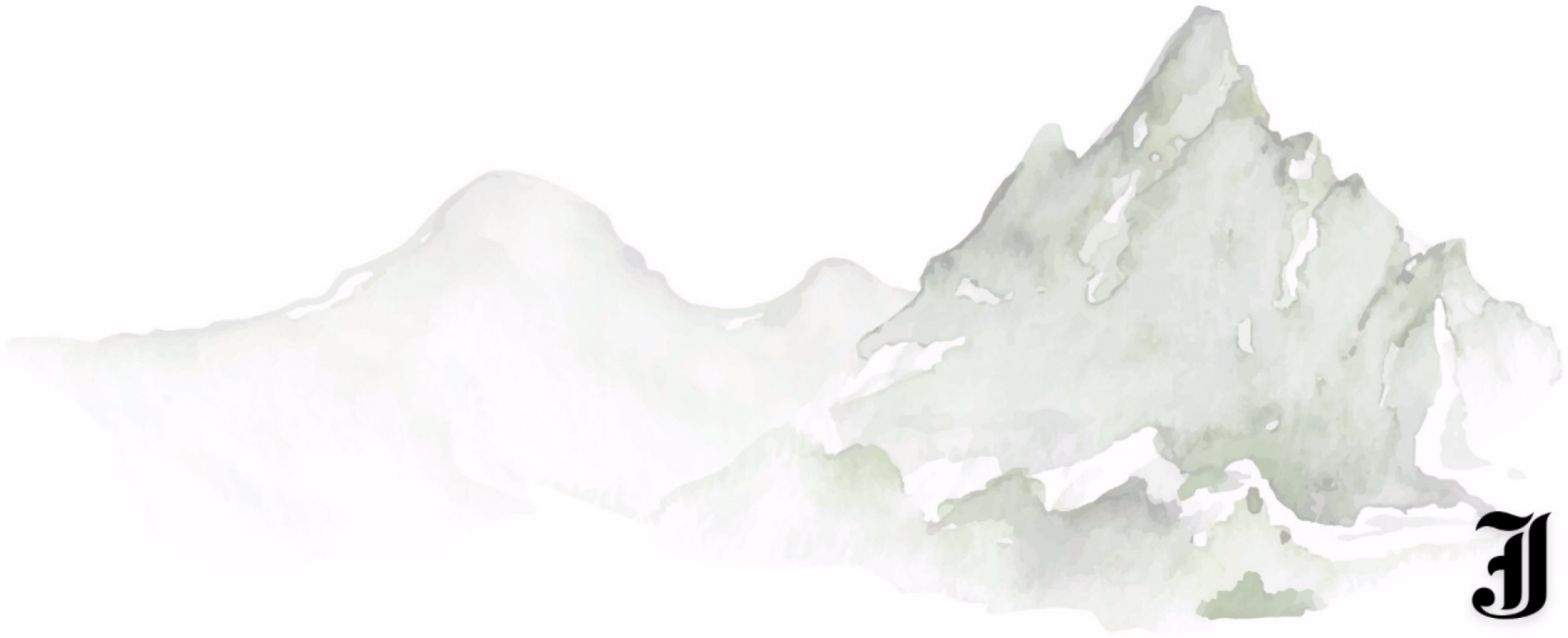


²⁶ At that time Joshua imposed this curse:

The man who undertakes the rebuilding of this city, Jericho, is cursed before the LORD. He will lay its foundation at the cost of his firstborn; he will finish its gates at the cost of his youngest.

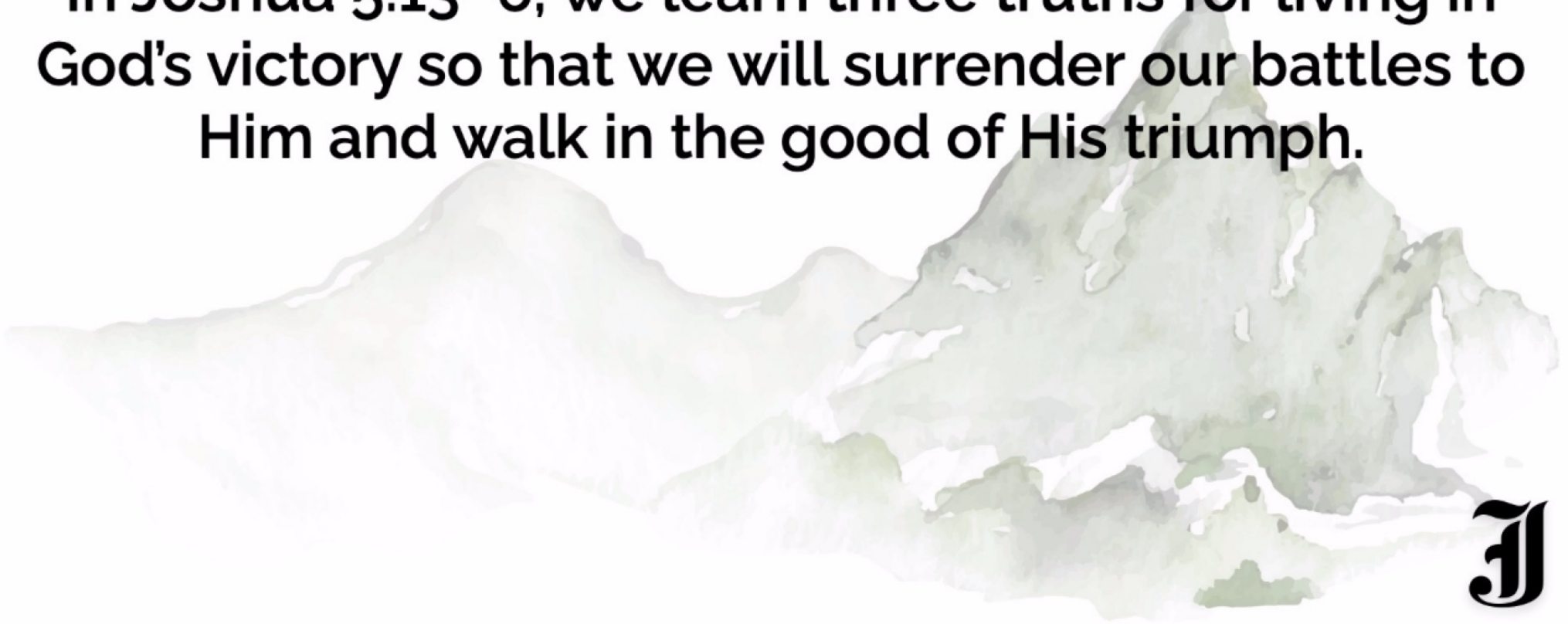


²⁷ And the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.



MAIN IDEA

In Joshua 5:13–6, we learn three truths for living in God's victory so that we will surrender our battles to Him and walk in the good of His triumph.



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY

(5:13-6:5)



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY

(5:13-6:5)

What is true for them then is true for us:
The cross is the ultimate testimony that the battle
belongs to the Lord.



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY (5:13-6:5)

To the world, Christ crucified looks foolish and weak, even like defeat—like Israel circling in silence must have looked to Jericho. But Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 1 that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God for salvation. And since salvation is God's battle, the victory is secure.



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY (5:13-6:5)

¹⁶...walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.

— Galatians 5:16-17



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY (5:13-6:5)

²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

— Galatians 5:24



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY

(5:13-6:5)

Three Strategies for Fighting From Victory

- 1. Preach the Gospel to Yourself**
- 2. Stop Negotiating with Sin**
- 3. Walk in the Light**



GOD CENTERS THE BATTLE ON WORSHIP

(6:1-20)



GOD CENTERS THE BATTLE ON WORSHIP

(6:1-20)

Israel's true battle wasn't against Jericho, but against unbelief. Would they trust and obey God?

And our war is the same.



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY

(5:13-6:5)

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.

— 1 Peter 2:11



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY (5:13-6:5)

“Sinful desires” is New Testament language for the sinful longings of the heart.

The Bible describes our hearts as the “causal core” of who we are and what we do—what we love, desire, hate, and choose all flow from the heart.



GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY

(5:13-6:5)

“Everybody worships; it’s just a matter of what, or whom, we serve.”

— Paul David Tripp



“The best way to disengage an impure desire is to engage a pure one; ... To be specific, we must replace the object of our sinful affection with an infinitely more worthy one—God himself. In this way we do not move from a full heart into a vacuum. Instead, we move from a full heart to a heart bursting with fullness. And the power of our new affection weakens and even destroys the power of sin in our hearts.”

— Thomas Chalmers



GOD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE'S OBEDIENCE

(6:2; 6-20)



GOD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE'S OBEDIENCE

(6:2; 6-20)

Israel didn't obey because the plan made sense, but because they trusted the sure promise behind it. That's grace-fueled obedience.

And that's how the Christian life works:
When God commands us, He also gives us His
empowering grace to obey.



GOD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE'S OBEDIENCE

(6:2; 6-20)

12...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

— Philippians 2:12-13



GOD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE'S OBEDIENCE (6:2; 6-20)

12... **work** out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God who is **working** in you both to **will** and to **work** according to his good purpose.

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