

Joshua—Joshua 6

Destruction of Jericho

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

1. Verse 1... “Jericho. (*place of fragrance*). A city of high antiquity, situated in a plain traversed by the Jordan, and exactly over against where that river was crossed by the Israelites under Joshua. [Jos 3:16](#). It was five miles west of the Jordan and seven miles northwest of the Dead Sea. It had a king. Its walls were so considerable that houses were built upon them. [Jos 2:15](#). The spoil that was found in it, betokened its affluence. Jericho is first mentioned as the city, to which the two spies were sent by Joshua from Shittim. [Jos 2:1-21](#). It was bestowed by him, upon the tribe of Benjamin, [Jos 18:21](#), and from this time, a long interval elapses before Jericho appears again upon the scene” [*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*].
2. Verse 9... REReward—“Rereward, ([Jos 6:9](#)), the troops in the rear of an army on the march, the rear-guard. This word is a corruption of the French arriere-garde. During the wilderness march the tribe of Dan formed the rear-guard ([Num 10:25](#); compare [1Sa 29:2](#); [Isa 52:12](#); [58:8](#))” [*Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, by Easton].
3. Verse 17... ACCURSED—“The order from the Lord regarding the plunder of Jericho treated it as the first fruits of Canaan, and this did not apply to other cities they would conquer (Deut 20:10-18). Whatever they took from Jericho was ‘reserved’ exclusively for God, because the firstfruits belonged to Him (Ex 23:19)” [*The Hebrew/Greek Key Study Bible*, p. 301].
4. Verse 20... Josh 6:5; 2 Cor 10:4-5; Heb 11:30.
5. Verse 25... James 2:25
6. Verse 26... 1 Kings 16:34
7. The KIND of Faith Seen in Joshua 6...

Victorious Faith: A Comparison		
Hebrews 11:30		Galatians 3:26-27
The Walls of Jericho Fell Down	WHAT?	You are all the children of God
By Faith	HOW?	By Faith
After they had been compassed about seven days	WHEN?	For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ
To say that we are saved by faith without obedience in BAPTISM is to say the walls of Jericho would have fallen without marching!		

[Content of Chart from: James E. Smith, *The Books of History*, p. 70]

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Conquest.

“Given the known size of ancient Jericho—about thirteen acres—a trip around the walls would have only taken about an hour” [James E. Smith, *The Books of History*, p. 70].

“The conquest itself is described in three campaigns or stages...

- The thrust into central Canaan (Josh 6:1—8:35).
- The southern campaign (9:1—10:43).
- The northern campaign (11:1—15:63).

The first stage relates the destruction of Jericho and Ai. Stages two and three present the long and complex military campaigns against coalitions of Canaanite cities. The reader could easily assume that the whole operation took only a short time, whereas the process actually lasted several years. ..." [The Life and Times Historical Reference Bible, p. 272].

III. Summary.

Joshua is given instructions from the Lord about how to take the city of Jericho. Those instructions are most unusual and they clearly show that the victory is the Lord's victory and not that of the armed forces of Israel. The city has been given to Israel by the Lord, but there are instructions for Israel to follow BEFORE it will be theirs. In a remarkable demonstration of the kind of faith that avails (so remarkable that we read about it in the New Testament, cf., Heb 11:30), the people follow precisely the instructions about marching around Jericho. As a result of doing what the Lord has told them to do, Israel gains a great victory when the walls of the city come tumbling down. It is interesting to notice in verse 8 that the Lord Himself is put for the Ark. As the priests carried the Ark around the walls of the city, it was as if the Lord Himself were marching around those walls with His chosen people. This victory at Jericho would be the first of many victories for Israel in the land God had given them. This being the FIRST victory, was significant and the firstfruits are to be dedicated to the Lord. Such would be the case here. The people were given instruction about not taking any of the "spoils" of this first victory in Canaan. IT BELONGED TO THE LORD! All of the silver, gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated to the Lord and would come into the treasury of the Lord. Everything else was to be burned and destroyed. The promise that the two spies had made to Rahab was kept and Rahab and all that were with her in her house were delivered to safety and protected by the Israelites. There is a curse placed upon anyone who would rebuild the city of Jericho (which curse, unfortunately, had to be carried out, cf., 1 Kgs 16:34). Joshua's fame was spread throughout all of the land of Canaan.

IV. Outline.

1. The Lord gives an unusual strategy for taking Jericho (Josh 6:1-16).
2. The city is dedicated to the Lord (Josh 6:17-19).
3. The people follow the instructions of the Lord (Josh 6:20-21).
4. Rahab and her family are saved (Josh 6:22-25).
5. A curse on any who rebuild Jericho (Josh 6:26).
6. Joshua's fame spreads (Josh 6:27).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ No one in Canaan knew anything about Joshua.
02. _____ There was not anything saved that was within the walls of Jericho.
03. _____ It would be possible to make the camp of Israel accursed.
04. _____ On the second day, the children of Israel marched around Jericho twice.
05. _____ The marches around the walls of Jericho were done without any talking.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ The Bible describes what was going on at Jericho as: (a) normal routine; (b) shut up; (c) prepared for war.
07. _____ What would happen at the long blast from the ram's horn: (a) the people would shout; (b) the wall would come down; (c) the people would enter the city; (d) a,b, &c.
08. _____ Israel marched around Jericho this many times on the 7th day: (a) 1; (b) 7; (c) 5.
09. _____ This metal is not mentioned in this chapter: (a) gold; (b) silver; (c) steel.

10. _____ The word used to describe the destruction: (a) fully; (b) utterly; (c) completely.

Fill in the Blanks

11. _____--His fame was noised throughout all the country.

12. _____--She and her family were saved.

13. Utterly destroyed with the edge of the sword: _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, and _____.

14. _____--was straitly shut up.

15. _____--carried trumpets of ram's horns before the Ark.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-72... [01—True, Josh 4:24; True, Josh 4:3; 03—True, Josh 4:6; 04—False, Josh 14; 05—True, Josh 4:18; 06—b, Josh 4:21; 07—c, Josh 4:15-17; 08—a, Josh 4:12-13; 09—c, Josh 4:18; 10—b, Josh 4:3; 11—children, fathers, mean, stones, Josh 4:6; 12—3, 13; 13—dry, land, Josh 4:22; 14—plains, Jericho, Josh 4:13; 15—magnified, Josh 4:14.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **Now Jericho was STRAITLY shut up...** (Josh 6:1). Because of fear of the Israelites and more specifically, fear of their God (Josh 2:9-10), the city of Jericho is not operating as normal. This passage helps us better understand the STRAIT gate through which Jesus says we need to enter (Mt 7:13-14). This city was TIGHTLY shut up, with no one entering or leaving. It is a restricted gate through which we enter to be saved. It is only those who are willing to be restricted by the doctrine of Christ who will have eternal life.
2. **...I have given into thine hand Jericho...** (Josh 6:2). This victory was a GIFT from God, but this did not remove their need to follow God's instructions.
3. **...the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on BEFORE THE LORD, ... and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them** (Josh 6:8). God was there with Joshua and the children of Israel, at the place He agreed to commune with them, the Ark of the Covenant. As they marched around this mighty walled city, the Lord was with them. Victory is assured if we are walking with God just as surely as this victory was assured! **We must walk with God:** According to His commands, Deut 5:33; Psa 1; Jer 7:23; In His ways, Deut 28:9; Josh 22:5; In the old paths, Jer 6:16; As taught by Him, 1 Kin 8:36; Isa 2:3; Isa 30:21; Uprightly, Prov 2:7; In His statutes and judgments, Ezek 37:24; In newness of life, Rom 6:4; Not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, Rom 8:1; Gal 5:16; Honestly, as in the day, Rom 13:13; By faith, not by sight, 2 Cor 5:7; In love, following Christ, Eph 5:2; Worthy of the Lord, Col 1:10; In Christ, Col 2:6; By the gospel rule, Phil 3:16; In the light, as God is, 1 John 1:7; In white raiment, Rev 3:4; In the light of heaven, Rev 21:24; Instances of: Enoch, Gen 5:24; Noah, Gen 6:9 [Thompson Chain, S.v., "Walking with God"].
4. **...Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth...** (Josh 6:10). Surely this must have been a **most difficult** command to follow, but their strong faith (Heb 11:30) helped them to be obedient even in this great challenge. I do not know this for a fact, but I would imagine that the residents of Jericho were not silent as they observed this procedure, maybe they were shouting out at the Israelites, but their charge was to be silent till the signal was given.

5. ...keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed... (Josh 6:18). As will be seen in the next chapter, someone DID NOT LISTEN to this charge from God’s spokesman. These words need to be a great challenge to all of us.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

S R F V B G S T G B N Y G D E T U O H S
 T B C D E W I S X Z A Q R W S X C D E R
 S F L V B G L T Y H N M E M J U I O P Q
 W A Z E X S V S W E D C A V F R T G B N
 I H Y U W J E M K I O L T P Q A R Z X S
 R W E D C V R B N O R I S G T S A V E D
 P T Y H N M J G U I K S H K L Y H H N B
 G G S T R F V O C D S E O W S X A Z A Q
 W S W X C D E L R A F T U V B G B B G T
 Y H O N M T J D R U A D T Y H N B G T T
 R F R V N C D B T L E W E S X Z A Q W S
 X C D R C D E R F R F V B S N H Y U J M
 M U U T G B V N C D E E W U T T E R L Y
 S B C D E R W A L L F A V B G R T G B N
 Y H N M J O U I O P P K S M J U O Y H N
 B G T R D R F V C O X V F U V F E Y D C
 X S W L X P E E H S M N B V R C X Z E P
 O I L U T R E W Q A A S S S D Y G H J D
 X E C D E R F V B G T Y H N M J U I K L
 F V F R E D C T R U M P E T S X S W Q A

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Joshua 6:20-21, 24-25--²⁰So the people **shouted** when the **priests blew** with the **trumpets**: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a **great shout**, that the **wall fell down flat**, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. ²¹And they **utterly destroyed** all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and **ox**, and **sheep**, and **ass**, with the edge of the **sword**. ... ²⁴And they **burnt** the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the **silver**, and the **gold**, and the vessels of **brass** and of **iron**, they put into the **treasury** of the house of the LORD. ²⁵And Joshua **saved Rahab** the harlot alive, and her father’s household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.