

JOSHUA 6

The Capture of Jericho

The Plan

1 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. 2 And Yahweh said to Joshua,

See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. 4 Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.

6 So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them,

Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of Yahweh.

7 And he said to the people,

Go forward. March around the city, and let the armed men pass on before the ark of Yahweh.

Day One

8 And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before Yahweh went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of Yahweh following them. 9 The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. 10 But Joshua commanded the people,

You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout.

11 So he caused the ark of Yahweh to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

Days Two through Six

12 Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of Yahweh. 13 And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of Yahweh walked

on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of Yahweh, while the trumpets blew continually. 14 And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.

Day Seven

15 On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. 16 And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people,

Shout, for Yahweh has given you the city. 17 And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to Yahweh for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. 18 But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. 19 But all silver and gold and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to Yahweh. They shall go into the treasury of Yahweh.

20 So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him. So they captured the city.

The Destruction of Jericho and the Salvation of Rahab

21 Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword. 22 But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said,

Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.

23 So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, and brothers, and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. 24 And they burned the city with fire and everything in it. Only the silver and gold and the vessels of bronze and of iron they put into the treasury of the house of Yahweh. 25 But Rahab the prostitute, her father's household, and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

The Curse of Jericho

26 Joshua laid an oath on them at that time saying,

Cursed before Yahweh be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city Jericho. At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates.

27 So Yahweh was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

Biblical Worldview

1. Spiritual warfare is a cooperative venture between God and believers.
 - a. There are certain things God does, and there are certain things believers do.
 - b. Yahweh is giving the city of Jericho to Israel, but there are conditions of capture.
 - c. Yahweh asks Joshua to capture the city in a unique way for an important purpose.
 - d. Yahweh wants both the Israelites and the Canaanites to know he is God and this is what he wants.
 - e. Usually, an invading army would besiege a walled city. But not here.
 - f. Joshua adds to the glory of Yahweh by commanding the soldiers to be absolutely silent.

2. Jericho was the ideal city for God to demonstrate his power to break down walls.
 - a. Jericho is one of the earliest settlements in the world, perhaps dating to 9000 bc.
 - b. Springs in and near Jericho supply enough water to sustain a large population.
 - c. By 8000 bc, Jericho was surrounded by a stone wall 3.6 meters high and 1.8 meters wide.
 - d. Jericho's walls have been rebuilt many times.
 - e. Jericho's largest settlement was constructed in 2600 bc by the Amorites.
 - f. The Canaanites took over Jericho in 1900 bc. Canaanite Jericho reached its greatest prominence between 1700 and 1550 bc.
 - (1) The Canaanites built two walls around the city in double enclosure of mud brick on a stone base.
 - (2) The walls were impressive in size but not stable.
 - g. Archaeological evidence suggest Jericho fell around 1573 bc due to an earthquake.
 - (1) The biblical record suggests Jericho fell in [], a []-year difference.
 - h. Charred wood suggest the remains of the city were burned.
 - i. Buried food supplies suggest the city was not besieged before it was captured.
 - j. Jericho remained unoccupied until around 900 bc (see []).

3. When God commands, God's servants act decisively, immediately, and quickly.
 - a. **Joshua 6:6** 6 So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, Take up the ark of the covenant....
 - b. God has commanded his Church to go and reach the nations with the gospel.

4. God's servants routinely do their most important work at the dawn of day.
 - a. **Joshua 6:11** 11 So he caused the ark of Yahweh to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.
 - b. **Joshua 6:12** 12 Then Joshua rose early in the morning....

5. The continual blow of the seven trumpets foreshadows the seven trumpets of Revelation.
 - a. In the future, there will be seven trumpet blows, signifying the end is coming.

6. We are devote to destruction items that cause us to sin.
 - a. God's soldiers must devote spoils of war to destruction.

- b. Otherwise, the spoils of war will lead God's soldiers to sin, preventing further conquest.
7. Gentiles who ally themselves with Israel and the God of Israel won't be destroyed.
 - a. **Joshua 6:17** 17 Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.
 - b. **Joshua 6:25** 25 Rahab the prostitute, her father's household, and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.
8. Gentile believers used to be outside the camp of Israel. Now they are in the camp.
 - a. Gentiles, however, do not replace Israel.
 - b. Gentiles within the camp of Israel remain Gentiles.
 - c. Eventually Rahab was admitted into the camp of Israel.
9. As a permanent monument to God's destruction of evil, Jericho was never to be rebuilt.
 - a. **Joshua 6:26** 26 Joshua laid an oath on them at that time saying, Cursed before Yahweh be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city Jericho. At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates.
10. If Yahweh is with us, we will conquer our foes and our influence will expand.
 - a. **Joshua 6:27** 27 So Yahweh was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

Notes