

Joshua 6 The Conquest of Jericho

Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. 2 But the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have handed Jericho over to you, with its king and the valiant warriors.

3 And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. 4 Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

5 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 shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight ahead."

6 So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and have seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark of the LORD." 7 Then he said to the people, "Go forward and march around the city, and the armed men shall go on ahead of the ark of the LORD."

8 And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. 9 And the armed men went ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets.

10 But Joshua commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout nor let your voice be heard, nor let a word proceed from your mouth, until the day I tell you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout!" 11 So he had the ark of the LORD taken around the city, circling it once; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

12 Now Joshua got up early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

13 Then the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew the trumpets; and the armed men went ahead of them, and the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while they continued to blow the trumpets. 14 So the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp; they did the same for six days.

15 Then on the seventh day they got up early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same way seven times; only on that day did they march around the city seven times. 16 And at the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city.

17 But the city shall be designated for destruction, it and everything that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. 18 But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things designated for destruction, so that you do not covet them and take some of the designated things, and turn the camp of Israel into something designated for destruction and bring disaster on it.

19 But all the silver and gold, and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.” 20 So the people shouted, and the 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, everyone straight ahead, and they took the city. 21 They utterly destroyed everything in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, sheep, and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

22 And Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring the woman and all she has out of there, just as you have sworn to her.”

23 So the young men who were spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all she had; they also brought out all her relatives, and placed them outside the camp of Israel. 24 Then they burned the city with fire, and all that was in it. Only the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 However, Rahab the prostitute and her father’s household and all she had, Joshua spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

26 Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, “Cursed before the LORD is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with the loss of his firstborn he will lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he will set up its gates.” 27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

1. The city of Jericho is under siege by the Israelites - can you imagine living in a city under siege?
2. If God said to you, ‘I have given you the city’, would you believe Him?
3. It is a wonderful thing to be in possession of a victory notice from the Lord.
4. Can you think of something Jesus declared to us that is a declaration of victory?
5. If Joshua is to take the city, he must obey every word God gave him to the letter!
6. Six days in silence they walked only once around the city. ‘Only once’ - why only once?
7. On the seventh day they walked around the city seven times. Why seven times on the seventh day?
8. What was the purpose of the trumpet blast and walking behind the covenant box?

9. What could seven trumpet blasts and shouts of a nation do, to the walls of Jericho in the natural?
10. Access to the city was not possible until God pulled down the walls of the city.
11. When God sets us free, He brings down the walls of every enemy that imprisons us.
12. If we are to take possession of the land and life, and make progress, we must press forward and possess God's promises.
13. How difficult was it for Joshua in his preparation of the people?
14. Joshua instructs the people as the new leader of the nation. Winning or losing is dependent upon a good leader.
15. The people, the nation of Israel, obey the voice of Joshua and as a result victory is theirs.
16. What does 'victory' look like to you as a Christian?
17. It was really important for the people to do the six days quietly and the seventh day with shouts - why?
18. On the first day, having gone round the city once, what was the campfire conversation about in the evening?
19. On day two, with the sound of the trumpet and horns blasting, it must have been quite eerie!
20. What were the people of Jericho feeling, as they saw Israel march around the city for those seven days?
21. On day seven, the cry of victory is heard after the seven times they walk around the city.
22. The sounds of the horns, the people shouting, then the walls of the city came tumbling down.
23. In the journey of salvation God requires us to play our part.
24. The declaration of spiritual truth – 'for the Lord has given us the city' - empowered the people.
25. As Christians, we have been given the words of Jesus to declare over our enemies.
26. For the reality of those words and promises to be revealed, we have to send faith off to work in those words.
27. Why did Israel destroy all the city and everything living in it?
28. What does it mean for, 'everything to belong to the Lord'?
29. Joshua keeps his promises to the spies who help Rahab and her family. Why was this important?
30. Was Joshua ever tempted to go back on his word to the two spies?
31. If he had done, what would that have said to the people?
32. Joshua wants to protect the people from the spirit of covetness
33. How might we, 'steal God's possessions'?
34. The repercussions of disobeying God's instruction, through Joshua, would have meant defeat!
35. Why did Joshua curse anyone who rebuilt the city or Jericho?

36. The gold and the silver and the precious things belong to the Lord - why does God need them?
37. The people fulfil the planned attack on Jericho and it happens just as the Lord had declared it.
38. Can you imagine seeing the walls of Jericho fall down flat, at the sound of the horn and the shouts of the people?
39. We only take possession of our future if we press forward?
40. The people annihilate the city - everything living in it! How hard is that to accept?
41. The two men who promised Rahab help, rescued her and her family, and put them outside the camp
42. What is the significance of putting these people 'outside the camp'?
43. Why did they burn the city with fire?
44. 'To live within Israel to this day' – does that still apply to Rahab's descendants today?
45. Do they still live amongst Israel today?
46. The cost of rebuilding the city of Jericho is a curse on the children and the grandchildren?
47. What is it for 'the Lord to be with you, as He was with Joshua?
48. How would the fame of this experience for Joshua, impact the surrounding nations of Jericho?

Hebrews 11:31

It was by faith Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed in her city, she had given a welcome to the spies.

Salmon and Rahab were the father and mother of Boaz.

Boaz and Ruth were the father and mother of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, Father of David, Jesus is from the line of David Matthew 1:5.