

# Joshua 6 – The Walls of Jericho

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JERICO=city of Palm Trees, moon, the oldest city in the world, 7-10 acres in size quite small, the 1<sup>st</sup> city conquered by Israel after entering the promised land.

1<sup>st</sup> we see God's judgment – on Jericho, they were rebellious against God

2<sup>nd</sup> we see God's mercy – on Rahab and her family, because of her faith

In Joshua 1:8, Joshua is commissioned by the LORD to lead the Israelites

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8

God confirms & establishes Joshua's leadership before the entire nation with the miracle of all Israel crossing the Jordan River on dry ground. Joshua 3:7

We see in Joshua 3:16 the 1<sup>st</sup> mention of a wall (heap), the wall of water which, piled up away from the Israelites which, gave them access to cross the Jordan (it was flood stage at that time of the year)

- Wall=a heap, protection, security, separation

Going on to Joshua 6:1

Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Joshua 6:1

We see how the Israelites are feared by the Canaanite King and his men of war. The walls of Jericho had them completely hedged in; no one came in or out of that city while the Israelites were near.

They had a false sense of security behind the walls. They had great fear for the



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God of Israel because of the miracle at the Jordan (the word got out about what God had done for his people and they knew their destiny was judgment)

- Seven (#7)=completion, finished, perfection, bring to an end (a series of things, events or actions)
- Trumpet=used mainly at that time for warfare or worship. Signaling blessing, judgment, victory, the prophetic word and the coming of Christ

Joshua 4:13 there were 40,000 warriors that crossed over with Joshua to Jericho and there were 1,000's that stayed behind.

God will use the weak & foolish things to confound the wise. We see that as the battle plan unfolds in the rest of the chapter.

As believers we can have assurance of victory as we put all our trust in the LORD, walk in obedience, are diligent and have the faith to breakthrough.

People prosper in the things of God when leadership is appointed by God and is submitted to. The Israelites were under the authority of Joshua and put their complete trust in him as a leader and that he was hearing from the LORD.

## JOSHUA

- a type of Christ
- completely trusting in the LORD
- a strong leader

What an odd strategic plan for battle to take the city! No weapons were used and priests usually are not part of the actual battle.

1. The people marched in silence
2. Priests carried the ark (symbolic of the presence of God, that he was in their midst at all times) behind the men ready for battle
3. Only the sound of the trumpets [Shofars] were heard for 6 days
4. The people had to encircle the entire wall of Jericho once a day for 6 days
5. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day Joshua gave the order to shout

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6. All the Israelites were in 'One' accord – Unity
  - a. Echad is the Hebrew word for 'One'
7. Victory came – the walls fell – the enemy was defeated

We see that God's divine power was manifested among his people. Not by their strength but by God's strength... the enemy defeated.

Israel was corporate in its vision of what God was speaking to their leader and they followed the plan, no matter how strange it sounded. Israel submitted to his authority as Joshua submitted to God.

Joshua 6:26 a stipulation – there was a curse (this was not a perpetual curse) pronounced if anyone attempted to rebuild the walls of Jericho. The judgment of that curse is found in 1Kings 16:34, a man named Heil lost his youngest son because he had rebuilt the walls of Jericho.

*Some commentaries say that Heil actually put the body of his youngest son into the walls as a talisman or good luck charm to ward off evil*

At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son he will lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest he will set up its gates." Joshua 6:26

In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken by Joshua son of Nun. 1Kings 16:34

God has a strategic plan for our lives and when we hear it and obey what the Holy Spirit speaks to us we have victory. We can be rest assured that there are consequences to our actions when we are disobedient to the word of the LORD.

Selah...

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