



Lesson 68

The Battle of Jericho

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Joshua 6:1-27• Setting: circa 1404 B.C., at Jericho.• Characters: God, Joshua, and Rahab• Plot: Israel follows the LORD's instructions and wins the victory over the fortified city of Jericho. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key word(s) " _____ " (vv 5, 10, 16, 20)• Climax Joshua 6:20 <i>So 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...</i> |
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Jericho Shut Up

- (v 1) The inhabitants of Jericho, knowing the Hebrews were preparing to attack their city, sealed their gates and prepared for what they assumed will be a long _____.
 - Today, Jericho is known for being the _____ city on earth (850' below sea level). In ancient days, it was renowned for its protective walls. Many scholars believe Jericho was the first fortified city in history.
 - According to archaeologist Dr. Bryant G. Wood, "Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base. The retaining wall was some 12-15 ft high. On top of that was a mudbrick wall 6 ft thick and about 20-26 ft high (Sellin and Watzinger 1973: 58). At the crest of the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly _____ ft above the ground level outside the retaining wall."¹
- (vv 2-5) There would not be a long siege because God had given the city into the hands of Joshua, and the city walls would fall supernaturally – if the Hebrews followed God's battle plan:
 - For six days, the Hebrew army would accompany priests who would carry the ark and blow trumpets made from _____. They would all march around the city one time every day.
 - On the _____ day, the Hebrews would march around the city seven times – and after the seventh pass, the priests were to blow their trumpets, and the soldiers were to shout with a great shout.
 - If these directions were followed, the city walls would fall down flat.

APPLICATION → This strange strategy of walking around Jericho for seven days served two purposes: (1) As a _____ to faith for the inhabitants that they would believe as Rahab did and save their city alive; (2) as a _____ of faith for the Hebrews, to see if they would patiently trust God's promise and obey his command. (cf. Heb. 11:30)

Walls Fall Flat

- (vv 6-15) The Hebrews followed God's instructions, and for six days soldiers marched around the city while priests carried the ark and blew trumpets.
- (vv 16-19) On the seventh day, Joshua addressed his army. He told the soldiers that the city was accursed: appointed for destruction by God. No one was to be spared and nothing was to be _____ - except for...
 - ...Rahab the harlot, and all her family and household. She was to be saved alive because she hid the spies.
 - ...the silver, gold, and vessels of brass and iron. These were to be consecrated to the _____, not kept by the soldiers.

¹ Bryant G. Wood, "The Walls of Jericho," <<https://biblearchaeology.org/research/conquest-of-canaan/3625-the-walls-of-gericho>>, accessed 3-14-24.

5. (vv 20-21) On that seventh day, after they compassed the city a seventh time, the Israelites shouted, and the walls fell flat, just as God had promised.

APPLICATION → Many struggle with the idea that God would have entire cities wiped out by the sword. JFB shows us that it is strange that folks are angry when God’s judgment comes in the form of war and not so when judgment comes in the form of natural disaster: “It should be remembered that the Canaanites were incorrigible idolaters, addicted to the most horrible vices, and that the righteous judgment of God might sweep them away by the sword, as well as by famine or pestilence.”²

We must remember that the conquest of Canaan was God’s righteous judgment against human _____. The Canaanites were guilty of the vilest sins including the grossest sexual immoralities (cf. Lev. 18) and child sacrifice (Deu. 12:29-31).

Rahab Saved Alive

6. (vv 22-25) True to their word, the spies that Rahab hid found her and led her and all her father’s household out to safety.

APPLICATION → Rahab is powerful picture of grace and faith. Of grace, because she was a gentile woman involved in terrible sin (yet she found mercy in the eyes of God and even became an ancestor of our _____); and faith, because she believed God and _____ accordingly by hiding the Hebrew spies (cf James 2:25). Personifying saving faith, Spurgeon preached,

“Yea,” says faith, “I did encounter this abomination of iniquity. I delivered this woman from the loathsome chambers of vice, the wily snares of enchantment, and the fearful penalty of transgression. Yea, I brought her off saved and rescued, gave her purity of heart, and renewed in her the beauty of holiness. And now her name shall be recorded in the roll of my triumphs as a woman full of sin, yet saved by faith.”³

Jericho Cursed Prophetically

7. (5:13-15) After the battle, Joshua prophetically cursed the city. This curse upon the city was realized _____ years later by Hiel the Bethelite (cf 1 Kings 16:34.)

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “shout” • 1. siege a. lowest; b. 46 • 2. a. rams’ horns; b. seventh → 1. call 2. test • 3. saved; b. LORD • 5. → wickedness • 6. → Savior; acted • 7. 550

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. (Note: some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

² Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 1 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 147.

³ Charles Spurgeon, “Rahab’s Faith,” preached Sabbath Morning, March 1, 1857, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle.