

The Collapse of the Walls of Jericho

Joshua 5:10-6:27

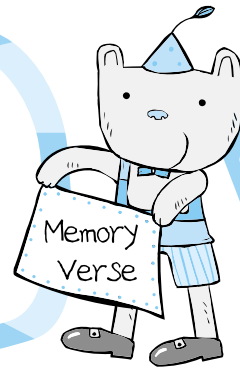
The Israelites have now arrived at the plains of Jericho after crossing the Jordan River. They observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of that month, eating of the produce of the land on the day after that. From then on, God stopped sending manna down from the sky, because the Israelites could now eat on their own.

The people of Jericho were a people afraid of the Israelites. The walls of Jericho were securely closed up, which now kept the Israelites from moving on to the Promised Land. Because there could be nothing to keep them from God's promise, God commanded Joshua to take Israel and destroy the walls of Jericho.

"See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 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."



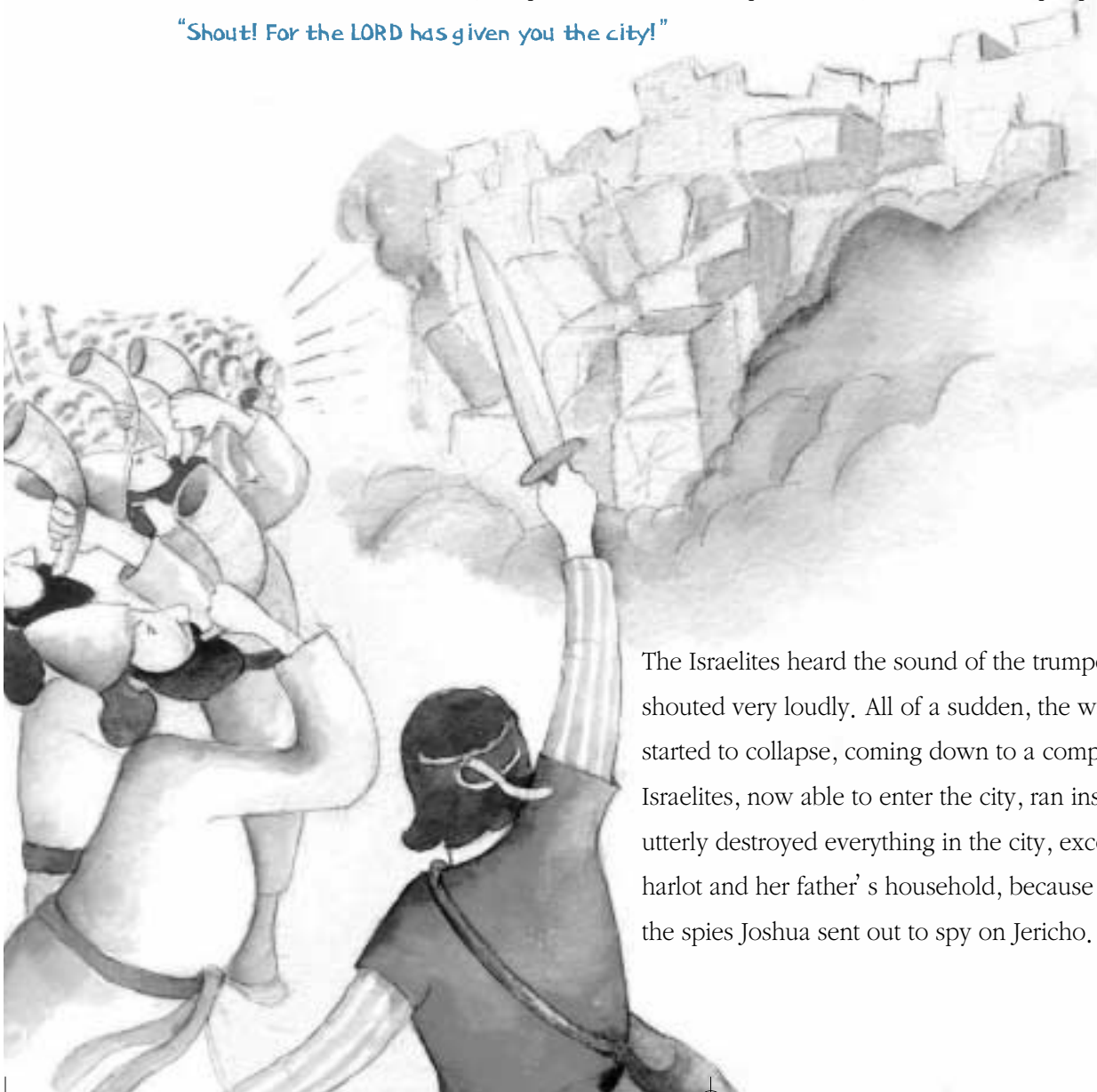
**“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.”
(Hebrews 11:30)**



33

So Joshua told the Israelites to march around the city without saying anything until the day he says,

“Shout,” according to the way God had commanded him. So the Israelites marched around the city day after day without saying a word. There was absolutely no change to the walls of Jericho even after the sixth day. Now, it was the seventh day. The Israelites rose early in the morning and marched around the city just as before, except this time they circled around seven times. After the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets. Then, Joshua told the people, **“Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!”**



The Israelites heard the sound of the trumpet and shouted very loudly. All of a sudden, the walls of Jericho started to collapse, coming down to a complete ruin. The Israelites, now able to enter the city, ran inside and utterly destroyed everything in the city, except Rahab the harlot and her father’s household, because she helped the spies Joshua sent out to spy on Jericho.



Today's Study

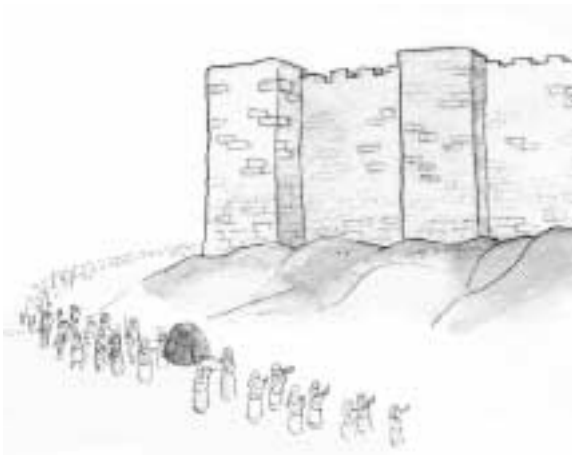
1. The Commandment of God

The city Jericho was built on a hill, with strong, double-layer walls protecting it. How would it be possible for walls like the walls of Jericho to come to a complete fall? Write down what you think below.

We can see from what happened that God's ways are surprisingly different from the ways of man. What was God's approach to making the walls of Jericho collapse?

2. The Faith and Obedience of the Israelites

The walls of Jericho had collapsed after the Israelites encircled the city seven times and shouted a great shout. What caused the walls of Jericho to fall like that?



“ the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.” (Hebrews 11:30)

The Israelites believed in and obeyed the word of God. Because of their obedience, they were able to witness a great miracle of God.



Today's Lesson

The Faith and Obedience of the Israelites

The Israelites encircled the city of Jericho because they believed and obeyed the word of God. They could not make one sound, neither grumble nor complaint, but had to march on quietly just trusting in the promise of God. The people of Jericho may have even mocked them while they were marching around, too. But regardless, the Israelites needed to continue the march for seven days, even going around the city seven times on the seventh day. But as soon as they did that, the Israelites shouted together with the sound of the trumpets, just as God had commanded, and the walls of Jericho collapsed, just as God had promised.



What would the Israelites have been thinking as they were marching around the city for seven whole days?

What would they then have thought when they saw the walls of Jericho collapse on the seventh day?

Write down what you think about this event.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)



Did you know?

*How Big and Strong Could the Walls of Jericho Have Been?

How big and strong were the walls of Jericho? The height and the width of the walls were 9.2 meters and 1.8 meters, respectively. The walls were strong and sturdy enough to support a house on the top of them.

How were such powerful walls able to break down in a split second? Scholars have researched this issue extensively and found that the walls had collapsed due to an earthquake. Evidently, God caused an earthquake to break down the walls of Jericho.

Teacher

parents