

## Joshua 6: An Unconventional Victory

1. Introduction
  - a. Recap
    - i. Jericho was a double walled city on a tell
    - ii. Retaining wall and then mud brick wall
    - iii. People living in the upper city and then in between the walls (ie. Rahab)
  - b. Read Joshua 6:1-5, 15-21
  - c. Verbally summarize the chapter
2. God Guides Joshua (vs 1-5)
  - a. Enemy was filled with fear
    - i. "shut up inside and out because of the people of Israel" vs 1
    - ii. "none went out, and none came in" vs 1
    - iii. Israelites had done nothing aggressive or war like toward them yet.
    - iv. God's presence and power must've been obvious!
    - v. Fear wasn't of the Israelites but of God!
  - b. Fighting from victory, not for it
    - i. "I have given Jericho into your hand" vs 2
    - ii. "king and mighty men of valor" vs 2
    - iii. God is answering all questions and excuses
  - c. God's plan points to trust not tactic
    - i. Armed men to march around Jericho once a day for six days, followed by seven priests each blowing a trumpet. Priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant would come next followed by the rear guard.
    - ii. On the seventh day they would march seven times with a loud, long trumpet blast and then a shout.
    - iii. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."
    - iv. Focus is to be on God. He is a God of promises, power, and completion.
    - v. Seven is significant
      1. Sabbath on the seventh day
      2. Pentecost is seven weeks from Passover
      3. Seventh year is the Sabbatical year
      4. After forty-nine years (seven times seven) comes the year of Jubilee
      5. 3 Feasts fall in the seventh month
        - a. Feast of Trumpets
        - b. Day of Atonement
        - c. Feast of Tabernacles
      6. God rested on the seventh day
      7. Seven promises in God's covenant with Abraham
      8. Seven branches on the candlestick in the tabernacle
      9. Comes from the Hebrew root that means "to be full, satisfied"

10. Shows God's ability and commitment to finish what He starts. To keep His promises (even when the tactic is odd!)
3. Joshua Instructs Israel (vs 6-7)
    - a. Joshua doesn't delay
      - i. Delayed obedience is disobedience/rebellion
      - ii. Delay can cause forgetfulness. Joshua wanted God's plan to be followed exactly.
    - b. Joshua's focus is on God's presence
      - i. He addresses the priests first (vs 6)
      - ii. Priests were in charge of the trumpets and the Ark of the Lord
        1. Trumpets meant nothing if the Lord wasn't with them.
        2. Ark represented the presence of the Lord with His people
        3. Fear came from the presence of the Lord, not the people.
        4. Ark mentioned 16 times in Joshua 3-4. 8 times in Joshua 6:6-15.
  4. Israel Follows Faithfully (vs 8-19)
    - a. They listened without deviating
      - i. "Just as Joshua commanded" vs 8
      - ii. Their trust was in God not in the style or flashiness of the plan
      - iii. They understood from the previous generation that perfect obedience was the key to success.
    - b. They quieted their complaining (if there was any!)
      - i. "'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.'" vs 10
      - ii. It was probably easy to be obedient the first day. How about the second, third, fourth, etc.?
      - iii. If their focus was on God's victory on day seven and they trusted it completely, it would've been hard to keep the excitement and anticipation quiet as days went on. (Perspective can change an attitude!)
      - iv. A mousy little fellow was waiting on a corner when a car stopped and a huge man got out. "Excuse me, please," the big guy said, "but I'm a stwanger in town and I'm lost. Can you diwect me to Wolling Woad?" The mousey fellow looked at the big guy nervously and said nothing. "Are you deaf?" the big man wanted to know. "Can't you speak Engwish?" Still getting no answer, the big man walked over to a police officer. "Excuse me, please, officer, but can you tell me how to get to Wolling Woad?" "Rolling Road? Why sure -- you go down this street and turn right." "Thank you vevy much," replied the muscleman as he went his way. The officer watched him leave, and then went over to the little fellow. "What's the matter with you?" he asked. "Couldn't you tell him how to get to Rolling Road?" "Howy smoke, officer, are you cwazy? The minute I twied to tell that big wascal how to get to Wolling Woad, he'd have town me wimb from wimb."
 

**\*\*Doesn't need to be on the screen\*\***
    - c. They practiced patience
      - i. Historically, Israel hadn't done so well with being patient.
      - ii. 6 days of marching with nothing happening. 6 days of staring at an impenetrable fortress. 6 days of the potential of doubt to creep in.

- iii. God was showing them the importance of complete trust in His timing.
  - iv. Victory doesn't come from our understanding of details. It comes through trust in God and His outcome in His time according to His plan.
- 5. Jericho Defeated Divinely (vs 20-21, 24)
  - a. Israelites shouted out of faith and victory
  - b. God provided the destruction
  - c. The shouting was just an act of obedience, not a means of destruction
    - i. In September of 2001, 1 million school kids across Britain jumped 20 times so that the British Geological Survey could measure its effect on the earth. The result; a tiny squiggle.
    - ii. Other theories about acoustical resonance, mechanical resonance, and a sonic explanation exist.
    - iii. While there is power in numbers and power in sound, there is greater power in obedience to God.
    - iv. Whatever means God used to cause the walls to fall is unimportant. The lesson is that God's plan was perfect, organized, obeyed, and then accomplished.
    - v. Hebrews 11:30-31, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies."
- 6. Rahab Protected as Promised (vs 22,23,25)
  - a. Rahab had faith in who truly saves
    - i. God protected her house and those in it
    - ii. The rest of the city was overtaken and destroyed
  - b. Canaanites had faith in lesser things
    - i. Double walled fortress
    - ii. Strong Army
    - iii. Strategic position
    - iv. All useless against God
  - c. God's protection proved
    - i. Archeological evidence
    - ii. Fallen Walls
      - 1. 1950's British archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon, "fallen red bricks piling nearly to the top of the revetment. These probably came from the wall on the summit of the bank [and/or] ... the brickwork above the revetment."
      - 2. Italian excavators in 1997 found the same thing.
      - 3. In other words, "a heap of bricks from the fallen city walls".
  - iii. Rahab
    - 1. "The German excavation of 1907–1909 found that on the north a short stretch of the lower city wall did not fall as everywhere else. A portion of that mudbrick wall was still standing to a height of over two meters (eight feet). What is more, there were houses built against the wall! It is quite possible that this is where Rahab's house was. Since the city wall formed the back wall of the houses, the spies could have readily

escaped. From this location on the north side of the city it was only a short distance to the hills of the Judean wilderness where the spies hid for three days.”

2. Rahab’s house was spared

iv. Fire

1. “and they burned the city” vs 24

2. “The destruction was complete. Walls and floors were blackened or reddened by fire, and every room was filled with fallen bricks, timbers, and household utensils; in most rooms the fallen debris was heavily burnt, but the collapse of the walls of the eastern rooms seems to have taken place before they were affected by the fire.” Kathleen Kenyon

7. As children of God:

a. God will guide us

i. Isaiah 58:11, “And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.”

ii. Sometimes guiding us means that we just need to follow Him without knowing details

b. God will instruct us

i. Psalm 32:8, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you”

ii. He has given us His word

iii. He has given us the Holy Spirit

c. God will protect us

i. Job 42:2, “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

ii. To accomplish His will

iii. To glorify Him

d. God gave us victory

i. Colossians 2:14-15, “by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by *triumphing over* them in him.”

ii. Stop fighting from a position of hoping for victory and starting fighting from victory!

e. We must obey courageously