

Into the Promised Land - Joshua's Story
Lesson #51 - "Jericho" - Joshua 6:8-23
• H A N D O U T •

► This lesson: The time had come and in typical Hebrew writing style, we are now given the details of the fall of Jericho, as it happens.

The account opens with Joshua giving last minute instructions for Day One's march around the walls of Jericho:

► Joshua 6:8-11 • When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the Ark of the LORD's Covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the Ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding.

But Joshua had commanded the people, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!"

So he had the Ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there.

Q: What is significant about the phrase: *"carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD?"*

Q: What was special about this "armed guard" who marched before and after the Ark?

Day Two dawns and Israel will repeat what they did on Day One.
Days Four, Five and Six will follow without change or disruption ...

► Joshua 6:12-14 • Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the Ark of the LORD. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the Ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the Ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

Q: What is the greatest potential for danger here?

THE SEVENTH DAY...

► Joshua 6:15-16 • On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.

The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!"

Q: What is astonishing about the Seventh Day March?

Q: While each of the six day's march around Jericho was filled with the sound of the trumpet blaring, the people were told to be utterly silent, on the seventh day they were to shout, **loudly**, when they heard the long blast of the trumpet. What does this shouting represent?

BEFORE THEY START THE SEVENTH DAY MARCH, JOSHUA ANNOUNCES RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WITH SOME WARNINGS ...

► **Joshua 6:17-19** • The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

Q: What does "devoted" mean in Hebrew, in this passage?

The Hebrew word translated here as "devoted" is: _____ and it does not mean what we usually think of when we see the word.

► Instead it refers to:

Q: What was the one exception to the command to destroy everything?

Q: What was the warning Joshua gave to Israel?

Q: Why did God demand all of Jericho and its inhabitants to be destroyed?

Q: In what way does God's command for total destruction of Jericho point to an important Biblical theme?

The Fall of Jericho

► **Joshua 6:20-21** [NIV & NAS] • When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.

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.

Q: Could this destruction have been the results of an earthquake?

Q: Over the years, the city of Jericho has been a popular archaeology site. What have we learned from the findings of the various Archaeologists who have excavated the ancient ruins?

Since there is much more to Rahab's story, we will set it aside to Lesson 52.
What follows now is a summary of the fall of the city of Jericho.

► In the twenty-fourth verse of Joshua chapter six, it is recorded that Israel burned the whole city and everything in it. As the Lord had commanded, they took the all of the silver and gold, along with the articles of bronze and iron and deposited them in the Temple treasury of the LORD's house.

Once accomplished, Joshua pronounced a solemn oath – a curse - regarding future of Jericho...

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

Q: What purpose would be served for Joshua to pronounce such a curse?

Q: Was Joshua's solemn oath fulfilled?

► [Joshua 6:27](#) • So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

Q: What did the conquest of Jericho mean for Joshua, and for the people living in the Land?

► Our next study lesson will focus on Rahab,
with the goal of shedding light on the significance of salvation
by faith thru God's grace in the Old Testament record.
It will point to God's plan for salvation for all the peoples of the earth,
for the Gentiles, not just the Jews.



Next Time • Lesson #52
"Jericho – the Rest of Rahab's Story "

