

Joshua 6:1-27

The Lord used Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the land of Canaan but ultimately, it was not Joshua, who fought the battle of Jericho; the Lord did.

Summary

In Joshua 6:1-27, we see that the defeat of Jericho was a gift from the Lord to the Israelites that could be attributed only to Him, teaching us that God gives His people victory over their enemies.

1. Mysterious Ways vv. 1-7

The chapter opens with a description of the besieged city (**Josh 6:1**).

It seemed that Israel was in for a long siege if they were to overthrow Jericho.

The Lord revealed that a complete reversal of events would occur in just seven days.

Before He lays out the plans for the overthrow of the city, the Lord gave Joshua a promise (**6:2**). The method for securing victory was very unusual (**Josh 6:3-5**).

Joshua trusted the Lord, however, and did not hesitate to obey (**Josh 6:6-7**).

All of this marching must have looked like foolishness to the people of Jericho but the Lord moves in mysterious ways when he defeats our enemies as well even though it may seem foolishness to the fallen human mind (**1 Cor 1:18-21**).

Like Joshua, Christians have God's assurance that every foe will be defeated.

2. Powerful Ways vv. 8-21

Joshua did not hesitate to implement God's plan and the Israelites did exactly what Joshua commanded (**Josh 8-21**).

The order of the daily procession is important. First, armed men formed the forward guard and took the lead. Next came the priests with the horn trumpets. The priests carrying the ark of the covenant followed them. The rear guard concluded the procession. At the center of the procession was the ark of the covenant. The symbol of God's presence in the midst of His people. The unmistakable lesson that comes from all of this is that God stands at the centre of all his people's victories.

Every event in the Jericho story builds to the climax of the seventh day.

On that day everyone rose early and marched around the city seven times (**6:15**). On the seventh circuit around the city walls, the blast of the trumpets fell silent. Then, from the silence came one long blast and Joshua said, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city (**Josh 6:16**). At that moment, the power of God brought down the wall of Jericho (**Josh 6:20**). The wall fell. The soldiers went in. The city was captured. The Lord gave Israel the city and they in turn, were to give everything back to Him (**Josh 6:17-21**). Only Rahab and the family in her house were to be spared since she had hidden the spies (**6:17; cf. 2:15-21**).

God owns everything by virtue of being the Creator of all things (**Psa 24:1; 50:10-12**).

Yet He has entrusted to each of us, as stewards, our lives as well as his gifts and blessings that we might dedicate them to Him and use them for His glory. When the

Lord gave Jericho into Israel's hand, He required them to give everything back to Him. Now that He has given us victory in Christ, He requires the same thing of us.

3. Gracious Ways vv. 22-25

In the midst of all the chaos of battle, Joshua did not forget to save Rahab (**6:22-24**). In the midst of the utter destruction of this Canaanite city, the story of Rahab stands out as a picture of God's gracious mercy.

She deserved to be destroyed along with everyone else. Yet in his sovereign grace God chose to spare her. Her hiding of the spies did not earn her a place in Israel but rather evidenced a new commitment on her part to Israel's God (**James 2:25-26**).

God's grace in the gospel comes to those who are not only undeserving but also ill deserving. God owes us no favors. We deserve damnation yet God reaches down in grace, he cleanses sinners, like us, with the blood of Christ, and by the work of the Holy Spirit he sets them apart, just as he did with Rahab, and says, 'You will be mine.'

4. Faithful Ways vv. 26-27

The closing verses of Joshua 6 point back to Moses' instructions in **Deut 13:12-16** about the curse of total destruction and to the promise in **Josh 1:5** of the Lord's abiding presence with Joshua. God not only kept his promises to Joshua and Israel but he also remained true to his curses as well. After the destruction of the city, Joshua placed an oath on Israel regarding Jericho and anyone who would attempt to rebuild it (**6:26**). This curse was fulfilled during the reign of King Ahab: **1 Kings 16:34**. The chapter ends, however, on a high note.

The Lord was with Joshua (**Josh 6:27**). God's presence is always the key to living successfully for him. God's promised presence continues to be the church's assurance and the foundation of evangelism and missions (**Matt. 28:19-20**).

God has given us his word, the Bible, so that you and I may 'hear' him speak today. Because the Lord is far beyond us, his words and actions can seem very mysterious to us and so we walk by faith and not by sight.

We see the wisdom, power, and grace of God most fully in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ (**1 Cor. 1:18, 25; Eph. 1:18-21**).

God has exercised the immeasurable greatness of his power to overthrow our enemies through the cross of Christ. He gave a foretaste of it at Jericho when the trumpets sounded, the people cried, and the wall fell.

He will bring in the full manifestation of that power at the consummation when Christ returns. On that great and final day a trumpet will sound once again, a cry will go up (**1 Thess. 4:16**), but more than a city wall will fall.

Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."