



Week Five: Joshua 6

“Impossible Walls”

Study Guide for the week of
October 23, 2022

Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. What instructions did the Lord give to Joshua about defeating Jericho? ([6:2-5](#))
2. How did the Israelites treat the ark of the Lord? ([6:6-7](#))
3. What did the Israelites do differently on the seventh day of their siege of Jericho? ([6:15](#))
4. According to Joshua, who gave the city of Jericho over to the Israelites? ([6:16](#))
5. Why did Joshua instruct the Israelites to keep away from the devoted things in Jericho? ([6:18](#))
6. For what reason was Rahab’s life spared? ([6:25](#))
7. What does this story teach us about the attitude God wants us to have whenever we succeed?
8. What does it mean to you to be devoted to the Lord?
9. What is one change you can make in your life this week to move closer to being completely devoted to the Lord?

Life Application Bible Notes

[6:1](#) The city of Jericho, built thousands of years before Joshua was born, was one of the oldest cities in the world. In some places it had fortified walls up to 25 feet high and 20 feet thick. Soldiers standing guard on top of the walls could see for miles. Jericho was a symbol of military power and strength—the Canaanites considered it invincible.

Israel would attack this city first, and its destruction would put the fear of Israel into the heart of every person in Canaan. The Canaanites saw Israel's God as a nature god because he parted the Jordan and as a war god because he defeated Sihon and Og. But the Canaanites did not consider him a fortress god—one who could prevail against a walled city. The defeat of Jericho showed not only that Israel's God was superior to the Canaanite gods but also that he was invincible.

[6:2-5](#) God told Joshua that Jericho was already delivered into his hands—the enemy was already defeated! What confidence Joshua must have had as he went into battle! Christians also fight against a defeated enemy. Our enemy, Satan, has been defeated by Christ ([Romans 8:37-39](#); [Hebrews 2:14, 15](#); [1 John 3:8](#)). Although we still fight battles every day and sin runs rampant in the world, we have the assurance that the war has already been won. We do not have to be paralyzed by the power of a defeated enemy; we can overcome him through Christ's power.

[6:3-5](#) Why did God give Joshua all these complicated instructions for the battle? Several answers are possible: (1) God was making it undeniably clear that the battle would depend upon him, and not upon Israel's weapons and expertise. This is why priests carrying the Ark, not soldiers, led the Israelites into battle. (2) God's method of taking the city accentuated the terror already felt in Jericho ([2:9](#)). (3) This strange military maneuver was a test of the Israelites' faith and their willingness to follow God completely. The blowing of the horns had a special significance. They had been instructed to blow the same horns used in the religious festivals in their battles to remind them that their victory would come from the Lord, not their own military might ([Numbers 10:9](#)).

[6:21](#) Why did God demand that the Israelites destroy almost everyone and everything in Jericho? He was carrying out severe judgment against the wickedness of the Canaanites. This judgment, or *ban*, usually required that everything be destroyed ([Deuteronomy 12:2,3; 13:12-18](#)). Because of their evil practices and intense idolatry, the Canaanites were a stronghold of rebellion against God. This threat to the right kind of living that God required had to be removed. If not, it would affect all Israel like a cancerous growth (as it did in the sad story told in the book of Judges). A few people and some items in Jericho were not destroyed, but these were special cases. Rahab and her household were saved because she had faith in God and because she helped the Israelite spies. The silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron were kept, not to enrich the people, but to beautify the Tabernacle and its services ([6:24](#)). God's purpose in all this was to keep the people's faith and religion uncontaminated. He did not want the plunder to remind Israel of Canaanite practices.

God also wants us to be pure. He wants us to clean up our behavior when we begin a new life with him. We must not let the desire for personal gain distract us from our spiritual purpose. We must also reject any objects that are reminders of a life of rebellion against God. (For more information on how Israel handled its plunder, see the note on [Numbers 31:25-30](#).)

[6:26](#) This curse was fulfilled in [1 Kings 16:34](#) when a man, Hiel, rebuilt Jericho and consequently lost his oldest and youngest sons.

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