



**And
The Walls
Came Tumbling Down**



The Story of Jericho

Written By Rev.
John Marinelli

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johnmarinelli@embarqmail.com

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Introduction

Hello, my name is Ja-beth. I am an Israelite of the tribe of Judah. I was chosen by Jehovah, the only true God, to lead you on a tour of ancient Jericho. Buckle up because the ride might get rough.

By the way, there are a few things you should know as we travel. Jericho was a mythical city for hundreds of years. It was lost in ruins and its existence could not be proven. However, Ernest Sellin and Carl Watzinger excavated Jericho between 1907 and 1909 and found the remains of two walls, which supported the biblical account.

Jericho was a town located in the West Bank. It is one of the earliest settlements in the world, dating perhaps from about 8000 BCE. Archaeological excavations have demonstrated Jericho's lengthy history. The city's site is of great archaeological importance; it provides evidence of the first development of permanent settlements and thus of the first steps toward civilization.

The Book of Joshua deals with Jericho during the Late Bronze Age, at around 1400 BCE, which is some 600 years after it was established. The "Walls of Jericho" was the first battle of the Israelites after entering the Promised Land.

You'll remember that Joshua and Caleb were the only two adults over 20 years of age that survived the wilderness trek. All the other adults died in the wilderness because they refused to trust in Jehovah to take them into their Promised Land. They believed in what 10 of the 12 spies said about the mighty men and powerful cities of Canaan. They saw themselves as grasshoppers next to giants and never believed they could win a battle against them. They had no faith or trust in God. The 10 spies reports were indicative of the mood and feelings of the entire adult camp.

This new generation was children when they marched thru the Red Sea on dry land. They saw their parents build the golden calf and turn away from the only true God. They saw God's provision of Manna every day and quail and water that flowed from a rock when struck by Moses. They were there when Moses died and Joshua took over.

Now this new generation would go forth under the banner of God to drive out the inhabitants of the land. It was promised to Abraham over 500 years ago and now was about to be delivered into the hands of his descendants. However, it would not come without a fight. They had to face the armies of 31 cities beginning with Jericho.

The Battle of Jericho

The Bible Story of the Battle of Jericho is found in the book of Joshua, chapter six. As I mentioned, this was the first conquest of the Israelites as they set out to win the land of Canaan.

Scouts from the Israelites crept into the walled city of Jericho and hid at the house of Rahab, noted as a prostitute. Rahab had faith in God and informed the Israelites of Jericho's fear saying, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you."

She helped the scouts hide from the king's soldiers, then leave out a window since her house was located next to the city wall. Rahab demanded the spies affirm an oath as she swore not to give their plans away, and so they vowed to spare Rahab and her family when the battle of Jericho occurred. She was to fasten a scarlet rope in her window as the symbol of their protection.

God instructed Joshua with an unusual strategy for the battle of Jericho. He told Joshua to have his army march around the city once a day for six straight days. While marching, the soldiers were silent as the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant around the city of Jericho.

On the seventh day, the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho seven times. Joshua assured them that by God's order, everyone in the city must be slain, except Rahab and her family. All items of silver, gold, bronze, and iron were to go into the Lord's depository.

At Joshua's order, the men produced a powerful roar, and Jericho's walls miraculously fell down. The Israelite army raced in quickly conquering the city and, as promised, only Rahab and her family were spared.

This unusual strategy to conquer the city was unique in two ways.

First, the strategy was laid out by God Himself.

Second, the strategy was a seemingly foolish plan. God simply told Joshua to have the people to march silently around Jericho for six days, and then, after seven trips around the city on the seventh day, to shout.

The People of The Land

Ok folks, you can release your seatbelts. We are there. This is the Land of Promise. The locals call it Canaan. It is inhabited by the Canaanites.

The Canaanites were a group of ancient people who lived in the land of Canaan on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Canaan is described in the Bible as extending from Lebanon toward the Brook of Egypt in the south and the Jordan River Valley in the east. In the Bible, notably in Genesis 10 and Numbers 34, this was called the “land of Canaan” and occupies the same area that is occupied by modern Lebanon and Israel, plus parts of Jordan and Syria.

The Canaanites are mentioned over 150 times in the Bible. They were a wicked, idolatrous people who descended from Noah’s grandson, Canaan. He was a son of Ham (Genesis 9:18). Canaan was cursed because of his and his father’s sin against Noah (Genesis 9:20–25).

In some passages, *Canaanites* specifically refers to the people of the lowlands and plains of Canaan (Joshua 11:3); in other passages, *Canaanites* is used more broadly to refer to all the inhabitants of the land, including the Hivites, Girgashites, Jebusites, Amorites, Hittites, and Perizzites (see Judges 1:9–10).

That’s enough of the ancient history lesson. It’s time to observe. Look at Jericho, over there in a distance. What do you see?

Lady In Red: I see a walled city. It is really big. The walls have to be 4’ to 6’ wide.

Ja-Beth, the guide: What else do you see?

Man in the back: I see lots of people on the wall with spears and swords.

Ja-Beth: At the time of its destruction there were several thousand people dwelling in Jericho. Maybe they’re all at the wall.

The Ark of the Covenant

Man with the blue shirt: Why are the Priests walking around the city carrying the Ark of the Covenant?

Ja-Beth: The Ark was a symbol of God’s presence; It represented God’s power and authority. Seven priests with seven trumpets walked around Jericho, once every day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. They didn’t need ordinary weapons to bring

down the walls of Jericho. All they needed was to shout the praises of The Most High God at the appropriate time.

Sure enough, when they stopped circling the city, they all shouted and the walls of Jericho came tumbling down.

Look! It's happening now, right before your eyes.

You may be interested to learn that excavations of Jericho revealed that its fortifications featured a stone wall 11 feet high and 14 feet wide. At its top was a smooth stone slope, angling upward at 35 degrees for 35 feet, where it joined massive stone walls that towered even higher. It was virtually impregnable.

Total Destruction

Man in back: There goes the army of God, after Jericho inhabitants.

Lady In Red: Why do they have to kill everyone? Can't they take prisoners?

Ja-Beth: These people have blatantly rejected the God of Heaven to follow their own immoral ways. They have been worshipping idols for over 400 years. God's judgment is upon them.

Lady In Red: yea but what about the children. What wrong have they done?

Ja-Beth: The children are the seed of the future. If the seed is corrupt, the harvest will be also. However, because they are children and not of the age of accountability, they will find God's grace.

Sowing & Reaping

Remember that the apostle Paul wrote to the church of the Galatians in the 1st century:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting". Galatians 6:7-8

The people of Jericho are about to harvest what they have been planting for all those centuries. The day of reckoning is at hand.

God Is Back

The Fall of Jericho left a powerful message to the other cities of Canaan. It said that the God of Israel has returned to judge wickedness and show all the inhabitation that He is the only true and living God. They could not explain away the fall of Jericho as a loss in

battle to an earthly army. They had to recognize that it was Jehovah, the God of Israel that defeated Jericho and would also defeat them. It was this supernatural act of God that spread the fear of the Israelites across the land.

The story of the walls of Jericho falling down, recorded in Joshua 6:1–27, is one that vividly demonstrates the miraculous power of God. In ancient warfare such cities were either taken by assault or surrounded and the people starved into submission.

Object Lessons

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Ja-Beth: We came, we saw but what have we learned? The utter destruction of Jericho teaches us several grand truths regarding God’s grace and our salvation.

The Man In Back: I think that the most important lesson is that obedience brings victory even when God’s commands seem foolish,. When we are faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, we must learn that our Jericho victories are won only when our faithful obedience to God is complete (Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 2:3; 5:3).

Lady In Red: The second object lesson is that the power of God is supernatural, beyond our comprehension (Psalm 18:13-15; Daniel 4:35; Job 38:4–6). The walls of Jericho fell, and they fell instantly. The walls collapsed by the sheer power of God.

Man With The Blue Shirt: The story tells us that God keeps His promises (Joshua 6:2, 20). The walls of Jericho fell because God said they would. God’s promises to us today are just as certain.

Ja-Beth: The fourth lesson is that there is an uncompromising relationship between the grace of God and our faith and obedience to Him. Scripture says, “By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days” (Hebrews 11:30).

Although their faith had frequently failed in the past, in this instance, the children of Israel believed and trusted God and His promises. As they were saved by faith, so we are today saved by faith (Romans 5:1; John 3:16-18).

Yet faith must be evidenced by obedience. The children of Israel had faith, they obeyed, and the walls of Jericho fell “by faith” after they were circled for seven straight days. Saving faith impels us to obey God (Matthew 7:24–29; Hebrews 5:8–9; 1 John 2:3–5).

Lady In Red: We should all learn that faith without works is dead (James 2:26). It is not enough to say, “I believe God,” and then live in an ungodly manner. If we truly believe God, our desire is to obey Him. Our faith is put to work. We make every effort to do exactly what God says and keep His commandments.

Joshua and the Israelites carried out the commands of God and conquered Jericho. God gave them victory over an enemy that was trying to keep them out of the Promised Land.

So it is with us today: if we have true faith, we are compelled to obey God, and God gives us victory over the enemies that we face throughout life. Obedience is the clear evidence of faith. Our faith is the evidence to others that we truly believe in Him. We can conquer and be victorious through life by faith, a faith that obeys the God who gives us that faith as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Ja-Beth: There are other key lessons we should learn from this story. First, there is a vast difference between God’s way and the way of man (Isaiah 55:8–9). Though militarily it was irrational to assault Jericho in the manner it was done, we must never question God’s purpose or instructions. We must have faith that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do (Hebrews 10:23; 11:1).

The apostle Paul assures us, “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4)

Ja-Beth: So, are you all encouraged by the fall of Jericho? Our God can tear down any wall that has us bound; destroy all (Every One) of the accusers and temptations we face; direct our paths, no matter how silly they seem to us; and prosper us along the way.

Bible Story Poem

By Rev. John Marinelli

I'll never forget that day, outside the walls below.
We traveled all night, to face the King of Jericho.
God was with us, as Joshua led the men.
"We shall take this city", was our Battle Cry within.

As our armies gathered, in full battle array.
I couldn't help but wonder, how we would win that day.
I knew that God was great, far greater than evil men.
That He would destroy them all, because of their blatant sin.

But that city was a fortress, with walls that reached into the sky.
It seemed invincible to me, because its walls were so very high.
"The walls! The walls!" kept ringing in my ears.
They were so thick, thick as 20 men with spears.

But even though I wondered, I did not faint inside.
For my God is greater, greater than all their pride.
As I pondered these things, in the quietness of my heart.
The trumpets began to blow, telling us the battle's about to start.

I could see the people, looking over the city's wall.
They were laughing and cursing and shouting, "we'll never fall".

Suddenly, I saw the priest marching silently unto the Lord.
I knew then that Jericho was held by God, as our reward.

No attacks to take the walls, or sacrifice of many lives to win.
God would overthrow Jericho, by our praises echoing in the wind.
What a way to fight a war. Not with bow or lance,
rather singing praises to God, and shouting our victory chants.

As the priest marched on, the Ark became clear to me.
It represented God's presence, and the power of His majesty.
Without the Ark of God, there was no way we could win.
There would be no power, over the weapons of evil men.

So we all marched together in a great and beautiful glory train.
The priest, the Ark, and fighting men, with one voice the same
Seven times we circled that city, marching as unto war.
Quietly praising God, for the power to open Jericho's door.

Then suddenly we stopped, to face Jericho's beckoning call.
Then with a mighty victory shout, we commanded the walls to fall.
Down they came tumbling to the ground below
Proving to all that man will reap what he sows

Conclusion

Ja-Beth: ok folks, take your seats and buckle up. It's time to go.

Lady In Red: Yea, can we stop on the way? How about Rome in the time of Jesus?

Man in back: No, lets go to the time of Elijah.

Ja-Beth: Sorry folks but there will be no stops. I am authorized to bring you here and back to your own time.

I will say this...God is great and we have the privilege of walking with Him in this world by faith. The Fall of Jericho showed us His power and we saw Him care for His children. We can take knowledge of that and believe that He will be there for us as well.

Well, here we are, back in the times of our own lives, well, yours anyway. Be sure to take your belongings and your faith with you as you depart.