

6. The Fall of Jericho

Quote: "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?"

James 2:24-25

Rahab (Mark at top of Joshua 2)

"Rahab" means 'broad' or 'wide'. Her life shows that doomed Canaanites (those on the broad easy way that leads to destruction - [Matt 7:13](#)) can escape destruction by genuine repentance. ([Jer 18:7-8](#)). It required them to turn their back on their Canaanitish ways, and become adopted into the nation of Israel ([Exod 12:43-49](#); [Gal 3:26-29](#); [1 Tim 2:4](#)).

Rahab was a harlot, a way of life that the depraved Canaanites would not have regarded as immoral (see [Deut 9:5](#)). The Word of God changed her life ([1 Cor 6:9-11](#)).

She was justified by faith and works ([Heb 11:31](#); [James 2:22-25](#)). She believed God on account of what she had heard about His dealings with Israel ([Josh 2:9-10](#); [Rom 10:17](#)), and showed her faith in action by receiving the spies, and sending them out another way.

Rahab later married Salmon, son of Nahshon, a head of tribe of Judah ([Num 10:14](#); [2:3](#); [7:12,17](#)), and brother of Elisheba - Aaron's wife ([Exod 6:23](#)). Her son was Boaz ([Ruth 4:20-21](#)), and her descendants include David ([Ruth 4:22](#)), and Jesus Christ ([Matt 1:5](#)).

Jericho - means 'city of the moon', or "place of fragrance'. It is termed 'the city of palm trees' ([Deut 34:3](#); [Jud 1:16](#); [2 Chron 28:15](#)).

It was an imposing fortress with an outer wall 2m thick, and an inner wall 4-5 m back which was 4m thick and 9m high.

Stanley ("Sinai and Palestine", p.305) noted the strategic importance of the city. "Jericho stands at the entrance of the main passes from the valley of the Jordan into the interior of Palestine, the one branching off to the south-west towards Olivet, the other to the north-west towards Michmash, which commands the approach to Ai and Bethel. It was thus the key of Palestine to any invader from this quarter."

(Mark at bottom of Joshua 2)

Verse By Verse Marking:

[Joshua 5:13](#) - **"Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?"** - Joshua knew that in the warfare of faith there are only two sides: them and us. There is no neutral position.

[Joshua 5:14](#) - **"And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come."** - The angel of Yahweh's presence, who bore His name ([Isa 63:9](#)), appeared to Moses in the bush ([Exod 3:1-5](#)), promised to Moses to overshadow the conquest of the land ([Exod 23:20-23](#)). Identified as Michael ([Dan 10:13,21](#)) and as the archangel ([Jude 9](#)). Since his elevation, Jesus Christ has taken over this name and title ([Dan 12:1](#); [Isa 55:4](#); [Matt 28:18](#); [1 Pet 3:22](#)).

Joshua 5:15 - "And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so." -

Wherever a servant of God approaches Yahweh, that place is holy (cp **Exod 3:5**), and due reverence must be paid to the One into Whose presence His servants have come.

Joshua 6:2 - "And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour." - see **Psa 118:6; Rom 8:31**.

Joshua 6:3 - "And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once" - No military exhibition of fleshly might, rather an exhibition of faith (see **1 Cor 1:26-31; 2 Cor 10:3-6**).

Joshua 6:17 - "accursed" = devoted (see margin). Jericho was a kind of firstfruits of Israel's entrance into the land. Therefore anything living was to be put to death, or redeemed (**Lev 27:26-29**), objects of value (gold, silver, brass and iron) were purified by fire and then given to Yahweh (**Num 31:21-23; Josh 6:19**). See **Deut 13:16-18** for the fate of a city of false worship

"only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house" - Reason - she had already set herself apart and devoted herself to Yahweh.

Joshua 6 - a Chapter of Sevens (Colour and note these points)

- In **Joshua 6:1** - "Jericho" is mentioned - this is the 21st time Jericho occurs in the Bible (3x7).
- "Seven" or "seventh" occurs 14 times - **Josh 6:4** (4x), **6** (2x), **8** (2x), **13** (2x), **15** (3x), **16**.
- "trumpet" (Hebrew 'shofar') occurs 14 times - **Josh 6:4** (2x), **5, 6, 8** (2x), **9** (2x), **13** (3x), **16, 20** (2x).
- "compassed" (Hebrew 'savav') occurs 7 times - **Josh 6:3, 4, 7, 11, 14, 15** (2x).
- There are seven things destroyed in the overthrow (**Josh 6:21**).

The Fall of Jericho and the Apocalypse

| Joshua 6 | Apocalypse |
|---|--|
| Seven Priests (Josh 6:4) Priests <u>unseal</u> the Word (Isa 29:11; Mal 2:7) | Seven Seals (Rev 6-8) |
| Seven Trumpets (Josh 6:4) | Seven Trumpets (Rev 8-11) |
| Seven Days (Josh 6:11-15) | Seven Vials (Rev 16 - Seven time cycles of wrath since beginning with the French Revolution) |
| Seven Times round the city on the seventh day (Josh 6:15-16) | Seven Thunders (Rev 10:3-4 - Triggered by Armageddon which commences with the 7th vial - Rev 16:17-21) |
| Jericho destroyed, but Achan kept a wedge of GOLD (Dan 2:38) and a Babylonish Garment | Gog Overthrown, but a Babylon the Great (Catholic Resistance to Christ) remains. |