

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel none went out
 - a) Joshua is about to engage in his first battle for the possession of the land of promise
 - 1) God promised that He would be with him, wherever he went (1:5, 9)
 - 2) With this in mind, after spies checked out Jericho, Joshua led them across the Jordan
- II) DURING THE DRY SEASON: The Jordan is not much more than a small stream
 - a) During the raining season, it becomes a torrent and overflows its banks
 - 1) It was during the rainy season that this remarkable miracle occurred
 - 2) It was through this miracle that God magnified him in the sight of Israel (3:7)
- III) CARRYING THE ARK: The priests' feet touched the water and the water parted
 - a) This revealed that God was with them, and it solidified their faith that they would be victorious
 - 1) In remembrance, they set up two memorials, that they might never forget such a work
- IV) THEY NOW: Are camped on the western banks of the Jordan
 - a) Joshua knows that the Amorites and Canaanites are petrified of Israel
 - 1) He and the people are ready to now go out and conquer
- V) BEFORE BATTLE: Joshua made sure that the men who had not been circumcised were circumcised
 - a) This was an outer emblem of their covenant God had made with Abraham
- VI) THEY ALSO: Celebrated Passover
 - a) This served to remind them of their deliverance, and to encourage them to have faith
- VII) FINALLY: The Captain of God's hosts had given directions to Joshua
 - a) Joshua knew that his orders were to come from above, and not from the direction of men
 - 1) His conquest was to be a holy one, so his heart was to be settled on following the Lord
- VIII) NOW: They are ready to begin the conquest and possession of the land God promised them
 - a) To do so, their approach will be to actually divide and conquer
- IX) JERICHO AND AI: Were cities that were in the geographical center of Israel
 - a) To enter in at this place was to divide the land from north to south
 - 1) They would take Jericho and Ai, and then proceed south
 - 2) The strategy was ancient, but *the method* for taking Jericho would never be repeated
- X) V1 NOW: Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out and none came in
 - a) The people of Jericho were aware of Israel's presence, but had not anticipated such an attack
 - 1) They more than likely thought they had time because the Jordan was at flood stage
 - 2) When they crossed over after the miracle, their only response was to lock up the gates
- XI) JERICHO: Was a powerful fortified city that was protected by walls
 - a) THOUGH THEY ARE AFRAID: They are still prepared
 - 1) Harvest had just concluded, and they had a spring that would supply water for the city
 - 2) They could have withstood a siege for perhaps several years
- XII) FACT: They were afraid of the Israelites, but thought they could be protected behind the walls
 - a) This was the best they thought they could do, as they watched and waited
- I) V2 AND: The LORD said to Joshua See *I have given* Jericho into your hand its king and the mighty

- a) This is a continuation of the conversation begun in Ch. 5:13-15 with the Commander
 - 1) Interestingly enough: God speaks of this conquest as something that has already occurred
 - 2) He speaks of it as something that has already been accomplished

- II) POINT: You are fighting from the position of victor: there is no doubt how this conflict will end!
 - a) God is saying: It is a done deal; I have given Jericho into your hand, so go and take it
 - 1) Ro 8:37 Yet in all these things we are *more than conquerors* through Him who loved us.
 - 2) 1 Co 15:57 But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 3) 1 Jn 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

- III) YOU SHALL: Possess everything in the city
 - a) The king and mighty men cannot resist your advance
 - 1) God is about to show them that they can defeat anything that is before them
 - 2) Jericho was a fortified city, but God will show them that He is with them

- IV) V3-6 *YOU SHALL*: March around the city all you *men of war*; you shall go all around the city once
 - a) Obviously God could have done this without their participation, but chooses not to do so
 - 1) God wants to refine and strengthen Joshua's faith, as he is the leader of the nation
 - 2) He also wants to strengthen the faith of the nation, because they must follow the plan
 - 3) Pr 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

- V) IN THE CONQUEST OF JERICHO: Man and God each have their part
 - a) Man's part is obedience, God's part is giving the victory

- VI) THE NUMBER: Of men of war is not given
 - a) If all the men were considered men of war, the number could have been considerable
 - 1) Nu 11:21 And Moses said, "The people whom I am among *are six hundred thousand* men on foot; yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat *for* a whole month.'
 - 2) If such a number was present, it would make the coming event even more amazing

- VII) V3 WHAT WILL BE: The key to their victory: Simple obedience
 - a) They are being trained for war by being trained to trust and obey God's directions

- VIII) REMEMBER: They needed to learn this at the crossing of the Jordan
 - a) They need to learn this to take possession of the land: follow the simple command
 - 1) Jn 13:7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you *will know* after this."

- IX) V4-5 AND: Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark But the seventh day
 - a) God delivers the strategy for them to conquer the city

- X) FIRST: Have seven priests with trumpets walk in front of the ark, walking in front of the army
 - a) For the first six days, the soldiers will walk silently, and then the priests will blow the trumpets
 - 1) Then, on the seventh day circle the city seven times, and then the priests will blow the trumpets
 - 2) V5 This will be the clincher: then the priests will blow the trumpets, and the people will yell

- I) QUESTION: Why did they use trumpets and why did they shout
 - a) The trumpets revealed God's presence among the people, and shouts were of triumph

- 1) Ex 19:19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.
- II) V5 NOTICE: The walls will fall down flat and the people shall go up every man straight before him
- a) The conquest of Jericho was intended to include a total participation of the people
 - 1) Each would gain a personal experience in how God works
- III) V6-7 SO JOSHUA: The son of Nun called the priests and said to them Take up the ark of the covenant
- a) Seven priests, seven trumpets, and seven days, seven times all speak of God's work being complete
 - 1) They begin their march
- IV) V8-11 SO IT WAS: When Joshua had spoken to the people that the seven priests bearing the seven
- a) The priests were in the center of the men of war and the rear guard, sounding the trumpets
 - 1) All walked silently in a procession around the walls
 - 2) The army of Jericho most likely were lining the walls, watching the spectacle
 - 3) No rain of spears, arrows, or stones occurred: no attack came forth
- V) THEY MAY HAVE: Felt very secure behind their walls
- a) Moses had prepared the Israelites of what to expect
 - 1) Dt 9:1 Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. They live in cities with walls that reach to the sky! (NLT)
- VI) V12-14 AND: Joshua rose early in the morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD Then seven
- a) Lessons are not always learned the first time they are given: they must completely learn the lesson
 - 1) Story of Cornelius and Peter (Ac 10:28) Go showed him not to call any man common/unclean
 - 2) Gal 2:11-14 Paul confronted Peter for his hypocrisy and influence on others to hypocrisy
- VII) V15-16 BUT: It came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early about the dawning of the day
- a) The people finally are released to fulfill the second part of the command: shout
 - 1) Ps 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
 - 2) Ps 47:5 God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- VIII) THEY ARE ABOUT: To see what Moses had said
- a) Dt 3:21-22 And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass. You must not fear them, for *the LORD your God Himself fights for you.*'
- IX) UNDOUBTEDLY: Though surrounded the inhabitants and armies of Jericho felt secure behind the walls
- a) The walls surrounding the city were high and securely fortified
 - 1) Excavations had revealed that Jericho had a retaining wall at the base around 15' high
 - 2) Above it was a mudbrick wall 6' thick, 26' above ground level
 - 3) Above this wall was another mudbrick wall, separated from the others and 46' above ground level
- X) THESE ARE THE WALLS: That are about to fall down
- a) The people are now to shout
- I) V17-19 NOW: The city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction it and all who are in it
- a) These people were in total rebellion against God and thus were to be eradicated
 - 1) They were confirmed idolaters, worshiping demons and God brings judgment

- II) KEY: Their silver, gold, bronze, and iron can be taken so it can be given to God
 - a) This was what would be called a firstfruits offering, pointing to future conquests
 - 1) Only Rahab and her family would be allowed to remain
 - 2) If the people take the things devoted to God, Israel will be judged

- III) V20-21 SO: The people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets and it happened when the people
 - a) Archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon describes the walls having collapsed against a retaining wall
 - 1) This would have made a sort of ramp for each soldier to go straight up and take the city

- IV) SHE ALSO FOUND: That at the north end of the city a stretch of wall did not collapse
 - a) A portion of the mudbrick wall was still standing, and houses were built against the wall
 - 1) This would have been where Rahab's house must have been
 - 2) V21 describes the taking of the city

- V) V22-24 BUT JOSHUA: Had said to the two men who had spied out the country Go into the harlot's
 - a) They burned the city, took the silver, gold, bronze, and iron and dedicated it to God

- VI) V25 AND JOSHUA: Spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had
 - a) True to their word, they spared Rahab and her family
 - 1) As already noted, she married a Jewish man and ended up in Jesus' genealogy

- VII) V26-27 THEN JOSHUA: Charged them at that time saying Cursed be the man before the LORD
 - a) So, who fought the battle of Jericho: God
 - 1) What was man's part: believing His word and promise
 - 2) Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days

- VIII) KEY: What did they have: they had God's word, His promise to rely on and God was faithful
 - a) So do we, in our spiritual battles
 - 1) 2 Co 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
 - 2) 1 Co 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.