



Church of God Sunday School

THE FALL OF JERICHO

Joshua 5:10 — 6:27

Joshua, the new leader of the Israelites, and all the new generation of Israel had passed over the Jordan River. They were now encamped by Gilgal, in the plains of Jericho. There they kept the Passover, on the fourteenth day of the month. The next day, they ate the "old corn of the land . . . parched corn, and unleavened bread." The manna they had been receiving for forty years in the wilderness ceased on the day after that.

As Joshua was meditating about the city of Jericho (no doubt looking at it and wondering what to do), he looked up and saw "a man . . . with his sword drawn in his hand." Boldly, Joshua went to him and said, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?" When the man told him that he was the "captain of the host of the LORD," Joshua fell on his face and worshiped him.

Then Joshua said, "What saith my lord unto his servant?" The Captain of the Lord's host answered, "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy," and Joshua did as he was told.

Now, the city of Jericho was shut up tight because of the children of Israel. No one went out, and no one came in. Jericho was a walled city. The people of Jericho trusted that they were well protected from the Israelites by the high wall that enclosed the city. They thought everything was secure and no one could get in!

But, the Lord told Joshua He would give the city, the king, and the mighty men of Jericho into Joshua's hand. God gave Joshua detailed instructions: "Ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and

the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

"And it shall come to pass, that when . . . ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat [another translation says the wall would 'fall beneath itself; the wall would crumble'], and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him."

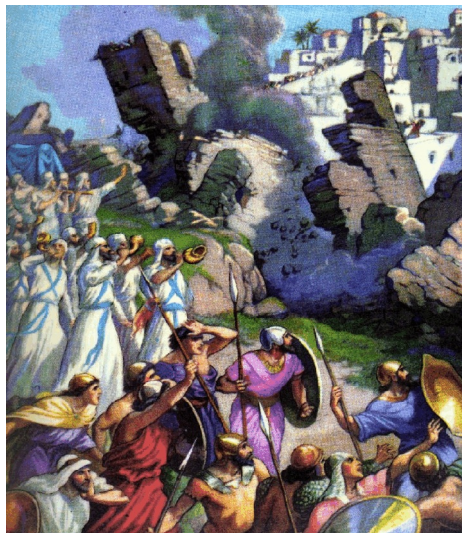
Joshua sent for the priests and told them to "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." When Israel passed before the Lord, the armed men went before the seven priests with seven trumpets, then came the ark bearers and the rest of the men.

Joshua commanded the men to march around the city one time for six days, then return to camp. They were warned not to say *one* word and not to make any kind of noise with their voices while they were marching until Joshua gave them the sign.

So, for six days, when Israel marched around the city, no one said a word. The men just marched, marched, marched, while the priests blew on the trumpets of rams' horns.

Can you imagine what the people of the city were thinking by then? If you lived in Jericho, what would you have thought as you watched the Israelites march around the city every day?

On the seventh day, the Israelites were to march



around the city as before, but on that day, they were to march around the city not *one* time but *seven* times! Then, when Joshua gave the command, they were to SHOUT WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT. The great, strong wall would fall down, because God had said so. That was the day they would see victory!

Very early in the morning, on the seventh day, excitement must have been running all through the camp of the Israelites! Following God's command, they marched around the city once, then twice. Tramp, tramp, tramp. Three times around the city.

Tramp, tramp, tramp. Four times around! (By then, the people *in* the city were no doubt wondering what was going to happen next.)

Five times the Israelites marched around the city! Tramp, tramp, tramp. Then six times around! One more time around the city, and then they were to shout with all their might, and that strong wall that surrounded the city would fall down without any help from them!

On the seventh time around the city, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua commanded the people: "Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city." The people shouted "with a great shout," and the wall around Jericho collapsed! It just fell down! As soon as it was safe, the men walked over the wall, right into Jericho.

People who study history by digging up the earth to look for fossils and artifacts of old civilizations are called *archaeologists*. They say that part of the north

section of the wall *did not* fall. Rahab's house was here, no doubt. She and her family were saved by the spies. The Israelites utterly destroyed everything in Jericho, except for Rahab and her family. Then the Israelites set fire to the city.

Joshua had warned the Israelites that they were not to take anything from that city for themselves: all the silver and gold and the vessels of brass and iron were to be set aside for the Lord.

The Lord was with Joshua at Jericho. He became famous when other people in the country round about Jericho heard of what he and the Israelites had done to the city by the help of God.

~~~~~  
**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city."* —Joshua 6:16  
~~~~~