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Bible House of Grace.**



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Joshua 6.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Joshua 6.

Topics.

- The inhabitants of Jericho shut themselves up in the city for fear of Israel.
- The LORD tells Joshua to march around the city of Jericho.
- Israel with the Ark of the LORD marches around the city of Jericho six days.
- The seventh day Israel circles the city seven times and the people shout.
- Jericho is to be destroyed, but Rahab the prostitute shall live.
- The trumpets are blown, the people shout and the walls fall down.
- The city is destroyed, but Joshua saves Rahab the prostitute.
- The LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the land.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the first five books of Moses anticipated the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham concerning the Promised Land. Moses is now dead. Joshua crosses the River Jordan (about 1400 B.C.) and after a string of military victories apportioned the land according to the twelve tribes. These battles shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God fights for His people when they are faithful and courageous and put their full trust in Him. (Josh. 1:6-9).

At the close of the book Joshua says that he and all his house will serve the LORD and invites the people to choose whether they will serve the gods of their fathers or the gods in whose land they dwell or the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The people choose to serve their God. (Josh. 24:15). Although anonymous the book appears to contain eyewitness testimony, some of which may have been written by Joshua himself.

The Inhabitants of Jericho Shut themselves up in the City for Fear of Israel.

Joshua 6:1 ----- ¹Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in.

When Rahab hid the two spies she told them that the fear of Israel had fallen upon all the inhabitants of the land so that their hearts melt away before them and that there is no spirit (of courage) left in any man because of Israel's God, who is the God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. (Joshua 2:9-24).

The LORD tells Joshua to March around the City of Jericho.

Joshua 6:2-5 ----- ²And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. ³You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. ⁴Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. ⁵And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him."

The LORD tells Joshua: -

- All the men of war are to march around the city once for six days.
- Seven priests are to carry seven trumpets before the ark.
- On the seventh day they are to march around the city seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets.
- On the long blast of the trumpet all the people are to shout.
- The walls of the city will fall down and the armies of Israel are to invade the city

NOTICE: even though the LORD told Joshua He has given Jericho into his hand, Joshua still had to go and fight the battle. Likewise God may call a man to establish a church, but he will still have to do the work involved in building a church. Israel would never have possessed the land if they simply sat in their homes praying and believing God would supernaturally give it to them, they had to go to battle to conquer all their enemies.

Likewise God does not mystically drop gifts and blessings upon believers in Christ who sit at home praying no matter how much they may believe if they are not prepared to do what is in their power to do to bring it to pass. God blesses effort not laziness.

Joshua Gives the People the Order of the March.

Joshua 6:6-10 ----- ⁶So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." ⁷And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD." ⁸And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them. ⁹The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. ¹⁰But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout."

Following is the order of the march: -

- The men of war lead the march.
- Behind them were the seven priests continually blowing seven trumpets.
- Following them was the Ark of the LORD.
- Marching behind the Ark of the LORD was the rear guards.

No one was to make any noise until the day Joshua told them to shout.

Israel with the Ark of the LORD Marches around the City of Jericho Six Days.

Joshua 6:11-14 ----- ¹¹So he caused the ark of the LORD to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp. ¹²Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. ¹³And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually. ¹⁴And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.

For six days the men of war, the seven priests continually blowing seven trumpets, the Ark of the LORD and the rear guards marched around the city once each day. Imagine for a moment the curiosity and the fear of the inhabitants of Jericho. They had heard that the God of Israel parted the Red Sea and the River Jordan and that

the armies of Israel had utterly slaughtered two great Amorite kings and now they are watching them walk around the walls of their city. God often did things that aroused curiosity and shocked the human mind so that the stories would spread quickly throughout the land, bring fear upon Israel's enemies and be told from generation to generation.

The Seventh Day Israel Circles the City Seven Times and the People Shout.

Joshua 6:15-16 ----- ¹⁵On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city.

Ponder for a moment: the inhabitants of Jericho already feared Israel when they heard they had crossed the River Jordan and now they have watched their men of war, the seven priests continually blowing seven trumpets, the Ark of the LORD and the rear guards marching once around the city for six days and now they see them marching seven times on the same day and even more fearful hear all the people shout, "the LORD has given us the city." They were aware God had parted the Red Sea and the River Jordan for Israel and that, they had utterly destroyed two great Amorite kings their fear would be enormous.

Jericho is to be Destroyed, but Rahab the Prostitute shall Live.

Joshua 6:17 ----- ¹⁷And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

In Joshua chapter two it is written: -

- Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. (Joshua 2:1).

Rahab was a prostitute, yet she feared the God of Jerusalem and protected Israel's spies and is listed with God's people of amazing faith in the great chapter of the Bible that is commonly known as the Hall of Faith (Heb. 11:31). Listed in this Hall of Faith are: -

- Abel, Enoch Noah and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Sarah, Joseph and Moses and Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah.
- David, Samuel and the prophets.

And in amongst these great men and women of faith it is written: -

- By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (Hebrews 11:31).

It is almost certain that Rahab was a woman that most would have despised, yet God commends (praises and applauds) everyone listed in this chapter for their faith (Heb. 11:39). It is easy to judge and condemn a person by their outward lifestyle (especially prostitutes), but often the outward lifestyle is not a true reflection of the inward heart. Consider a woman in a third world country, no husband, no income, no job, no social security, and two children to support and feed, the only way many of these woman are able to buy food for their children is to go against everything good in their heart and humble themselves just to earn enough money to buy a meal.

It is true that in today's Western world many women willingly live such a lifestyle for the worldly riches and materialist gifts it brings to them, but it is equally true many live in such a manner just to survive which would certainly have been case with many women in ancient times. Rather than condemn such woman they should be shown great mercy and compassion since it is because of great poverty that they are forced to deny everything that is good within themselves and surrender it all for

the survival of their children. Such woman though living a morally wrong lifestyle on the outside are not morally corrupt on the inside, in fact most would probably be suffering great emotional and mental pain as well as a sense of shame. Unless we are willing to support and provide food for such woman we have no right to condemn them.

Prostitutes and adultery: it seems that at some level during the Old Testament era even though a prostitute woman lived a lifestyle outside of God's moral laws she was accepted as concubines were, but if a prostitute enticed married men into her bed she was seen as an evil woman and spoken of in the harshest of expressions (i.e., whorish, harlot and forbidden woman). This of course would be, because by her sensual enticements she is destroying a marriage and a family.

In all the following verses of Proverbs: -

(Prov. 2:16-18) (Prov. 5:3-20) (Prov. 6:24-32) (Prov. 7:5-19) (Prov. 23:27-28).

A prostitute is spoken of as an evil woman when she has sex with a married man or she is a married woman herself having sex with other men. It should be mentioned here that a married man who has sex with another woman and a single man who has sex with a married woman is equally as guilty as the woman and both are an offence before God.

NOTE: for those who have fallen into adulteries there is forgiveness in Christ, everyone is a sinner before God. Even the woman at the well who had five husbands the Lord Jesus Christ forgave because of her honesty toward him and no-doubt her broken spirit when she saw such a caring man without sin protecting her from her enemies and able to show her kind compassion and forgiveness (John 8:3-11).

James the brother of Jesus wrote: -

- The Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"— and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (James 2:23-25).

Here Rahab is exalted alongside Abraham as a woman of faith, because of her good works. Note this does not mean that she was saved by good works, even Abraham was not saved by his good works, but by faith, it means that her good works evidenced her faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

James in this chapter is teaching that without some type of outward works to evidence faith, faith is dead. Thousands in various nations worldwide claim to believe in God, but there is absolutely nothing in their lifestyle, behaviour or speech that evidences their confession or their belief.

For further information concerning faith and works see: -

- James chapter two in Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Keep from things Devoted to Destruction, Lest it Brings Trouble to the Camp.

Joshua 6:18-19 ----- ¹⁸But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. ¹⁹But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."

The King James Bible says: -

- And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from (the accursed thing), lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. (Josh. 6:18-19).

Jericho was the first city to be taken in the land. The city could be seen as a first fruits to God and as such no man or woman was to take any of the spoils for themselves, even the silver, the gold, the vessels of bronze and the iron that were to be kept were to be placed in the treasury of the LORD. Generally Israel was at liberty to take the spoil of other cities that they captured only the inhabitants of the towns were slain; their cattle and property became the booty of the victors as the following verses show: -

- Only the livestock we took as spoil for ourselves, with the plunder of the cities that we captured. (Deut. 2:35).
- All the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as our plunder. (Deut. 3:7).
- Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the LORD that he commanded Joshua. (Josh. 8:27).

Unlike these occasions every living thing within Jericho the first Canaanite city that was captured was put to death (except Rahab and those in her house) (Josh 6:17) as a sacrifice of first fruits to God and a token that Israel received all the land from Him. Jericho could be seen as an example of a city whose inhabitants had filled up the measure of their sins so much so that the cup of iniquity within the city was overflowing and so great that it brought the judgment of God upon it.

Lest you make yourselves accursed (or devoted to destruction) carries the idea that if they took anything devoted to destruction for themselves they would make the camp of Israel a curse, by provoking God to punish them for their sin. By their own rebellion against God's command they would bring upon themselves the same sentence of destruction as the inhabitants of Jericho, because they laid hold of what was devoted to destruction to use for their own purposes and gain. In the very next chapter we are told the story of Achan taking a beautiful cloak, 200 shekels of silver and a bar of gold and God turning against Israel, because of his rebellious sin.

The Trumpets are Blown, the People Shout and the Walls Fall Down.

Joshua 6:20-21 ----- ²⁰So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. ²¹Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

On the seventh day at the dawn the men of war, the seven priests continually blowing seven trumpets, the Ark of the LORD and the rear guards marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time, the priests blew a long blast on the trumpets and the people shouted a great shout, "the LORD has given Israel the city," and the walls of Jericho immediately fell down flat. The men of war attacked the city and utterly destroyed it.

The City is Destroyed, but Joshua Saves Rahab the Prostitute.

Joshua 6:22-25 ----- ²²But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her." ²³So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. ²⁴And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. ²⁵But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

The things to notice in these verses are: -

- The great value Israel put upon keeping their word when they made an oath. Joshua chapter two shows that they valued their word so highly that they would rather die than break it.

- Rahab a prostitute woman of Jericho fully trusted the two spies of Israel to keep their word to protect her and her family.

When the two spies were with Rahab they told her to tie a scarlet cord in the window of her home and when the warriors of Israel see it they will not destroy her or her family, but should any family member leave her house they most likely would be killed.

It would be right and proper to say that the scarlet cord was a covering for Rahab's household in the same way that the blood on the doorposts protected Israel from the death angel and in the same way that Christ's blood covers and protect us. (Josh. 2:17-20). When the two spies departed from Rahab's house she tied the scarlet cord to her window and was saved from destruction and death.

NOTE: it is interesting to notice that God did not use a good upstanding citizen of Jericho as we might expect to protect the spies and show them that all the inhabitants of Jericho greatly feared Israel's armies and their God, but a prostitute woman. (For the full story of Rahab, see Joshua chapter two).

The LORD was with Joshua, and his Fame Spread throughout all the Land.

Joshua 6:26-27 ----- ²⁶Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, "Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. "At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates." ²⁷So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

As soon as the city was destroyed, it appears that Joshua gathered the tribes and the countrymen and imposed upon them a solemn oath, binding on themselves as well as their offspring that they would never rebuild that city.

The curse fulfilled: here is the wonder, the beauty and miracle of Bible prophecy. The statement, "At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates," (v26) was fulfilled many years later in the book of Kings it is written: -

- In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun. (1 Kings 16:34).

The curses stated that the builder would lose his oldest son (Abiram) at the laying of the foundations and loose his youngest son (Segub) when the gates were to be set up. This curse was exactly fulfilled in Hiel he laid the foundation of Jericho and Abiram his firstborn died, and when he set up the gates of the city his youngest son Segub, died.

Before the LORD: the words, "Cursed before the LORD," and "The LORD was with Joshua," shows that Joshua did not utter this curse and the consequences of it from any particular hatred of Jericho or its inhabitants; but from the inspiration of the LORD. It is most likely the destruction of the city was designed by God to remain as a standing monument for the following reasons: -

- To signify God's judgment, power and wrath against idolatry and wickedness.
- To show that no king and no city no matter how great can stand against His almighty power.
- To signify God's abhorrence of idolatry and its attendant vices to future generations.

The oath embraced a curse against anyone who built up Jericho. The following verses show that the curse was to fall upon the builders and not upon those who should inhabit the city after it was built.

- Now the cities of the tribe of the people of Benjamin according to their clans were Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz, (Josh. 18:21).

This verse shows when the land was divided amongst the tribes of Israel Jericho was allotted to the Tribe of Benjamin and the following verses show the sons of the prophets were at Jericho: -

- Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. (2 Kings 2:15).
- The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." (2 Kings 2:5).
- They (the sons of the prophets) came back to him while he was staying at Jericho, and he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go?'" ¹⁹Now the men of the city said to Elisha, "Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful." ²⁰He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. ²¹Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it." ²²So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke. (2 Kings 2:18-22).

These verses show that Jericho became a very flourishing city in later times and the following verse shows that Jesus entered the city of Jericho: -

- He (Jesus) entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich ³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." (Luke 19:1-5).

The fact Zacchaeus was a very rich tax collector living in Jericho clearly shows that the city was prospering.

Symbolisms and types: for those who love studying symbolisms and types contained in a story the following will give a starting point: -

- Joshua, the leader and captain of the Jewish kingdom can be seen as a type of Christ the Captain and Head of the church and the Kingdom of God.
- Jericho can be seen as a type of all the powers opposed to Christ and to his cause.
- The miraculous conquering of Jericho can be seen as the future close of this present age.
- The people of Israel possessing the city of Jericho can be seen as a type of the faithful in Christ possessing this world when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.
- The number seven is the number of perfection and represents fullness of time, (known only to God).
- The circumstances that led up to the fall of Jericho can be seen as a foreshadow of the overthrow of all who resist the Kingdom of Christ when the final seven trumpets sound and all Christ's enemies are overthrown.

End.