



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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Joshua 6:4 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. 5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and 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, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

God told them to march seven times on the seventh day and then blow the trumpet and shout and the walls would come tumbling down. They were not called to calculate if the sonic reverberation or the sound waves would be loud enough to cause this. They were not to rework it and say if one time around is good then two would be better. They did not have the option of saying we will just do seven times the first day and be done with it. NO! They were called simply to obey the will of God as revealed to them by their leader who heard from God.

III- Relaying of the Instructions:

The greatest responsibility of leadership is to hear and know the voice of God and instruct the people as to what direction God is leading. This is not to say that God cannot speak to all of us but the leadership has a great responsibility toward this. After God told Joshua the plan the was faithful to pass it along.

Joshua 6:6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. 7 And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.

IV- Obedience to the Instructions:

Would they obey? I am sure that Joshua may have had some doubt if they would. After all he had been around them a long time and say them reject God's will on several occasions. Their disobedience had cost him forty years of wilderness wandering when he suffered with the generation that died. Notice, we are not given any information except that they obeyed the instructions.

Joshua 6:8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. 9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. 10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you



Coordinates:
Joshua 6:1-27

Sights to See:

- 1- The Victory is assured but the battle still must be fought.
- 2- The toughest problem tackled first gives encouragement for the others to come.
- 3- They were called to follow the leadership of Joshua as God spoke to him to conquer the city.
- 4- Leadership has a great responsibility of finding God's direction.
- 5- God has called us as stewards of the gospel to be faithful. *1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*
- 6- What if God called you to do something that others would think was goofy at best and stupid at worst. Would you do it?
- 7- As we see in the day to day march around the city, our commitment to doing the will of God is a day to day surrender.
- 8- Is it not amazing that the walls fell outward to provide a ramp for the to enter the city by. Amazing, no divine.
- 9- It took faith for them to do as instructed and it takes faith for us to follow God as well.



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shout; then shall ye shout. 11 So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. 12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. 13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

The Message gives us an easy to understand order of the procession around the city. Joshua 6:7-10 Then he told the people, "Set out! March around the city. Have the armed guard march before the Chest of GOD." 8 And it happened. Joshua spoke, the people moved: Seven priests with their seven ram's horn trumpets set out before GOD. They blew the trumpets, leading GOD's Chest of the Covenant. 9 The armed guard marched ahead of the trumpet-blowing priests; the rear guard was marching after the Chest, marching and blowing their trumpets. 10 Joshua had given orders to the people, "Don't shout. In fact, don't even speak--not so much as a whisper until you hear me say, 'Shout!'--then shout away!"

V- Days Two Through Six Do thou Likewise

Joshua 6:14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. Now can you imagine what transpired in the city of Jericho. Shut up tight against the enemy and all they are doing is marching around. They either were gripped with fear each day that the attack was eminent or perhaps by the fourth or fifth day were laughing at the procession. We are not told and can only imagine. But, we see they complied with the instruction for day one through six.

VI- The Accursed City:

Joshua 6:15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. Then on the seventh day things changed. They did not march around one time and then retire back to their camp. They continued around again and again and again for seven times as instructed.

We find further instruction of what they were to do and not do in the city and with its wealth in *Joshua 6:16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. 17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 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. 19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.*

We see that nothing was to be taken from the city that was of value. All the precious metals were to come into the treasury of the Lord. Only Rahab and her house were to be spared. This will play an important role in our next Way Point.

VII- Tumbling Walls:

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they



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took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

Let me give us an excerpt from the archeological section of the *Thompson Chain Reference Bible* that gives us insight into the walls and how the invaders were able to conquer the city so effectively.

John Garstang in his excavations in the 1930s found evidence that he interpreted as showing that there was a double-walled city that faced the Israelite invaders under Joshua....Garstang wrote: "The outer wall suffered most, its remains falling down the slope. The inner wall is preserved only where it abuts upon the citadel, or tower, to a height of eighteen feet; elsewhere it is found largely to have fallen, together with the remains of buildings upon it, into the space between the walls which was filled with ruins and debris. Traces of intense fire are plain to see, including reddened masses of brick, cracked stones, charred timbers and ashes. Houses alongside the wall are found burned to the ground, their roofs fallen upon the domestic pottery within. As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city.

VIII- Promise Kept:

The men who had made the promise to Rahab were instructed to enter and escort her and her family out safely. *Joshua 6:22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. 23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. 24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.*

They kept their promise to her. There is an old unwise saying that promises are made to be broken. Beloved our word of promise should be as good as any contract to people. If we promise we should endeavor to do it if at all possible. This promise was kept.

IX- The Unwalled City:

The city was pronounced by Joshua to be a city to not be rebuilt with walls. Notice *Joshua 6:26 And Joshua adjured them at that time...* The NASB says, *made them take an oath.*

The oath or curse was ... *Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it. 27 So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.*

This can also be seen a word spoken in prophecy by Joshua. 550 years after Joshua uttered these words we see it fulfilled in *1 Kings 16:34 In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.*

This city was in all probability occupied from this time forth and is seen as the city of palms in other places. The curse seemed to have been the rebuilding of the walls of the city.

This story is one that calls us to faith and also calls us to follow the will of God no matter how unorthodox it may seem to us. God is not bound by the constraints of what makes sense to men.