

WALLS OF JERICHO (WHO IS HOLDING THE KEY?)

(Josh 2:1-15 KJV) (1) "And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. (9) And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. (10) For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. (11) And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. (12) Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have showed you kindness, that ye will also show kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: (13) And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

1. JERICHO WAS STRAITLY SHUT UP BECAUSE OF FEAR

(Joshua 6:1-2 KJV) (1) Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

A. Fulfills God's promise to the Israelites "Exodus 23:27 KJV I will send my fear before thee..."

B. The kings of Canaan heard about Israel's crossing of Jordan and were terrified - Joshua 2:1-15; 5:1

2. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JERICHO?

A. According to historians, Jericho was considered the most important city in the Jordan Valley

- Was the key to commerce, communication, and provided access to all of Canaan
- Was believed that whoever controlled Jericho could also strategically control all of Canaan

B. According to historians, Jericho was considered the strongest fortress in all of Canaan

- Walls appeared impenetrable (...in cities with walls that reach to the sky! - Deut 9:1 NLT)
- Was built on top of a great man-made hill surrounded by 2 massive walls
- Walls were believed to separate the classes of people (lower class lived in lower portion of the city)
- Rahab lived in the lower portion of the city in a house against the outer wall is Rahab

3. JERICHO'S MILITARY PLAN - WAS APPARENTLY JUST TO WAIT IT OUT

A. Everything Jericho needed for survival (shelter, food, and water) was located within the walls

B. Archeologists state that fresh water flowed through an underground spring into the city

C. It was harvest time; an abundant supply of food had also been stored within the city

- In the 1930s, archeologists unearthed storage jars full of grain from the fallen burnt ruins of Jericho
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(Joshua 6 KJV) (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. (3) And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. (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. (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 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. (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.

4. YOU SHALL COMPASS (CIRCLE) THE CITY 1 TIME FOR 6 DAYS (verses 6-9)

- A. Armed men marched before 7 priests carrying 7 rams' horns – blowing trumpets as they marched
- B. Behind the 7 priests who blowing the trumpets are Priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant
- C. Behind the Ark, there were armed men
- D. People commanded not to let their voices be heard or let a word come out of their mouths
- E. Jericho would be surrounded by the Israelites, watching from the walls in wonder as the Israelites marched around the city with NO BATTERING RAMS OR LADDERS!

5. YOU SHALL COMPASS THE CITY FOR 7TH TIMES???

- A. Do exactly the same 7 times (priests make a long blast on trumpets the people will shout)
 - **Joshua 6 :4 KJV - ...the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times**
 - **Joshua 6 :4 NIV - ...On the seventh day, march around the city seven times**
 - **Joshua 6 :4 AMP - ...then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times**
 - **Joshua 6 :4 NLT - ...On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times**
- B. 2 QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE NO DEFINITIVE ANSWERS FOR!
 - How big was Jericho?
 - On this 7-day military campaign, which day was the Sabbath? Did it occur on the 7th day?

6. THEY SHOUTED AND THE WALLS CAME DOWN (POWER OF PRAISE)

- A. Praise gives us access to God (gate and door to God)
 - **Psalm 22:3 KJV But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel**
 - It ushers us from the Outer Court into the Holy of Holies (into worship)
- B. Praise is a weight lifter
 - **(Isaiah 61:3 KJV) To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.....**
 - Lifts heavy, burdened, and failing oppressive spirit
- C. Praise and joy is our strength
 - **Nehemiah 8:10 AMP ... And do not be worried, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and your stronghold."**
- D. Praise changes atmospheres (enemy came against Jehoshaphat and Israel)
 - **2 Chronicles 20:21-22 KJV (21) And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. (22) And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.**
- E. PRAISE ALONE WILL NOT WIN YOU THIS BATTLE
 - Some blessings CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED through FAITH AND OBEDIENCE to God's Word

7. THE TREASURE INSIDE THE WALLS

- A. Israel is fighting a battle, not realizing that their destiny is bound inside the wall.
 - The vessel God would use (the seed of the Messiah prophesied through generations to establish an eternal kingdom would come through a harlot).
 - Rahab is in the Book of the Ancestry of Jesus Christ **(Matthew 1:1-5).**
- B. We disregard many individuals in the Body of Christ because we believe they are insignificant. Not knowing that may hold the key to our destiny.
- C. Rahab (the harlot) is mentioned in Hebrews 11 (Hall of Faith) among Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, Samuel, and the prophets.
 - She never preached, performed miracles or prophesied. She had faith, and she was obedient!

From the perspective of Rahab, the walls of Jericho had become spiritual barriers (a stronghold) in her life.

The same walls that had previously sheltered, comforted, and profited Rahab in her Canaanite world now opposed her awaiting new world with the people of God.

It isolated her from the very people God had assigned to rescue her and hindered her from fulfilling the plan and purpose God designated for her life.

Consequently, Rahab found herself trapped in her old world operated by generations of Canaanite morals, ideas, behaviors, and beliefs but desiring to be rescued and live in a new world with the supreme God and His people.