



# Church of God Sunday School

## THE FALL OF JERICHO

### Joshua 6

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 (see Joshua 5:10-12).

Joshua 5:13-14 says: "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?"

The Captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, "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 came to Joshua and said: "See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And 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 [a clearer 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 said, "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.

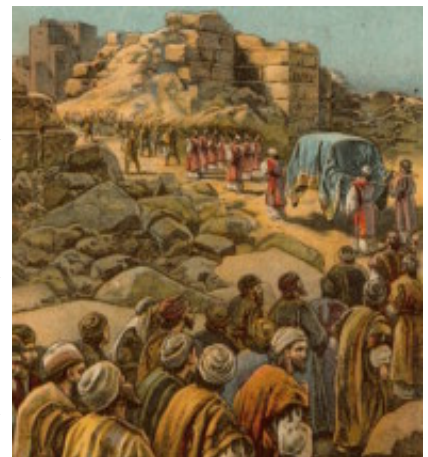
Joshua had commanded the men to march around the city one time for six days, then return to camp. They were warned not to say *one* word and not to make any kind of noise with their voices while they were marching until Joshua gave them the sign.

So, for six days, when Israel marched around the city, no one said a word or made a sound. 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 be thinking as you watched the Israelites march around the city every day?

On the seventh day, the Israelites were going to march around the city as before—making no sound, only the tramp, tramp, tramp of their feet, while the priests blew on the rams' horns. But on that seventh day, the Israelites were going to march around the city, not *one* time but *seven* times! And, when Joshua commanded them, they were going to SHOUT WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT; then the great, strong wall was going to 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 was running all through the camp of the



Israelites! They got up and prepared to march around the city. 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 they would shout with all their might, and that mighty 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.

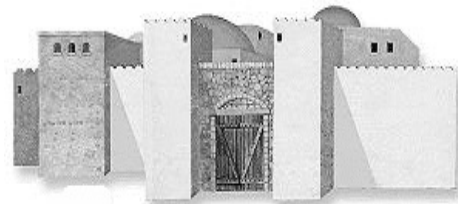
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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"... thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

—1 Corinthians 15:57

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# WORD SEARCH



S	C	A	O	A	S	L	W	H	K
J	E	R	I	C	H	O	S	C	T
O	L	K	G	H	O	R	N	R	U
S	E	V	E	N	U	D	J	A	I
H	Z	H	D	P	T	R	A	M	P
U	T	R	Q	Y	V	X	I	Y	Z
A	F	L	L	M	N	W	O	N	L

## Find these words:

- Jericho    shout    Joshua    Lord    seven    tramp    horn    ark    march

# FIND THE NAME OF THE WALLED CITY BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

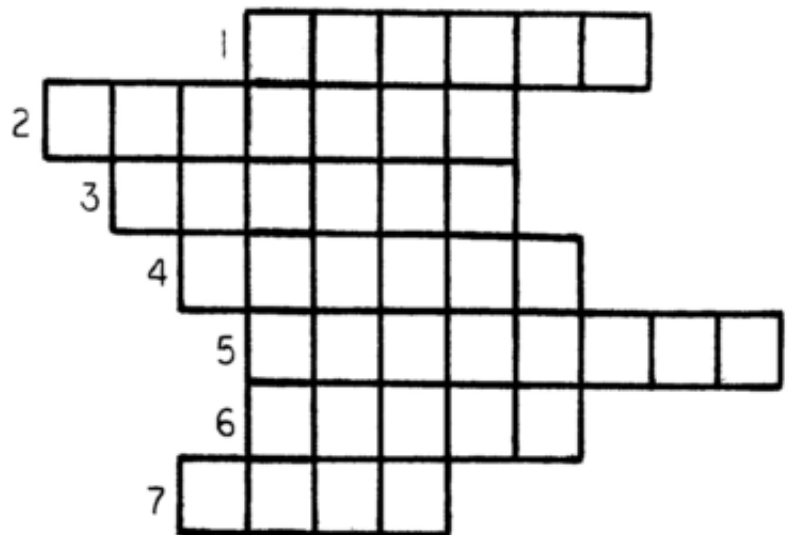


## Questions

1. Who was God's leader in the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_
2. These men blew the trumpets: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name the river Israel crossed: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Joshua told people to be this before they shouted: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ark of the \_\_\_\_\_
6. The trumpets were actually rams' \_\_\_\_\_
7. Type of ground that Joshua stood on by Jericho: \_\_\_\_\_

### Word Bank

holy      horns  
 silent      Jordan  
 priests      Joshua  
 covenant





# The Fall of Jericho