

Jericho: The Battle Is the LORD's (Joshua 5:13–6:27)

Water of Life

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REVIEW OF JOSHUA

EXPOSITION

As Joshua scouted out Jericho, asked the Man facing him with a drawn sword, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” (5:13)

When He said that He commands the LORD's army, Joshua worshipped (5:14)

The Commander told Joshua to remove his sandals, for he stood in a holy place (5:15)

Jericho let no one in or out because of Israel, so the LORD told Joshua that He has given Jericho, its king, and its warriors into his hand (6:1-2)

The Lord instructed Joshua that they would march around the city once each day for six days with the seven priests carrying trumpets the ark (6:3-4a)

On the 7th day they march seven times, the seven priests blow their seven trumpets a long blast, the people shout, the walls fall down, and the people go up (6:4b-5)

Joshua instructed the priests to take up the ark with seven taking trumpets; and told the people to march, with the armed men going before the ark (6:6-7)

The seven priests with the trumpets blew them with the ark following and a rear guard following (but Joshua commanded the people to be silent), so they made one circuit of Jericho and returned to camp (6:8-11)

Early the morning of each of the following days including the sixth, Joshua arose early in the morning and they made a single circuit around Jericho (6:12-14)

On the seventh day, they rose at dawn and marched seven circuits of the city (6:15)

On the seventh circuit, when the priests blew their trumpets, Joshua commanded the people to shout, because the LORD had given them the city, so the whole city (other than Rahab and those with her) is doomed (6:16-17)

Israel is to abstain from taking anything under the ban (*hērem*), which were dedicated to the LORD (6:18-19)

Only three cities in the conquest were burned:

Jericho (6:24)

Ai (8:19)

Hazor (11:10)

Other cities “were taken and put to the sword”

Deuteronomy 6:10-11; 19:1

Importance for dating the conquest

Why liberal scholars late-date the Exodus and the conquest

The basic defense of a 1446 BC Exodus-date

The priests blew their trumpets, the people shouted, the walls fell flat, and they took the city, destroying all who were in it, both man and beast (6:20-21)

Joshua had told the two spies to rescue Rahab and her family, which they did (6:22-23)

They burned the city and all that was in it, dedicating metal to the LORD (6:24)

Rahab and her family were spared (6:25)

Joshua placed a curse on the man who would rebuild Jericho (6:26)

1 Kings 16:34

The LORD was with Joshua and his fame spread throughout the country (6:27)

CONCLUSION