

## Joshua Chapter 6

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V: 1 Jericho is “shut up” – the gates were closed, no one is allowed in or out, they’ve gone to battle stations anticipating the attack that would eventually come.

- In this time of trouble they have retreated to their “strong fortress” – because it’s not the Lord they are about to be disappointed.

Map – Bethabara – Gilgal – Jericho / tel Yericho. Diagram – city has moved 3-4 times.

- “Jericho” means moon which is probably an indicator of the god they worshipped.

V: 2-5 The Lord has “*given*” past tense Jericho and their king and army into his hands.

- Battle plan: For the next 6 days once a day the men armed for battle will march in formation, the Ark of the Lord bourn by the priests, 7 priests ahead of them blowing shofars as the men of war march in silence.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> day they shall march around 7 times – then the people will all shout with a loud shout and the walls will fall down flat.
- Then they will go up or into the city and get them. Sounds like a crazy plan, except this is what God said to do.

**1 Corinthians 1:27** “... God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”

- Whether it is Joshua and trumpets, or Gideon with torches and pots, or David with a sling:
- God delights to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are loyal to Him. **2 Chronicles 16:9**

*“When we accept God’s plan, we invite His presence, and that guarantees victory.”*

V: 6-7 Right away Joshua begins to follow the plan of attack as detailed by the Lord. Joshua is obedient.

V: 8-11 Joshua is obedient, the priests are obedient, and the armed men are obedient, and all the people are obedient.

- They are to march in silence
- Both the inhabitants of Jericho and the children of Israel were probably all wonders the same thing... what is going on and how is this going to work?

This brings to light:

**Isaiah 55:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

V: 12-16 6 days, 6 times around the city, the priests blowing the trumpets / shofars the people marching in silence.

- The 7<sup>th</sup> day – the same thing marching around the city 7 times that day.
- Then the command: Shout!

V: 17-18 Special instruction: parenthetical break.

- The city is “accursed” – that means everything in it is “accursed”.
- Accursed: (H2764). cherem, khay'-rem; appointed to utter destruction.

Stay away from it!

**2 Corinthians 6:17** “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you.”

V: 19 The silver, gold, vessels of brass, and iron are consecrated / dedicated / set apart for the Lord and shall be brought into the treasury of the Lord.

- This will be the first victory in the Promised Land; therefore the “first-fruits” are dedicated to and belong to the Lord.

V: 20-21 The people shouted:

- Shouted: (H-7321) ruwa', roo-ah'; to shout for alarm or joy, cry out, make a joyful noise, shout (for joy), triumph.
- It is appropriate to praise the Lord!

“... *it came to pass*...” All the things that God described.

- Some people have a problem with miracles like this; trying to rationalize the miracles of God. Their problem stems from their concept of God. If we have a correct concept of God then we don't have a problem with any of God's miracles – there is no need to try to explain them with any kind of natural phenomena.
- The people shouted, the wall fell down flat, and they took the city.

- Archeologists have uncovered the foundations of the walls and the blocks and bricks that composed the walls and fell in a semi-circular pattern around the city as the walls fell outward.
- They utterly destroyed all that was in the city, men, women, young, old, cattle – everything. God said it was accursed so it was accursed!

V: 22-25 Rahab and her house were saved alive.

- Brought to a safe place, outside the camp. (Gentiles, unclean, un-circumcised)
- Rahab and her house were saved alive because she hid the Jewish spies.

**2 Peter 2:9** “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the Godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:”

- Rahab had made a profession of faith:

**Joshua 2:11** “... for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.”

She acted on that faith:

**Hebrews 11:31** “By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”

James talks about faith that is manifest:

**James 2:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.  
<sup>18</sup>Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

James then uses Rahab as an example of what he is talking about:

**James 2:25** “Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?”

V: 26-27 Joshua adjured them, charged them, gave them strict orders:

- Cursed be the man before the Lord that rises up and builds this city Jericho.
- He will place his firstborn in its foundation, and his last born will set the gates.
- 500 years later as the nation has fallen into idolatry, worshipping Baal.

**1 Kings 16:34** “In his days did Hiel the Beth-elite 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.”

- The Lord was with and magnified Joshua – his fame spread abroad.

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## *Joshua Chapter 7*

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V: 1 Starts off with a contrast: Summary of the chapter – Achan takes of the accursed thing and the anger of the Lord is kindled against the children of Israel.

- One man’s sin impacts the nation: Israel sinned.

V: 2-3 Joshua sends men to reconnoiter Ai, which is near Beth-el.  
(Map)

- They reported back that they didn’t need to send all the army, just a few thousand because Ai was small.

V: 4-5 So they went up thither – no record yet that the Lord told them to go up against Ai.

- What was their plan? March? Shout?
- Step by step everything Joshua has done thus far has been at the direction of the Lord, now Joshua initiates the next move.

**Galatians 3:3** Oh foolish Galatians “... *having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*”

- The children of Israel were routed and fled from before their enemies – 36 men died and the people were discouraged as a result.
- The combination of Joshua’s quenching the Spirit and Achan grieving the Spirit.
- There is one more glaring distinction; it’s not that they only sent 3,000 men to fight the battle; it’s that they only sent men.
- God’s plan for Jericho involved the presence of God Himself, the priests carried the Ark – the presence of God was in their midst – but not so at Ai.

V: 6-9 Joshua tore his clothes – a sign of grief.

- Fell on the ground before the Lord, dust upon their heads, until evening.
- Joshua seemingly doubts the will of God and adopts the language of the non-believing complainers that he’s heard for the last 40 years.
- God is the One who told them to cross the Jordan...

V: 10-11 Why are you laying around? The implication is that he should be doing something else. Probably should have prayed before Ai instead of after.

- God gets right to the point: Israel has sinned; they have transgressed, and broken God's covenant with Him.
- "They" have taken of the accursed thing; the Babylonian robe, they've stolen the gold and silver that belonged to God, and lied about it.
- The pronoun "they" could mean the nation collectively as represented by Achan, or it could refer to his family which were partakers in his sin and judged along with him.
- It appears that God see's it as being upon the nation – the nation was compromised and suffered defeat.

V: 12 Sin weakens a nation, which we are all experiencing first hand.

**Proverbs 14:34** "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

- God says that He will not remain with them unless they deal appropriately with this sin:
- God does not, will not peacefully co-exist with sin!

**Romans 8:7-8** "7Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

V: 13 Up! A call to action. Sanctify yourselves! Dedicate and purify yourselves.

**Psalms 51:7** "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

V: 14-15 The process: Each tribe shall pass before the Lord, and He shall single out the offending tribe, then the families of the tribe, then each household of the family, then each man of the family.

"15 ... he that is taken with the accursed thing..."

- He that has fallen under the control of that accursed thing. (Compressor, belt sander).

**2 Peter 2:19** "... for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

**Matthew 6:24** "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

- The penalty for that man will be death and burning:

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

V: 16-18 Early in the morning: eager to be right with the Lord.

- Tribe of Judah, family of Zarhites, household of Zabdi – man by man to Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, the leader of the tribe of Judah.

V: 19-21 “*My son...*” implies not only relationship but affection, loving the sinner, hating the sin.

- Give glory to God – show, testify that God is right, confess your sins unto him.
- True confession as when we confess our sin is simply affirming that God was and is right, and that we were wrong.

“<sup>19</sup>... indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel...”

**Psalm 51:4** “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speaketh, and be clear when thou judgest.”

- Babylonian garment, silver, and gold – hidden in the midst of his tent.
- The progression: I saw, I coveted / desired / I took...

**James 1:13-15** “<sup>13</sup>Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: <sup>14</sup>But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

- It is becoming more and more clear to me that the eye gate is the portal of the devil:

**1 John 2:16** “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

- And that the ear gate is the portal of the Spirit:

**Romans 10:17** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hear by the Word of God.”

- As a result there are many who can't sit through a non-visual presentation of any kind – including a Bible study – it has to be dramatic and “eye-catching”, visually stimulating.

**Hebrews 11:1** “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

V: 22-23 The items are recovered from Achan’s tent just as he described.

- Just like Adam and Eve, Achan thought he could cover up his sin:

**Numbers 32:23** “... behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.”

V: 24-26 Achan along with his family and all his stuff right down to his tent are taken to the Valley of “Achor” – the valley of “affliction” or “trouble”

- There Achan and his family are stoned / killed – then burned as God directed.
- The accursed city had been burned, now those who had become accursed by it were also burned. As God had said, they became accursed by association.
- “All” Israel participated in this execution. They were all affirming God’s righteous judgment.
- There was a great heap of stones raised up over Achan and his family.

“So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger”

**Ezekiel 18:20** “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

- Why was Achan’s family judged along with him? Because “they” knew about what Achan had done, they didn’t deal with it – they lied, they became part of his sin.

Jesus said:

**Matthew 10:37** “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

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- At the beginning of a new period in Bible history God reveals the importance of obedience to His word:
    1. After the Tabernacle was set up, Nadab & Abihu approach God in a way that is contrary to His word – and they are killed.
    2. This served as a warning to the priests not to treat God’s sanctuary carelessly, and to pay careful attention to God’s word.

3. When David sought to restore the Ark of the Covenant back to its place of honor and Uzzah reached out to steady it, touching it in violation to God's word – God killed Uzzah. This was another warning not treat sacred things carelessly and the importance of obedience to God's word.
4. At the beginning of the church age Ananias and Sapphira lied to God and to God's people. God killed them.
5. The death of Achan and his family was certainly a dramatic warning to God's people not to take the Word of God lightly.

**Isaiah 66:5** “Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at His word.”

**Psalm 119:165** “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall cause them to stumble.”