



**“GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --  
THE VICTORY OVER JERICO!”**

**Introduction:**

- A. In Our Last Lesson In This Series, We Saw Israel Miraculously Enter The Promised Land.
- B. Tonight, A HISTORIC Victory That God Gave The Israelites At Jericho.
- C. Sadly, Trouble Arose In The Midst Of Victory!

**I. (Slide #2) Events Before Reaching Jericho:**

- A. Joshua Had Sent Two Men To Spy On Jericho BEFORE They Crossed The Jordan River. 2:1
  - 1. They crossed the Jordan and entered Canaan where they lodged at the house of Rahab, a prostitute. 1
  - 2. The king heard that Israelite spies had come to town; he ordered Rahab to bring the two spies to him; she hid them. 2,3
  - 3. She informed the men of her awareness of God and her fear of the God of Israel; she asked them to spare her and her family when they captured Jericho. 9-13
    - a. “and said to the men: ‘I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. <sup>10</sup>For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. <sup>11</sup>And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He *is* God in heaven above and on earth beneath. <sup>12</sup>Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, <sup>13</sup>and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.’”

- b. Their promise: “So the men answered her, ‘Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you.’” 2:14
  - 4. Because her house was a part of the wall of the city, she helped the spies escape Jericho by letting them climb down a rope from the window to the ground. 2:15
  - 5. The spies told her to bind a scarlet cord to the window of her house; all who were in her house would be spared when Israel attacked Jericho. 2:17-20
  - 6. The two spies hid in the mountains for three days and then crossed over the Jordan River and returned to Joshua. 2:22-24
  - 7. Three days later Israel crossed the Jordan River. Chapters 3,4
- B. (Slide #3) Israel Camped At Gilgal. 4:19**
- 1. Gilgal was about 4 miles from Jericho.
  - 2. They came there on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month. 4:19
  - 3. This is the place where the 12 stones were set up as a memorial of their supernatural passage through the bed of the Jordan River. 4:19-24
  - 4. Its name Gilgal was highly symbolic!
    - a. It means “rolling.”
    - b. 5:9 “Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.”
  - 5. They camped here from their arrival into Canaan throughout the time of conquest until the land was subdued; then they moved to Shiloh. Josh. 18:1
    - a. The Tabernacle was set up there and remained there through the days of the Judges.
    - b. It was still in Shiloh during the days of Phinehas. Ju. 20:26-28
    - c. During the days of Eli, the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant. I Sa. 4:12-18.
    - d. King Saul moved it to Nob, near his home of Gibeah. There David got the Bread of Presence (Shewbread) from Ahimelech the Priest to feed himself and his soldiers. I Sa. 21:22
    - e. Then the Tabernacle was at Gibeon. I Chr. 16:39; 21:29; II Chr. 1:2-6, 13; I Ki. 3:2-4
    - f. Its final resting place was in Jerusalem.
      - 1. David finally brought the Ark of the Covenant that had been captured by the Philistines to Jerusalem; he put It inside a tent he erected. II Sa. 6:17; I Chr. 15:1

2. Solomon brought the Tabernacle to Jerusalem at the dedication of the Temple. I Ki. 8:4
- C. Amorite And Canaanite Kings Were Filled With Terror As They Saw Israel Approaching And As They Heard About Their Supernatural Crossing At The Jordan River. 5:1
  - D. Joshua Circumcised All Of The Males Born In The Wilderness; None Of Them Had Been Circumcised. 5:2-9
  - E. On The 14<sup>th</sup> Day Of The 1<sup>st</sup> Month They Observed The Passover. 5:10,11

## **II. The Fall Of Jericho! Joshua 6**

- A. The Mighty Walled City Of Jericho Was Completely Shut Up! 1
- B. God Told Joshua That He Would GIVE The City, Its King, And Its Soldiers Into The Hands Of Israel. 2
- C. God's Commands: 3-10
  1. Joshua and the men of war were to walk around the city once a day for six days. 3
  2. The army was followed by 7 priests carrying ram's horns who preceded the Ark of the Covenant carried by priests. The nation of Israel would follow the Ark! 4
  3. Events On The 7<sup>th</sup> day: 4,5
    - a. They were to march around Jericho 7 times.
    - b. The seven priests were to make a long blast with the ram's horn; then priests would blow trumpets.
    - c. Immediately all the people were to shout loudly!
    - d. God promised that the wall of the city would fall flat!
    - e. Wherever the people were when the wall fell, they were to go straight into the city of Jericho! "And the people shall go up every man straight before him." 5
  4. When Joshua gave the command, the soldiers preceded the priests; the priests who blew the ram's horns continually blew the trumpets, the Ark of the Covenant followed, the rear guard followed the Ark, and the people

followed in silence (they were not to shout, make a noise, or speak a word until on the 7<sup>th</sup> day when they were told to shout!). 8-10

D. Israel Obeyed God's Commands. 11-26

5. **(Slide #4)** They encircled Jericho once each day; then they returned to the camp at Gilgal. 11. (Observation about the picture I am using in this slide -- it is incorrect. The Ark of the Covenant had to be covered by the blue, purple and scarlet veil with the cherubim on it that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, Ex. 26:31; then the covering of badger skins to protect it from getting wet, then the cloth of blue! Nu. 4:5-8)
6. **(Slide #5)** They did this for six straight days. 12-14
7. **(Slide #6)** Events on the 7<sup>th</sup> day: 15-26
  - a. They rose at dawn and marched around the city 7 times. 16
  - b. After the 7<sup>th</sup> time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua commanded them to "Shout! The city will be destroyed and all in it except Rahab and those in her house because she hid the spies!" 16
  - c. He charged them to take NO accursed things (gold, silver, or vessels of bronze and iron). Those items were to be consecrated to the Lord and put in the treasury of the LORD. 18,19
    1. If they took those things, they would become accursed themselves.
    2. But, they would also make the camp of Israel a curse and would trouble it! 18
  - d. The people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets, and the wall of Jericho fell flat! 20
  - e. Wherever they were around the city of Jericho when the wall fell, the Israelites went straight into the city and took it! They utterly destroyed everything in the city -- man or woman, young or old, ox or sheep or donkey! 20-21
  - f. Joshua had the two spies to go to Rahab's house and to bring her and her family out of the house -- they brought her, her parents, her brothers, her relatives, and her possessions out of the city. 22-23,25
  - g. Then they burned the city!
  - h. They spared the gold, silver, or vessels of bronze and iron and put them in the treasury of the LORD. 24
  - i. Rahab then dwelt in Israel. 25
  - j. Then Joshua pronounced an amazing curse: "Cursed *be* the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates." 26
    1. This prophecy was fulfilled in the life of Hiel when Ahab was King of Israel. I Ki. 6:34
    2. As he was laying the foundation for Jericho, his oldest son, Abiram, died; as he set up the gates, his younger son, Segub died.

D. These Events Brought Great Fame To Joshua! 27

### **III. Sin At Jericho And Its Consequences. Joshua 7**

A. You Read The Above Victory Over Jericho And You Would Like To Think “WHAT A VICTORY! This Is JUST THE BEGINNING! With God On Their Side, They Will Easily Wipe Out And Eradicate The Canaanites!”

B. (Slide #7) The Defeat At Ai! 7:2-5

1. Joshua sent men to spy on a small town named Ai (it is just east of Bethel).  
2
2. They returned from spying and told Joshua, “Do not send all the people there; 2,000 or 3,000 will be plenty to defeat it!” 3
3. Joshua sent 3,000 soldiers against Ai; the men of Ai attacked them, killed 36 Israelite soldiers, and chased them away! 4,5
4. This event GREATLY DISCOURAGED Joshua and the hearts of the nation melted like water. 5,6
  - a. Joshua tore his clothes and he and the elders put dust on their heads and fell before the Ark of the Covenant! 6
  - b. Joshua was so frustrated, “God, did you bring us over the Jordan to have our enemies to destroy us? We should have just stayed on the east side of the Jordan.” 7-9
5. God’s response: “Get Up! Israel has sinned by disobeying my commands; they have taken the accursed things and hidden them among their own stuff! Get rid of the accursed things; I will not be with you until you destroy the accursed thing is removed from among you.” 10-12
6. The problem: 11
  - a. Joshua and the people did not know what Acahn had done!
  - b. He, of the tribe of Judah, had taken the accursed things.
  - c. Therefore the anger of the LORD burned against Israel.
7. God told Joshua to command the people to sanctify themselves and stand before Him the next day! 13-15
  - a. The people were gathered by tribes, families, and households. 14
  - b. When the culprit was identified, he and everything that he owned was to be burned because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel! 15
8. The next day Israel came together to find the sinner. 16-18
  - a. The TRIBE of Judah was identified.

- b. The FAMILY of Zerah was taken.
- c. Zabdi was identified from that family.
- d. His son Carmi was chosen.
- e. Achan was identified before the whole nation!
- f. Joshua called upon Achan to confess his sin! 19
  - 1. “My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide *it* from me.” 19
  - 2. Achan confessed his sin: “Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: <sup>21</sup>When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.” 20,21
  - 3. **(Slide #8)** Men were sent to Achan’s tent; there they found the accursed things and brought them and laid them before the people and in the sight of the LORD! 23
  - 4. **(Slide #9)** Achan along with the accursed things -- the silver, the garment, and the wedge of gold -- and his sons, daughters, oxen, donkeys, sheep, tent, and all his possessions were brought forth. 24
    - a. This “troubler of Israel” was stoned with stones and burned with all of his possessions and family! 25
    - b. A heap of stones because his tombstone! It was called “Achor” meaning “Trouble!” 26

#### IV. (Slide #10) Lessons From The Victory Over Jericho And Defeat At Ai:

- A. (►) God Is An AWESOME And Mighty God!
  - 1. Think about it -- they did not lift a finger!
  - 2. They just walked around Jericho, blew trumpets, and shouted and the walls of Jericho fell!
  - 3. BE CAREFUL -- Because He does not work miraculously today as He did then, many conclude He has lost His power, has become weak, or does not care! All of those assumptions are SO WRONG!!!
- B. (►) God’s Grace Is Conditional!
  - 1. He told Joshua that He would GIVE Jericho to the Israelites.
  - 2. Josh. 6:2 “And the LORD said to Joshua: ‘See! I have **given** Jericho into your hand, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor.’”
  - 3. Did that even HINT that there were no requirements on their part? Absolutely not!

4. They were given the order of marching; they were to walk around the city one time each day for six days; on the 7<sup>th</sup> day they were to walk around seven times and then shout and the walls of the city would fall!
  5. Did they EARN it; ABOSLUTLY NOT!
  6. God GAVE IT TO THEM but it was a conditional gift -- there were rules they had to follow!
  7. That is similar to salvation in the New Testament -- it is a free gift; however it is a conditional gift! We must obey to receive it!
- C. (Slide #7) Ungodly And Immoral People Can See The Powerful Hand Of God, Repent, Be Forgiven, And Live In Fellowship With God!
1. Rahab was a prostitute.
  2. However, she realized that this God who was bringing Israel close to the Jordan River was an AWESOME and LIVING God!
  3. She became a believer.
  4. Her faith brought about the salvation of her and her family!
  5. Her faith is commended in the N.T. Scriptures:
    - a. Heb. 11:31 "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.
    - b. Js. 2:25 "Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?"
- D. (►) Disobedience Is AWFUL; "Sin In The Camp" Can Be SO Destructive Even To The Innocent!
1. Because of covetousness, Achan longed for the gold, silver, and Babylonish garment and disobeyed God!
  2. His actions separated him from God, brought about the death of 36 Israelite soldiers, discouraged Joshua and the nation, brought total embarrassment to his tribe, his family and himself, and brought about the death and destruction of him and all of his immediate family!
  3. WHAT A WASTE!
  4. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE the impact of your sin upon your family or this congregation! We can bring disfavor upon ourselves, our family, and our congregation by personal disobedience!

5. Joshua was to “Get up and cleanse sin from the camp!”
6. Today we need to be SO CAREFUL about taking up for sinful family members or congregational members! We need to call sin, sin; we need to call upon sinners to repent! If they do not, they are out of fellowship with God and Christians must not condone their sins!

**Conclusion:**

- A. As We Understand, The Old Testament Law Was Nailed To The Cross! Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14
- B. However, There Is MUCH WE Can Learn Spiritually As We Study The Great Events Of The Old Testament.
- C. Rom. 15:4 “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”