

Joshua

Lesson #7, Chapter 6

Chapter 6 records the familiar account of Jericho's defeat. It is hard not to start singing the children's song, "Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho...." As with any section of the Bible that has been *popularized* through story and song, we must separate fact from fiction, reading for detail and examining context. Read carefully through Chapter 6 as you prepare for this lesson.

1. The Israelites are ready to take the land promised to them by God. Look at the map at the end of the lesson and locate Jericho. How is it situated in relation to the rest of the land? What strategy is there in attacking Jericho first (besides obeying the Commander of the Army of the Lord)?
2. What is the present condition of Jericho (verse 1)?
3. What words of encouragement are spoken to Joshua in verse 2? What did Moses prophesy about this subject? See Deut. 7:1-2, 17-23.
4. In Joshua 5:13-15 the Lord appeared to Joshua and 6:1-16 records the orders he received from the Lord. What are they? Be sure to take note of order, timing, specific commands to certain groups.
5. Even though his orders are not *typical* military plans, how did Joshua respond to the orders given to him? What does that indicate about the spiritual state of his heart?

6. How do the battle plans Joshua receives from the Lord insure that everyone will know that the Israelite's God is the Lord?

7. It is important to note that Joshua is only acting upon orders. Who is truly in charge? What do you learn from the following verses? Ex. 14:14; Deut. 1:30; 3:22; 20:1-4.

8. Why does God fight for Israel (See Deut. 4:32-40)? What does He want them to learn?

9. Seven priests were to carry trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the covenant. How were these trumpets used otherwise? See Lev. 25:9-12; Num. 10:1-10.

10. Eager Beaver: The number 7 appears throughout the Bible. The battle of Jericho repeats "seven" several times. What are some other "sevens" found in the Bible? See Gen. 2:3; Ex. 7:25; Lev. 23:24-44; Deut. 28:7; Matt. 12:45; Acts 6:3-5; Rev. 1:4, 20.

11. Eager Beaver: Who does Num. 10:25 say the rear guard might be as mentioned in Joshua 6:9 and 13?

12. What admonitions does Joshua give the people in verses 17-19?

13. The word “*ban*” can also be translated “*devoted to destruction.*” Look up the following verses and note what is under the ban and what is done with it. Also note if it’s devoted to destruction, who is it devoted to?
- a. Lev. 27:28-29
 - b. Deut. 7:25-26
 - c. Deut. 13:17
 - d. Josh. 7:1, 11, 15
 - e. I Sam. 15:20-23
 - f. I Kings 20:42
14. In the midst of the destruction of Jericho, which is only a precursor to the conquering of the land, we must look at the extermination of the people in the land and why that was necessary. See Gen. 15:12-21; Lev. 18; 20:22-26; Deut. 9:4-5; 18:9-12; 20:16-18. Note what you find out about Israel, the people of the land, and how God viewed it all.
15. What kinds of things has God put *under the ban* in your life? What should your response be in dealing with those things?

16. In I Sam. 15 King Saul didn't completely destroy things under the ban (King Agag, sheep, oxen, spoils). We're all tempted, just as he was, to allow things to live that should be put to death. The question is how quickly we put to death impure, unholy thoughts (Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5)? Consider if there are any areas of your life that need to come under the ban, so you can live completely for the Lord.

17. What is God's view of your life if you are not destroying the things He has placed under the ban? Jas. 4:17; 1 Sam. 15:22-23.

Saul, by casting an amorous eye upon Agag, lost his crown and kingdom; Samson, by dallying with his Delilah, lost his strength, sight, light, liberty, and life. But what are these losses to thy loss of spiritual strength, to thy loss of communion with God, to thy loss of the Spirit of light, life, liberty, and glory; to thy loss of joy unspeakable, and peace that passeth understanding? Thomas Brooks

To forsake sin, is to leave it without any thought reserved of returning to it again. William Gurnall

18. Who are the only ones not under the ban? Why? See verse 17, 22-25 and Josh. 2:12-14.

19. What is the curse on the city of Jericho (verse 26)? How was this fulfilled (1 Kings 16:34)?

20. Eager Beaver: Does verse 26 say that the city will never be *rebuilt* or never be *inhabited*? See Josh. 18:21; Judg. 3:13; 2 Sam. 10:5.

21. What is the result of utterly destroying Jericho (verse 27)?

22. Survey Joshua 5:13-6:27. List the things Joshua is required to do that you would find difficult. Consider why obedience would be difficult. If you think obeying these commands would be difficult, most likely Joshua did too. How is he an example of faith and obedience, even when it's hard?
23. What lessons about obedience can you learn from Chapter 6? What can you apply to your life today?

