

## Victory at Jericho

### Intro:

1. Fall of Berlin Wall: An event most of us did not expect in our lifetime. Represents an oppressive, atheistic political system which many thought invincible. Fell after 45 years of political pressure and decline of a godless system.
2. Pales in comparison to city walls which fell 3,400 years ago, an event which continues to instruct us about the great things that can be accomplished when man's unwavering faith combines with God's unlimited power.

### 1. The Setting

- A. The promise that Abraham's descendants would inherit a specially appointed land was now about 900 years old. Through lack of faith, the Israelites had previously failed to enter and possess the land. It was a defining moment in their history. God was pushing them out of the nest: the manna taken away - Jsh 5:12.
- B. God also intended this conquest as divine justice upon the ungodly and rebellious Gentiles. Gn 15:15-16 - "*the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.*" Later OT history reveals spiritual and moral degeneracy resulting in extreme vileness.
- C. The challenge ahead is difficult: the cities are on hilltops and fortified with walls; the people have the advantage of habitation: they know the land, the weather, etc.; they have neighbors and allies and communications networks.

### 2. The Non-miraculous Preparation

- A. The victory at Jericho is a story of **people**. God rarely used miracles apart from the complimentary actions of faithful men and women.
- B. Note the roles of:
  1. **Moses** - Led to victory over neighboring nations: Sihon of Amorites and Og of Bashan (Num 21:21-35). This produced fear God said He would put within Israel's enemies - Dt 2:24-25; Jsh 2:9-11. This prevented the inhabitants of Jericho from coming out to fight.
  2. **Joshua** - Years of preparation as Moses' assistant:
    - a. Fought Amalekites on way to Sinai, accompanied Moses on Mt. Sinai, in tabernacle of meeting with Moses, publicly anointed as Moses' successor.

b. God speaks to Joshua and encourages him - Jsh 1:6-9.

3. **Rahab** - Included in great personages of faith: Heb 11:31.

a. Rose above her environment and conditioning, acknowledged God - Jsh 2:11.

b. Realized that salvation was in submitting to God, not fighting against Him - Jsh 2:12-13. Yet surely it was difficult to watch the devastation to her home city - Jsh 6:20b-21, 24.

c. She continued to dwell in Israel afterward - Jsh 6:25.

4. **Spies** - Brought good report, Jsh 2:24, unlike spies of 40 yrs. previous.

5. **All Israel** - “By **faith** the walls of Jericho fell ...” (Heb 11:30). This was a different Israel - chastised, mature, confident. The hardships of the wilderness taught them of dependence upon God and prepared them for the present challenge.

### 3. The Miracle

A. The command was a challenge to Israel:

1. Patience - One march per day for six days. No other instructions. Patience had not been a virtue among them previously.

2. Trust - Only “weapons”: feet (marching); lungs (trumpets); voices (shouting). This was not the way they had secured victory in earlier battles.

3. Obedience - Trust in an authority figure does not exist without submission to that expressed authority.

B. The relationship between grace, faith and works: God said, “**I have given** ...” (Jsh 6:2); Israelites had faith in God’s promise and power; when they complied with conditions, the desired result was obtained - Jsh 6:16-17.

C. There was no **direct** correlation between the marching, blowing and shouting and the walls falling down. The power was God’s but conditionally appropriated by faithful people.

### **Application:**

1. There are walls to tear down today - 2 Cor 10:4-6.

2. We, like the Israelites, need **courageous leadership, trust in God’s battle plan**, and to be **people of action**.