

The Walls of Jericho Fall

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Scene Summary

The Walls of Jericho Fall tells the exciting story of Joshua’s capture of the city without a fight. Scenes include: The Hebrew camp...Jericho’s guards keeping watch from tower...Joshua meets the Lord...the Lord gives Joshua a plan...Joshua tells the priests...the army marches to Jericho...the army and priest march around the walls...frightened people huddle in streets within the city...priests blow loudly on trumpets on seventh round on seventh day...the walls crumble and fall...Rahab and her family are spared.

Scripture

(Josh 5:13-15 NIV) Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" {14} "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" {15} The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

(Josh 6 NIV) Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. {2} Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. {3} March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. {4} Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. {5} When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in." {6} So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." {7} And he ordered the people, "Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD." {8} When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. {9} The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. {10} But Joshua had

commanded the people, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" {11} So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there. {12} Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. {13} The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. {14} So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. {15} On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. {16} The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! {17} The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. {18} But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. {19} All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury." {20} When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. {21} They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it--men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. {22} Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." {23} So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel. {24} Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. {25} But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho--and she lives among the Israelites to this day. {26} At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates." {27} So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Angel** – God’s messenger should be awesome and wonderful.
- **Joshua** – Played as an older person, commanding great authority among the people.
- **Guard 1, 2** – Jericho guards carrying weapons, more can be used as needed.
- **Soldier 1, 2** – Israel’s soldiers also carrying weapons, more can be used as needed.
- **Rahab** – A small, but important part; she puts her trust in God

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- Swords and shields for the guards and soldiers.
- White or bright clothes for the Angel
- Red or colorful clothes for Rahab.

Script – The Walls of Jericho Fall

Narrator: The people were camped at Gilgal. Joshua had lead the people since the day Moses had died on the mountain. They were glad to camp for a while before they entered the land God had given them. [pause] High on a tower, on the wall of Jericho, two guards watched the Israelite camp.

Guard 1: Those Israelites have been camped there for days.

Guard 2: [confident] They can't hurt us. Our gates are locked. Our walls are tall and strong.

Narrator: One day Joshua walked towards the city of Jericho.

Joshua: [to himself] This city belongs to us. There must be some way to capture it, but how? Those walls are very strong.

Narrator: Joshua looked up and saw a man standing with his sword drawn.

Joshua: Are you for us or against us?

Angel: I have come as the commander of the Lord's army.

Joshua: [bowing down] What message do you have for your servant?

Angel: Take off your sandals; the place you are standing is holy ground. I will give you this city of Jericho, with its king and its mighty soldiers. Here is the plan for capturing the city.

[Scene change, back at the Israelite camp]

Joshua: The Lord has given me a plan for capturing the city of Jericho. You will have an important part in this plan. This is what we will do.

Narrator: One day, Joshua led the army towards Jericho. With them were priests carrying trumpets. There were other priests carrying the Ark of God.

Soldier 1: [perplexed] This is ridiculous. What good is it to march around the city wall and then go back to camp?

Soldier 2: You can't capture the city without fighting someone.

Narrator: As the people marched around the city walls, the priest's blew on their trumpets. The trumpets were made from ram's horns. Everyone was told by Joshua not to speak.

Guard 1: Every day, these people just march around the city.

Guard 2: The priest just blow on the trumpets. It makes such a loud noise. What are they up to?

Guard 1: This is the forth day they have marched around the walls. If they attack, we are ready to fight. Our army is ready.

Narrator: Early in the morning on the seventh day, the soldiers and the priests marched around the city again. This time, they did not go back. Instead they continued to march around the city; twice, three times, four times and they kept on marching. [pause] Inside the city the people were very frightened.

Guard 2: What are they doing? They are marching around the city all day.

Guard 1: This must be the sixth time around.

Guard 2: Do you think they will attack?

Guard 1: The walls are strong. We can hold them back.

Narrator: When the people marched around the walls the seventh time, they did what the Lord had told Joshua to do. They let out a loud shout and the priest blew on the ram's horn with all of their might. [pause] The walls of Jericho began to crumble and they fell flat. As God had promised Joshua, the men could walk straight in to capture it. They saved only metal items such as pots and urns made out of gold, silver, copper or brass. Everything else was to be destroyed.

Joshua: Rahab, because you helped our spies with they came to your city, God has saved you and your family. You will be kept safe.

Rahab: I am grateful.

Joshua: Come with us; you and all of your family, I will take you safely out of the city.

Narrator: Joshua was glad that God had helped the Israelites capture the city, so were the soldiers. Jericho was one of the cities in the land that God had given their relatives, long, long ago.

The End

Supplemental information

Hundreds and thousands of years ago cities were far apart. And their were not nearly as many cities as there are today. The people worked hard to clear the land and to build their homes by hand. It wasn't easy to cut huge stones to build a palace for the king or a church.

In those days, when a king wanted more land, he started a war. And if he won, he kept the city he captured. To protect themselves and their homes, people built strong walls around their cities. Often the stone walls were very high and thick. Many were so wide that a chariot could be pulled along on top of the wall. Those walls were as wide as a road.

Sometimes people built rooms in the city wall itself. Families really lived in the wall. The doors opened toward the city on the inside of the wall, of course. Rahab and her family made their home inside the thick walls of the city of Jericho. Perhaps other families did, too.

The city walls had heavy gates, which were kept open during the day. But when it got dark, the gates were closed and locked. Some walls had one or more towers on top where guards watched for enemy soldiers. When an army was seen, the heavy gates were closed and bolted. The people were safe inside in the city.

Usually vegetable gardens and grain fields were outside the city walls. So if an enemy army camped outside the city walls for a very long time, the people would run out of food. And the people would either starve or open the fates to go out for food. Then the enemy could force their way into the city and capture the people.

Reflection questions

- The Israelites had traveled a long way since Moses had led them out of Egypt. Now Moses was dead and Joshua was their leader. They were getting ready to enter the land God had given them. But other people had taken over the land. In those days, people built high walls around their cities to protect themselves from enemies. Why do you think the guards on the Jericho walls were worried?
- As Joshua walked toward the city of Jericho, what was he thinking about?
- Joshua was surprised to meet a man with a sword. What did he ask the man?
- The man had a very important message or Joshua. What did he tell Joshua?
- Back at the camp Joshua told some men about the message the man gave him. Who were the men Joshua talked to?
- Joshua led the army toward Jericho. What didn't the men have any weapons? What did the men think of the plan to march around the city and go back to camp?
- As the men marched around the walls, the soldiers never said a word. What did the priests do?

- Up in the tower, the guards watched the Israelites march around the city walls. Why do you think they were worried?
- Every day the Israelites marched around the city once and then marched back to camp about a mile away. What did they do on the seventh day?
- The gates of the city were locked to keep out the Israelites. No one could come in or go out of the city. The people were running out of food. They were beginning to be afraid too. Why?
- The army marched around the city once each day. What did the soldiers do when they marched around the city the seventh time on the last day? What happened to the walls?
- God kept His promise to help the Israelites capture the city. What things were the Israelites supposed to save from the city?
- Rahab and her family lived in a home built in the city wall. Only that part of the wall did not fall. Why were Rehab and her family saved?
- Joshua, the priests, and the soldiers must have been tired after they captured the city. Probably they thought about how God kept His promise to Joshua. Do you think that God always keeps His promises?