

I NEED A

MIRACLE



Who needs a miracle?

Joshua chapter 2

Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there. It was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." And the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." But the woman [Rahab] had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. It came about when it was time to shut the gate at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." Joshua 2:1-5

But she [Rahab] had brought them [two spies] up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax [fiber plant used to make linen cloth] which she had laid in order on the roof [to dry in the sun]. So the men [of the king of Jericho] pursued them [Israelite spies] on the road to the Jordan [River] to the fords; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate.

Joshua 2:6-7

Now before they lay down, she [Rahab] came up to them on the roof, and said to the [Israelite] men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt [Exodus 14], and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og [Numbers 21], whom you utterly destroyed.” Joshua 2:8-10

Rahab said... **“When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord [יְהוָה Yahweh] your God [אֱלֹהִים Elohim], He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”**

Joshua 2:11

The Lord previously said to Moses... **“I will send My terror ahead of you, and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.” Exodus 23:27**

The Lord previously said to Moses... **“This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the peoples everywhere under the heavens, who, when they hear the report of you, will tremble and be in anguish because of you.” Deuteronomy 2:25**

Rahab said... “Now therefore, please swear to me by the Lord, since I have dealt **kindly** (חֶסֶד *hesed*) with you, that you also will deal **kindly** (חֶסֶד *hesed*) with my father’s household, and give me a pledge of truth, and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” Joshua 2:12-13

וְעַתָּה הַשְׁבֵּעוּ-נָא לִי בַיהוָה כִּי-עָשִׂיתִי
עִמָּכֶם **חֶסֶד** וְעָשִׂיתֶם גַּם-אַתֶּם עִם-בֵּית אָבִי
חֶסֶד וְנָתַתֶּם לִי אֹת אֲמִת:

Joshua 2:12

So the men said to her, “Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the Lord gives us the land that we will deal **kindly** (חֶסֶד *hesed*) and faithfully with you.”
Joshua 2:14

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּנַפְשֵׁנוּ תַחַתֶּיכֶם לָמוּת
אִם לֹא תִגִּידוּ אֶת־דְּבָרֵנוּ זֶה וְהָיָה בְּתַת־יְהוָה
לָנוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְעָשִׂינוּ עִמָּךְ חֶסֶד וְאֶמֶת:

Then she [Rahab] let them [two spies] down by a rope [חֵבֶל *chevel*] through the window, for her house was on the city wall, so that she was living on the wall. She said to them, “Go to the hill country, so that the pursuers will not happen upon you, and hide yourselves there for three days until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way.” Joshua 2:15-16

*Understanding the *hesed* of God gave Rahab courage

The men said to her, “We shall be free from this oath to you which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, **you tie this cord** [תִּקְוָה *tikvah*] **of scarlet thread** in the window through which you let us down, and gather to yourself into the house your father and your mother and your brothers and all your father’s household. It shall come about that anyone who goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be free; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.” Joshua 2:17-19

“But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be free from the oath which you have made us swear.” She said, “According to your words, so be it.” So she [Rahab] sent them [two spies] away, and they departed; and she tied the scarlet cord [תִּקְוָה *tikvah*] in the window. They departed and came to the hill country, and remained there for three days until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had sought them all along the road, but had not found them.

Joshua 2:20-22



Joshua chapter 6

The Battle of Jericho

Gilgal? Gibeath-haaraloth

Israelite Camp

Jericho

*Israel is circumcised
before battle*

Jericho to Heshbon

*Josua camps for 3 days
before crossing the Jordan*

Israelite Camp

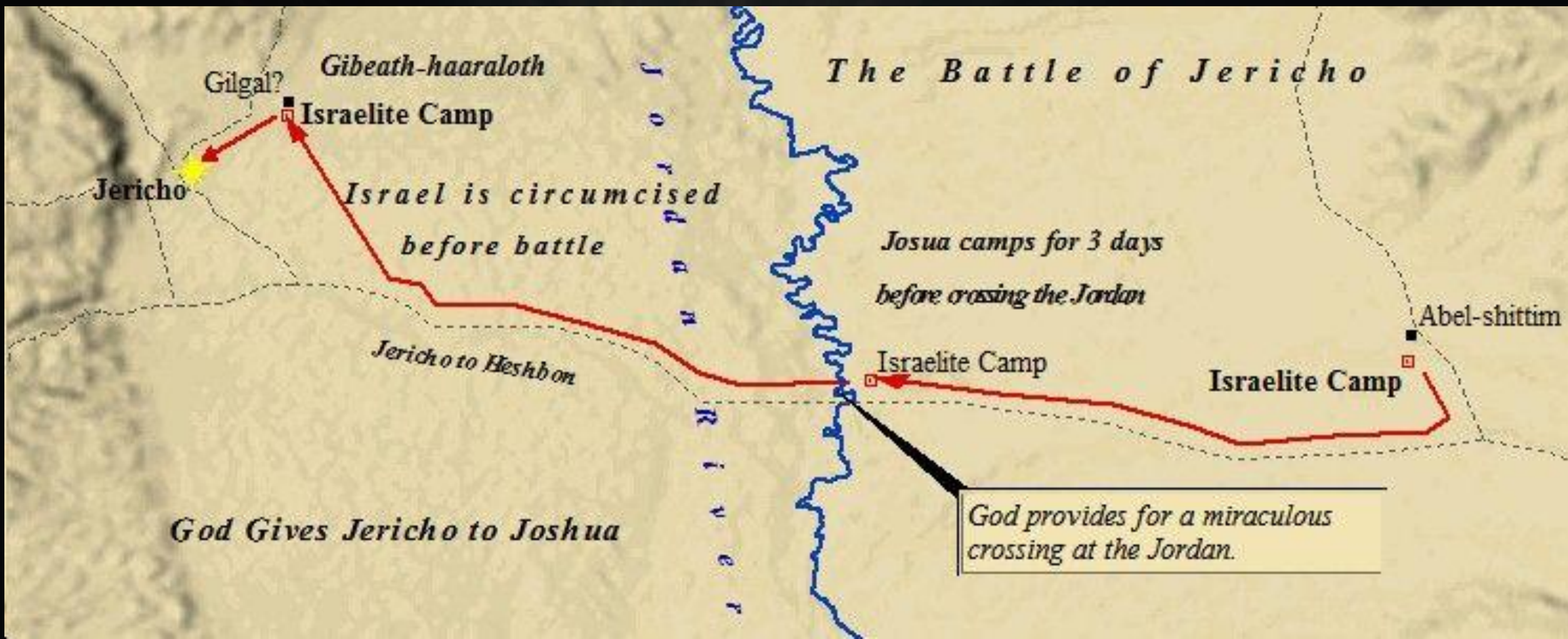
Israelite Camp

Abel-shittim

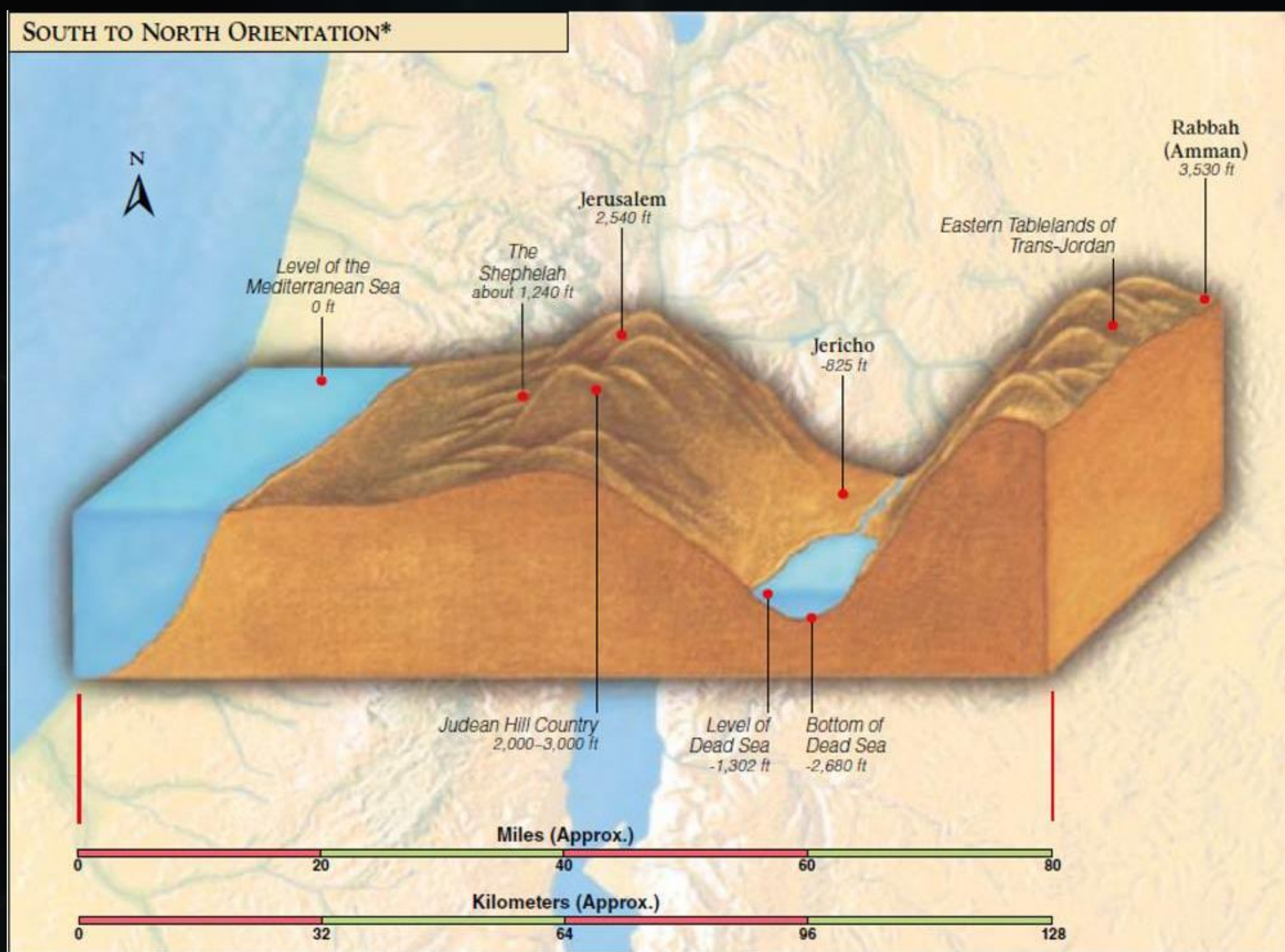
God Gives Jericho to Joshua

*God provides for a miraculous
crossing at the Jordan.*

Jordan River



SOUTH TO NORTH ORIENTATION*



Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. The Lord [Yahweh] said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city **once**. You shall do so **for six days**. Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets [שׁוֹפָר *shofar*] of rams’ horns before the ark; then **on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times**, and the priests shall blow the trumpets [שׁוֹפָר *shofar*].” Joshua 6:1-4

The battle plan Joshua was to use was most unusual. Ordinary weapons of war such as battering rams and scaling ladders were not to be employed. Rather Joshua and his **armed men** were to **march around the city once** a day **for six** successive **days** with **seven priests** blowing **trumpets** preceding **the ark** of the covenant. **On the seventh day** they were to circle Jericho **seven times** and then **the wall of Jericho** would **collapse** and the city would be taken.

In the Bible the number **seven** often symbolizes completeness or perfection. There were **seven** priests, **seven** trumpets, **seven** days, **seven** circuits of the wall on the **seventh** day. Though God's plan of action may have seemed foolish to men it was the perfect scheme for this battle.

- Bible Knowledge Commentary

The Lord said to Joshua, “It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn [*shofar* שׁוֹפָר], and when you hear the sound of the trumpet [*shofar* שׁוֹפָר], all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead.” So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns [*shofars*] before the ark of the Lord.” Joshua 6:5-6

Then he [Joshua] said to the people, “Go forward, and march around the city, and let the armed men go on before the ark of the Lord.” And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams’ horns [*shofars*] before the Lord went forward and blew the trumpets [*shofars*]; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. The armed men [from each tribe] went before the priests who blew the trumpets [*shofars*], and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets [*shofars*]. Joshua 6:7-9

Battle Plan

Joshua 6

Configuration of the
Jericho march

1



Armed guard marches first

2



7 priests carrying trumpets
march second

3



Priests carrying the ark
march third

4



Rear guard marches fourth

5

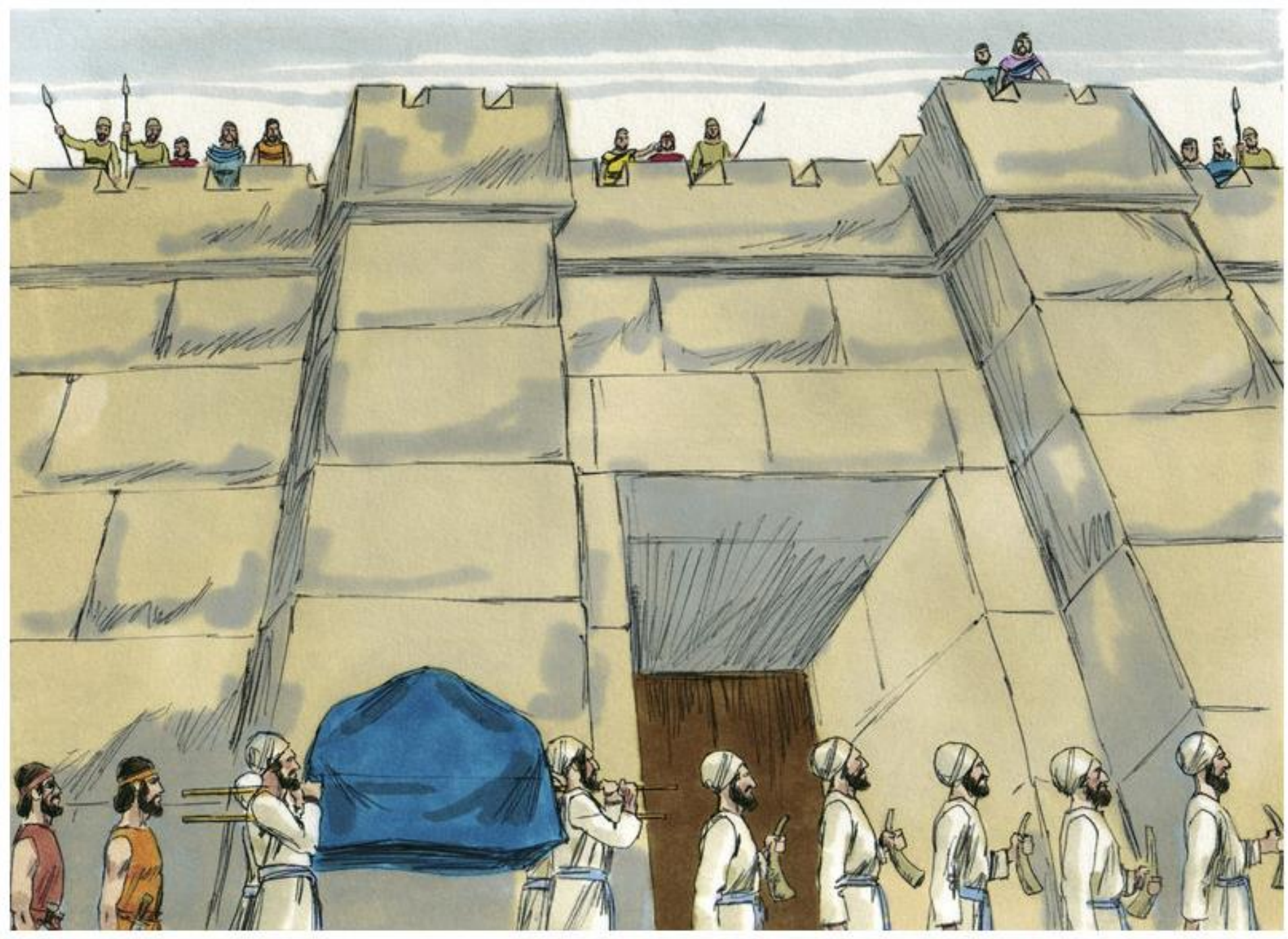
Israelites march around Jericho
once a day for 6 days, with the
priests blowing trumpets

6

Israelites march around Jericho
7 times on 7th day

7

Israelites shout and blow
trumpets on 7th march around
Jericho



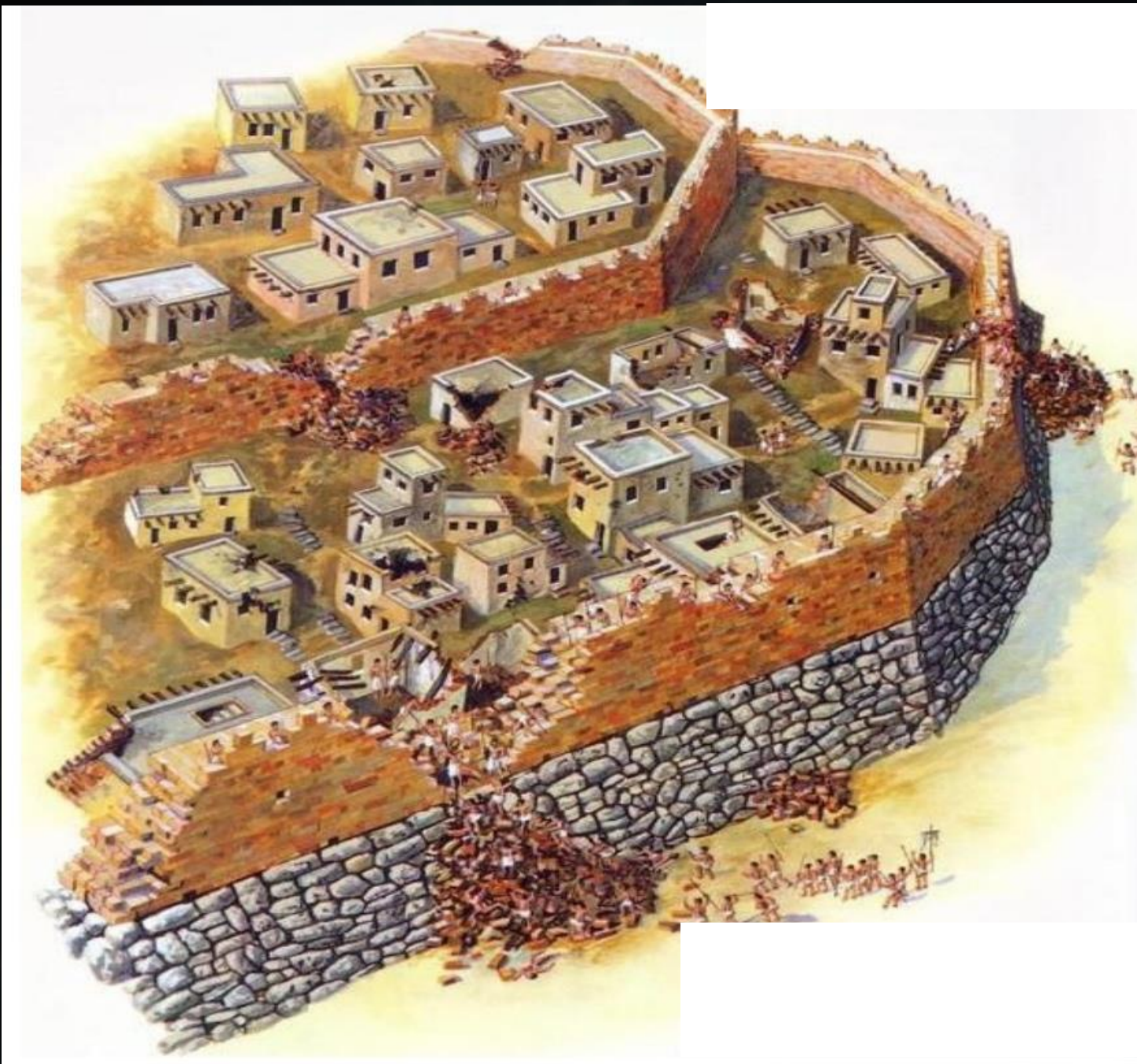
But Joshua commanded the people, saying, “You shall not shout nor let your voice be heard nor let a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I tell you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout!” So he [Joshua] had the ark of the Lord taken around the city, circling it once [on the first day]; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

Joshua 6:10-11



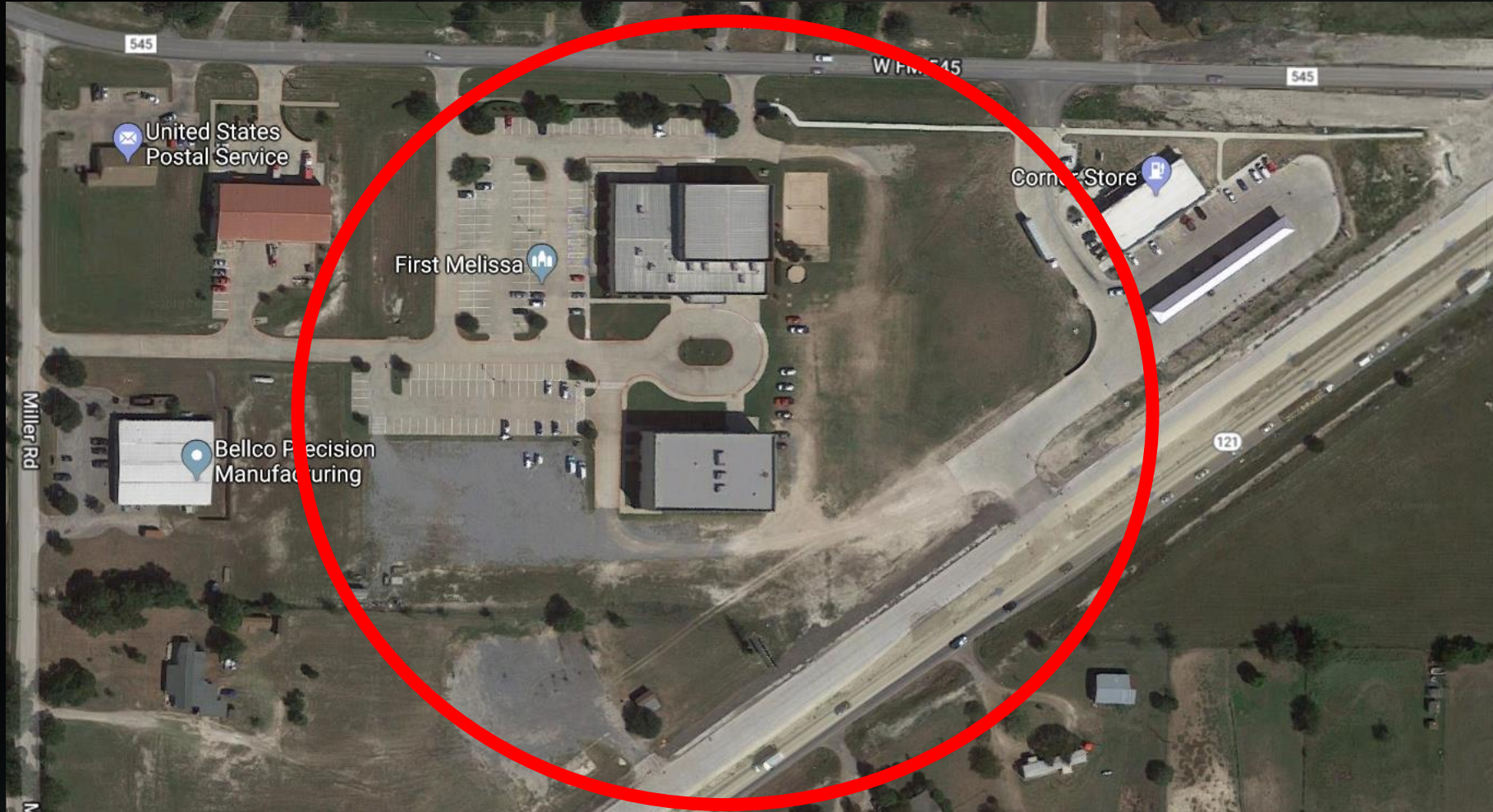
Now Joshua rose early in the morning [second day], and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns [*shofars*] before the ark of the Lord went on continually, and blew the trumpets [*shofars*]; and the armed men went before them and the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while they continued to blow the trumpets [*shofars*]. Thus **the second day they marched** around the city **once** and returned to the camp; they did so for six days. Joshua 6:12-14

*Will I continue to obey God's call when exposed to fear or danger or ridicule?



How big was Jericho?

Jericho then covered about **eight or nine acres** and required **less than 30 minutes** to march around. – Bible Knowledge Commentary



Based on the archaeologist's rule of thumb of 200 persons per acre, the population of the upper city would have been about 1,200. From excavations we know that people were also living on the embankment between the upper and lower city walls. In addition, those Canaanites living in surrounding villages would have fled to Jericho for safety. We can assume that there were several thousand people inside the walls when the Israelites came against the city.

–<https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/the-walls-of-jericho/>

Then on the seventh day they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times. Joshua 6:15

*The journey of 7 laps around Jericho would have taken the people of Israel approximately 3 hours.

*In the Bible the number seven often symbolizes completeness or perfection. There were seven priests, seven trumpets, seven days, seven circuits of the wall on the seventh day. Though God's plan of action may have seemed foolish to men it was the perfect scheme for this battle. - Bible Knowledge Commentary

At the **seventh** time, when the priests blew the trumpets [*shofars*], Joshua said to the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the Lord; **only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live**, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet them and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it.” Joshua 6:16-18

“But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.” So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets [*shofars*]; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet [*shofar*], the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city. Joshua 6:19-20

Archaeologists excavating ancient Jericho (Tell es-Sultan) uncovered striking evidence of a city violently destroyed: collapsed mudbrick fortifications, a massive burn layer, and jars still containing grain. **The fallen mudbricks accumulated at the base of Jericho's stone retaining wall, creating what archaeologist Bryant Wood argues would have been a ramp up into the city—remarkably similar to Joshua 6:20, which says the wall fell and the Israelites “went up into the city.”**

Even more fascinating, **excavators found a section of the northern fortification still standing, with houses associated with that area.** Joshua says Rahab's house was on the city wall and that she and her household survived Jericho's destruction, but no one else. The grain also fits the biblical description of a short siege followed by the city being burned rather than stripped of its supplies. Thousands of years later, the ruins of Jericho still bear remarkable witness to the details recorded in Joshua! - Traci Coston

The walls of Jericho





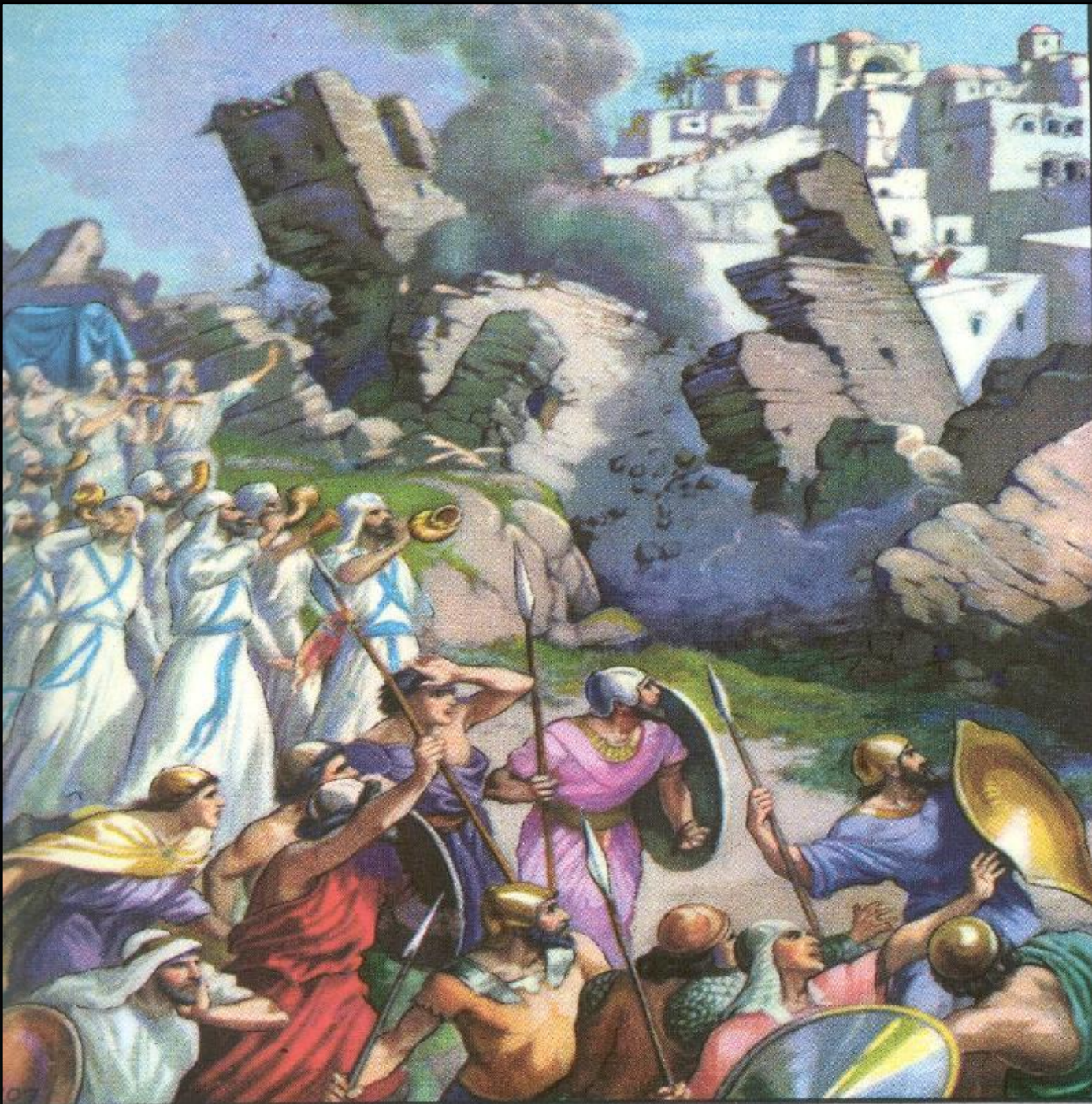
Why did the walls of Jericho fall when the people shouted?

1. An earthquake caused the destruction.
2. Israelite soldiers undermined the walls while the others marched.
3. Vibrations set up by the trumpet blasts and soldiers' shouts caused the collapse.
4. Shock waves caused by the marching feet of the Israelites were responsible.

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days” Hebrews 11:30

Why did the walls of Jericho fall when the people shouted?

- Because God said they would
- Because God can do things we cannot understand
- Because God's miracle power is creative
- Because God's miracle power is unlimited



They utterly
destroyed
everything in the
city, both man and
woman, young and
old, and ox and
sheep and donkey,
with the edge of
the sword.
Joshua 6:21

After years of doubt among archeologists, a new analysis of excavations has yielded a wide range of evidence supporting the biblical account about the fall of Jericho. It may well be true that, in the words of the old spiritual, "Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls come tumbling down." A study of ceramic remnants, royal scarabs, carbon-14 dating, seismic activity in the region and even some ruins of tumbled walls produced what is being called impressive evidence that the fortified city was destroyed in the Late Bronze Age, about 1400 B.C. ... "When we compare the archeological evidence at Jericho with the biblical narrative describing the Israelite destruction of Jericho, we find a quite

remarkable agreement," Dr. Bryant G. Wood, an archeologist at the University of Toronto, wrote in the March-April issue of Biblical Archeology Review.

The New York Times

Believers Score in Battle Over the Battle of Jericho

By John Noble Wilford

Feb. 22, 1990



A three-foot layer of ash, containing many pottery fragments and mud bricks from a wall, was found at the site, well preserved because it was sealed by sediments that accumulated over the years the destroyed city lay unoccupied. The charred fragments have been dated at 1410 B.C., plus or minus 40 years. Finally, several Egyptian scarabs, or amulets, found in tombs at Jericho had inscriptions placing them in the same period.

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Believers Score in Battle Over the Battle of Jericho

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Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the harlot’s house and bring the woman and all she has out of there, as you have sworn to her.” So the young men who were spies went in and brought out **Rahab and her father and her mother and her brothers and all she had**; they also brought out all her relatives and placed them outside the camp of Israel [because they were ceremonially unclean]. Joshua 6:22-23

They burned the city [of Jericho] with fire, and all that was in it. Only the silver and gold, and articles of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. Joshua 6:24

Garstang and Kenyon found many storage jars full of grain that had been caught in the fiery destruction. Grain was valuable as a source of food but also as a commodity which could be bartered. Under normal circumstances, valuables such as grain would have been plundered by the conquerors. Why was the grain left at Jericho? The Bible provides the answer. Joshua commanded the Israelites that the city and all that is in it were to be dedicated to the Lord. Such a large quantity of grain left untouched gives silent testimony to the truth of yet another aspect of the biblical account. A heavily fortified city with an abundant supply of food and water would normally take many months, even years, to subdue. The Bible says that Jericho fell after only seven days. The jars found in the ruins of Jericho were full, showing that the siege was short since the people inside the walls consumed very little of the grain.

However, Rahab the harlot and her father's household and all she had, Joshua spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, for she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. Joshua 6:25

Is God's Love Available to Everyone?

- If you think that person is unworthy of God's love, think about Rahab.
- If you think you are unworthy of God's love, think about Rahab.
- If you think that you cannot or should not demonstrate *hesed* to that person, think about Rahab.
- If you think that you are too sinful for the gift of *hesed*, think about Rahab.

Is God's Love Available to Everyone?

- Rahab was accepted into the nation of Israel to such an extent that she was able to marry into the royal family of Judah. She married Salmon, the son of Nahshon. Nahshon was the leader of the tribe of Judah and commanded their army. He was also a close associate of Moses and Joshua, and his sister, Elisheba, was married to Aaron, the first high priest.
- And for the Jewish nation, Rahab came to serve as a successful gentile conversion to Judaism. Her ability to change her ways has encouraged countless generations to seek divine mercy and pardon for their actions and lives. God hates sin, but He loves people. He loves all kinds of people, especially prostitutes. He knows how to save those that love Him and desire to serve Him.

God's Grace

“The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon [of the tribe of Judah]. **Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab**, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David the king.” Matthew 1:1-6a

*This makes Rahab the great-great-grandmother of King David!

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith **Rahab** the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

Hebrews 11:30-31

*Rahab is the spiritual mother of today's Gentiles who worship the God of Israel through His Son, Yeshua

Praying for Miracles at First Melissa

- Salvations of family members and friends
- Healing of marriages and broken relationships
- Healing of illness and sickness
- Creating and deepening connections among the Body of Christ
- Raising up the next generation of faithful followers of Jesus
- Church construction loan paid off
- Expansion of our church property
- Upgrades to our existing church facilities and campus
- Construction of new church facilities
- Expansion of ministry opportunities

Steps in a “Walls of Jericho Miracle”

- Are there walls in your life that need to come down?
- Has God called you to do something or believe something that you cannot understand?
- Have you grown weary in obedience while seemingly seeing no results?
- If God’s timeline is different than yours, will you keep believing and obeying?
- Will you trust God enough to live by faith?
- Will you get up tomorrow morning and keep walking?