



The Fall of Jericho

Lesson 2 – Joshua 3 - 6



What happened before?

God had appointed Joshua to take Moses' place as leader of Israel. Joshua sent two spies across the Jordan River to view the land, especially Jericho. While in Jericho, they stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab. Rahab hid the spies from the soldiers and they promised to spare her and her family when they destroyed the city.

The spies went back to camp and reported to Joshua that all the Canaanites were afraid of the Israelites because they had seen and heard of the things God had done for Israel.

Our Story:

Joshua ordered the people to prepare to move toward the Jordan River. When everyone was ready and lined up by tribe, Joshua moved them forward. They camped on the banks of the Jordan for three days. The officers instructed the people that they should watch and when the priests starting moving the Ark of the Covenant, they were to follow it. They were to stay 3,000 feet behind the Ark.

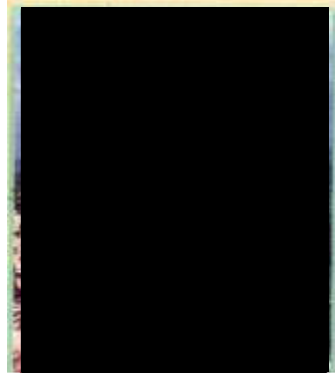
The waters of the Jordan were overflowed on the banks as it did each year at the time of harvest. The Israelites must have wondered how they would get all their families and animals across this deep river. Joshua told them that the waters of the Jordan would be divided and they would walk across on dry land. This would be a sign from God that He would be with them and they would be able to drive out all the people of the land. Joshua called out to the priest, "Take up the Ark of the Covenant and cross over before the people." As soon as the feet of the priest stepped in the water, the river stopped flowing and there was a wide space of dry land for the people to walk on. While the priests stood in the middle of the riverbed, the people crossed the Jordan on dry land.



God did not want the people to forget what He had done here. He gave instructions to Joshua to have one man chosen from each tribe. Each man was told to bring a stone out of the river. When they were across, the twelve men placed their stones in a pile where they camped

for the first time in their new homeland. That pile of stones was a memorial to the Israelites. God told them that when their children asked what the memorial was for, they should tell them how God had performed a great miracle by dividing the waters to allow them to cross the Jordan River on dry land.

When this was done, the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant to shore. The waters began to flow again as if nothing strange had happened there. The Israelites were finally in the land that God had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



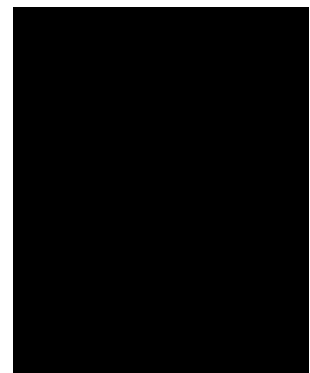
When the people who lived in the land of Canaan heard what had happened, they were terribly frightened. “Their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel”.

Soon after they camped in their new land, the Israelites kept the Passover. After the Passover, the manna did not appear any more. It was no longer needed, for there were many things in this new land for the people to eat.

The Israelites were camped at Gilgal and were ready to capture the land, but first they had to take Jericho. It was a strong city with a great wall around it. At this time Joshua did not know God’s plan for taking the city.

As Joshua was near the city of Jericho, a man appeared before him with a sword in his hand. He told Joshua that he was the commander of the Lord’s army. He told Joshua to remove his sandals, because where he stood was holy. Joshua removed his shoes. The Angel told him that He had given Jericho to him. He then gave Joshua the instructions as to how he should take the city. It was a very strange plan of attack, but anything is possible with God. He does things differently from the way men would do them.

They followed God’s instructions exactly and this is the way they took Jericho. Seven priests with trumpets of ram’s horns marched before the ark of God, which was carried by other priests. Ahead and behind them were columns of armed men. No one in the long column said a word. The priests blew their trumpets as they marched. They marched around the city one time and went back into the camp. The next day they did the same thing, and the next and the next, until they had marched around it once each day for six days. On the seventh day they





marched around the city seven times in the same order. When they completed the seventh time around, the priest blew their trumpets, and then all the people gave a great shout. The walls of Jericho fell down flat and the men went into the city and captured it.

The spies had promised Rahab that they would save her and her family because she had helped them. Joshua told the spies to go in and bring Rahab out. Her house had been marked by a red cord and had not been damaged when the walls fell. The men brought out Rahab and her mother and father and all her family. Then the city was burned with fire. Rahab lived with the Israelites for the rest of her life.

The people had been told that they should not take anything from the city for themselves. All things made of silver, gold, brass, or iron were to be given to the treasure of the Lord, for they were to be holy to the Lord.

When Joshua told his plan for capturing the city, the people might have said that they could not make the walls topple just by blowing on the rams' horn trumpets and shouting. But they did not say that. They had faith that God would do what He had promised. Because they had enough faith to obey God's commandments, the walls fell down and the city was captured.

