

# The Fall of Jericho

## Introduction

1. **Let's look at the fall of Jericho in Joshua 6.**
  - A. **Jericho stood opposite Mt. Nebo on the Western side of the Jordan river.**
  - B. **It was ruled by a King. A wall surrounded the city and its massive gate was closed at night.**
  - C. **The site has been excavated several times with the most complete work done by the Garstang expedition of 1933.**
  - D. **Evidence of fire and great stores of remains of charred grain are to be seen. Remains of two walls, fourteen feet apart with beams running across them. Dwellings were constructed upon these.**
  - E. **Archaeological findings report that the ruins appear as if a mighty blast had been set off in the midst of the city, forcing the walls outward.**
2. **God gave instructions to Joshua about the capture of the city.**
  - A. **The Army was to encompass the city one time each day for six days, and then seven times on the seventh day.**
  - B. **The priests were then to blow their trumpets and when the people heard the blast of the ram's horn and the sound of the trumpet, they were to shout with a great shout!**
    - 1) **These instructions were followed by the divine promise that "the wall of the city shall fall down flat."**
3. **There are four outstanding lessons in this incident for us.**

## God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

### 1. This is told to us by the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

Jeremiah 10:23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

#### A. Many other incidents in the Bible illustrate this principle - here are two:

##### 1) The Israelites were instructed to put blood on the doorposts so that death would pass them by.

Exodus 12:22 And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

##### 2) Healing of Naaman. **2 Kings 5:10-14**

2. This fact was seen plainly in the coming of Christ. The circumstances of His birth were the very opposite of that which would have been suggested by human wisdom.

3. The plan of salvation, the steps in becoming a child of God, is not according to human wisdom.

#### A. What man would have thought of baptism as the culminating act of obedience? **Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16**

**4. The Lord's Supper.**

**A. What man would have thought of this simple feast as a memorial? It does not bear human imprints. Jesus commanded it.**

**Matthew 26:26-28**

**B. It originated in the mind of Deity.**

**1) Many regard it lightly because it appears too plain, too simple – Like Jericho, Blood on the doorposts, Naaman)**

## The Meaning of Grace and How Men Benefit by It

### 1. Notice Joshua 6:2

**Joshua 6:2** And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! **I have given** Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

**A. The city was a gift from God, yet God told them how to take the city; it involved obedience.**

### 2. Our daily bread is a gift of God.

**A. It is by His grace that we have food, yet, know there is something to be done by us in order to procure food.**

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

### 3. Our salvation is by grace.

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

**A. Many cannot understand how salvation can be by grace if there are any conditions (such as baptism) to be met.**

**1) Jericho was a gift - yet they had to meet certain conditions.**

**2) Our daily bread is a gift - yet we must work to obtain it.**

**3) Therefore we should see that salvation is a gift even though there are certain conditions that must be met by us in order to receive the gift.**

## The Meaning of Faith

### 1. The walls fell “by faith”.

Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

### 2. We also are saved “by faith”.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

#### A. Many cannot understand how there could be anything for us to do in being saved if salvation is by faith.

1) The walls fell by faith **after** they were circled for seven days. Faith availed when it obeyed.

b. We are saved by faith, but when? Before that faith obeys or after it obeys?

James 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

1) Faith saves when it moves one to obey God's command to be baptized.

