

Jericho

Joshua 5 – 6

Matthew 1:5

by Don Falkos

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The Lord commanded that all the men of Israel be circumcised; the practice hadn't been observed since their departure from Egypt. After they healed, the time came to celebrate the Passover. The day after the Passover, the people of Israel ate some of the produce of the land of Canaan. The following day, for the first time in forty years, no manna appeared, and manna was never seen again.

Near Jericho, Joshua encountered a man with a drawn sword. Joshua asked, "Are you friend or foe?"

The man replied, "Neither. I am commander of the Lord's army."

Joshua threw himself face-down on the ground and asked, "What do you want me to do?"

"Take off your sandals. This is holy ground."

Following the Lord's instructions, Joshua had the army march around Jericho once a day for six days. The Ark of the Covenant was carried along with them; priests were blowing trumpets; but the people remained silent the whole time.

On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times. Then, at Joshua's command, the people shouted, and the walls of Jericho collapsed. The army of Israel charged straight into the city. The two men who had been helped by Rahab the prostitute went to her house and led her entire family out of the city. Everyone else was killed.

Jericho was completely destroyed as an offering to the Lord. Only the precious metals were saved. Joshua said, "Whoever attempts to rebuild this city will be cursed."

Rahab eventually married an Israelite man and had a son named Boaz.