

File No. 40

JOSHUA 5:13 – 6:27

THE WALLS OF JERICHO

(SBS Bk 2 Story No. 4)

Story Notes

The Lord of armies now appeared to Joshua to equip him also just as he had prepared Moses for the battle with Pharaoh.

Joshua wanted to know if the unknown ‘soldier’ was for him or for his enemies. He was neither. He was the presence of God among them and Joshua was taught that this presence mattered more than the presence of his enemies. He honoured the Lord as holy and his fears were put in their place (so Isa. 8:12-14).

Joshua explained how the city would be taken: by marching, trumpet blasts and a shout. God would give them their victory. But first, there were to be six days of marching with trumpet blasts. God had spoken from Mt Sinai to the accompaniment of trumpets (Exod. 19:16), but trumpet blasts were also a proclamation of Sabbath rest (Lev. 23:24), and of a year of Jubilee in which each person would be restored to their inheritance (Lev. 25:9). Trumpet blasts also summoned the people to battle (Num. 10:9). So it was now. The shout that brought the walls down showed that nothing was needed from Israel but their unbounded confidence in God. Such faith was in order because the Lord was present on his throne: the Ark of the Covenant (cf. II Sam. 6:14–15). A Psalmist later sang that all who knew this shout were blessed (Ps. 89:15).

Nothing in Jericho was to be spared except reusable metals, and the Rahab family. Anything that could mar the inheritance of God's people or prevent them receiving it was destroyed that day. Rahab and her family had turned to the Lord and were now among the people of God. Joshua's fame was known throughout the land because God was with him.

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