

Joshua 6

Verses 1 - 5

Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. ² But the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have handed Jericho over to you, with its king *and* the valiant warriors. ³ And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. ⁴ Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. ⁵ It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight ahead.”

And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days.

We know the 2 and 1/2 tribes east of the Jordan supplied 40,000 troops. The other 70,000 from these tribes were east of the Jordan protecting the woman, children and livestock.

The other 9½ tribes had 490,000 men of war which put the total number of troops at around 530,000.

Then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight ahead

When it came time to shout all of the people were involved. We can estimate how many non-military people were involved in this. Take the 2.5 million people minus 600,000 men of war. This leaves 1.9 million.

Then subtract 400,000 non-military people for the 2.5 tribes that were east of the Jordan. This would leave a total of 1.5 million non-military people.

The actual number would have been somewhat less than this because the very young and very old would have been exempt from this event.

Verses 6 - 11

⁶ So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and have seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark of the Lord.” ⁷ Then he said to the people, “Go forward and march around the city, and the armed men shall go on ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

⁸ And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the Lord went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. ⁹ And the armed men went ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets. ¹⁰ But Joshua commanded the people, saying, “You shall not shout nor let your voice be heard, nor let a word proceed from your mouth, until the day I tell you, ‘Shout! Then you shall shout!’ ¹¹ So he had the ark of the Lord taken around the city, circling *it* once; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

⁶ So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and have seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark of the Lord.”

See pics 605



Many recent versions have translated this to say rams' horns

However, there is no mention of rams' horns in the original Hebrew or in the Septuagint (The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible).

See pic 610

The Septuagint

Joshua 6

6 And Joshua the [son] of Naue went in to the priests, 7 and spoke to them, saying, 8 And let seven priests having seven sacred trumpets proceed thus before the Lord, and let them sound loudly; and let the ark of the covenant of the Lord follow.

13 And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets went on before the Lord; and afterwards the men of war went on, and the remainder of the multitude went after the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and the priests sounded with the trumpets.

20 And the priests sounded with the trumpets: and when the people heard the trumpets, all the people shouted at once with a loud and strong shout; and all the wall fell round about, and all the people went up into the city:

The trumpets that were used were probably the ones mentioned in Numbers 10:1-10

There were made of silver and used for calling and dismissing the assembly, during times of war, and for the various Holy Days.

We have a good idea what these looked like thanks to the Romans of the 1st Century

See pics 615 The **Arch of Titus** in Rome



This arch commemorates the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans.

On the inside wall of the arch there is a depiction of several artifacts that were in Herod's Temple.

On the right side there is a depiction of two trumpets.

See pic 620



⁷ Then he said to the people, “Go forward and march around the city, and the armed men shall go on ahead of the ark of the Lord.” ⁸ And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the Lord went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. ⁹ And the armed men went ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets.

The order of the march was spelled out in these verses:

1. The armed men went first.
2. Then the priests with the horns
3. Then the ark carried by the priests
4. And it ended with the rear guard

So he had the ark of the Lord taken around the city, circling *it* once; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

This was day one of 7 days.

Verse 12 - 14

¹² Now Joshua got up early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. ¹³ Then the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark of the Lord went on continually, and blew the trumpets; and the armed men went ahead of them, and the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while they continued to blow the trumpets. ¹⁴ So the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp; they did the same for six days.

¹⁴ So the second day **they** marched around the city once and returned to the camp; **they** did the same for six days.

Many modern versions are not as clear as the Septuagint when it comes to explaining who the "they" are in this verse. This is also true in verse 16 & 20.

See pic 625 The Septuagint

The Septuagint

Joshua 6

14 **And all the rest of the multitude** compassed the city six times from within a short distance, and went back again into the camp; this they did six days.

16 And it came to pass at the seventh circuit the priests blew the trumpets; **and Joshua said to the children of Israel,** Shout, for the Lord has given you the city.

20 And the priests sounded with the trumpets: and when the people heard the trumpets, all the people shouted at once with a loud and strong shout; and all the wall fell round about, **and all the people went up into the city:**

Verse 15 - 21

¹⁵ Then on the seventh day they got up early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same way seven times; only on that day did they march around the city seven times. ¹⁶ And at the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. ¹⁷ But the city shall be designated for destruction, it and everything that is in it belongs to the Lord; only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. ¹⁸ But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things designated for destruction, so that you do not covet *them* and take some of the designated things, and turn the camp of Israel into something designated for destruction and bring disaster on it. ¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ So the people shouted, and the priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, everyone straight ahead, and they took the city. ²¹ They utterly destroyed everything in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, sheep, and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

¹⁵ Then on the seventh day they got up early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same way seven times.

The fact that Israel was able to march around the city 7 times in a single day tells us that the city was not very large.

¹⁶ And at the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city.

The shout of nearly 2 million people must have been exhilarating for Israel and terrifying to the people of Jericho.

¹⁷ But the city shall be designated for destruction, it and everything that is in it belongs to the Lord; only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

God required the total destruction of all life, every man, woman, child, and every animal.

The only exception was Rahab and her extended family.

¹⁹ 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.

The only valuables that could be saved was the silver, gold, bronze and iron and it was to be put into the treasury of the Lord

Any other kind of valuable was to be destroyed.

²⁰ So the people shouted, and the priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, everyone straight ahead, and they took the city.

See video 630 The walls of Jericho part 2

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.24.html>

Verses 22 – 25

²² And Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring the woman and all she has out of there, just as you have sworn to her.” ²³ So the young men who were spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all she had; they also brought out all her relatives, and placed them outside the camp of Israel. ²⁴ Then they burned the city with fire, and all that was in it. Only the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. ²⁵ However, Rahab the prostitute and her father’s household and all she had, Joshua spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

²² And Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring the woman and all she has out of there, just as you have sworn to her.”

The walls falling down flat does not mean that the entire wall collapsed.

Rahab's house was on the wall of the city and God left her house standing in order to save her.

However, after she was brought out the city, it was burned.

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

Rahab was still living in Israel at the time this narrative was written.

So the time frame for the writing of this book was between 1406 to 1350bc

Some marginal notes may have been added into the text later.

Verses 26 – 27

²⁶ Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, “Cursed before the Lord is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with *the loss of his firstborn* he will lay its foundation, and with *the loss of his youngest son* he will set up its gates. ²⁷ So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

Jericho was destroyed in 1406 BC

It was rebuilt 532 years later in 874 BC

See 1 Kings 16:34

Hiel of Bethel rebuilt it

He laid its foundations with *the loss of* Abiram his firstborn.

He set up its gates with *the loss of* his youngest son Segub.

One last thought about this chapter before we leave.

If this was a normal attack on a city the following would have happened:

1. They would surround the city to cut off any resupply.
2. They would wait until the city was out of water and/or food.
3. Or they might have set up siege works and began the attack.

But God had decided on a more direct approach because He wanted the Jews to know that He brought the victory.