

CONQUEST BY REEBOKS

There were **three campaigns** of the Conquest of the land of Canaan by the Israelites.

- Central campaign (Josh. Chs.6-9)
- South campaign (Josh. Ch.10)
- North campaign (Josh. Ch.11:1-15)
- Summary of campaigns (Josh. 11:16-12:24)

The **central campaign** had two battles and one treaty.

- Jericho battle (Josh. Ch.6)
- Ai battle (Josh. Chs.7-8)
- Treaty with Gibeon (Josh. Ch.9)

The **battle of Jericho** will be studied by the following three homiletical titles (6:1-16).

- Josh. 6:1 Security alert inside Jericho
- Josh. 6:2 Success guarantee to Israelites
- Josh. 6:3-16 Seven day battle plan: (day 1, Josh. 6:3-11) (days 2-6, Josh. 6:12-14) (day 7, 6:15-15, 20)

There were two types of cities under the Lord's rules of warfare for the land of Canaan.

- Non-inheritance cities (Deut.20:10-15)
- Inheritance cities (Deut.20:16-18)

Jericho was an inheritance city: "You shall not leave alive anything that breathes."

- (Josh. 20:16b) "In order that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things which they have done for their gods, so that you would sin against the Lord your God." (Josh. 20:18)

We will study the battle of Jericho by five aspects of Conquest by Reeboks.
--

How would a people, who for the last 40 years have done nothing but walk around in the desert, be prepared to fight a greatly fortified military outpost? Who can God use in His service? (2 Tim.2:21) [Four things]

1. These Israelites learned experientially that God is Almighty when crossing the Jordan.

They learned that He could perform miracles by His grace:

(Josh. 3:5) "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

(Josh. 3:10) "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Gergashite, the Amorites and the Jebusite."

These same Israelites will also learn that God can use anyone who is willing to walk by faith and not by sight: (Josh. 6:2) "See (raah / kal ptc), I have given (Nathan / kal pf) Jericho into your hands, with its king and the valiant warriors."

These Israelites will learn what it means to WALK by faith in their Reeboks and see the Lord do wonders – "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor.5:7)

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled (walking in Reeboks) for seven days.” (Heb.11:30)

2. The battle of Jericho was important to teach them experientially that the fight is theirs but the battle is the Lord’s (Josh.1:2-3, 6-9; 6:2).

“Fight the good fight of faith.” (1 Tim.6:12) “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.” (2 Tim.4:7)

“And that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and He will give you into our hands.” (1 Sam.17:47) [David to Goliath]

“Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.” (2 Chron.20:15) [Prophet to King Jehoshaphat] [What are you struggling with today?]

3. The spiritually advancing believer’s confidence in the perfect plan of God comes by the faith.

“I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2)
[Job’s confession to God] (Rom.10:17)

- God’s plan is perfect.
- God has a role for this group of Israelites in the perfect plan of God (land section of the Abraham Covenant).
- Their role in the plan of God involved the Conquest of Jericho.

“I again saw under the sun that **the race** is not to the swift, and **the battle** is not to the warriors, and neither is **bread** to the wise, nor **wealth** to the discerning, nor **favor** to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.” (Eccl.9:11)

4. The perfect plan of God is completed in the lives of these believers by the completion of the faith cycle.

Day 1	Walk one time around Jericho but <u>do not shout</u> the war cry.
Days 2-6	Walk one time but <u>do not shout</u> .
Day 7	Walk 7 times around Jericho and <u>shout</u> the war cry.

Promise: “And 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 will go up every man straight ahead.” (6:5, 20)

Was it the physical walking around Jericho that made the defense wall collapse or was it their spiritual walking by faith? “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days.” (Heb.11:30)

5. Jericho will be a trophy of God’s amazing grace to Joshua and the Israelites and Rahab and her family (6:20; 22-25).

Israelites: There were no recorded casualties and complete victory (Josh. 12:9).

Rahab and her family (Josh. 6:17, 22-25): “And the city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the Lord; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.” (Josh. 6:17)

Joshua: “So the lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.” (Josh. 6:27)

God’s amazing grace: “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days.” (Heb.11:30) “See, I have given Jericho into your hands, with its king and the valiant warriors.” (Josh. 6:2)