

Hebrews 11:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

Analysis

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. Jericho's conquest demonstrated faith's victory through obedience to seemingly foolish divine commands. God instructed Israel to march around Jericho silently for six days, then seven times on the seventh day, followed by trumpet blast and shout—military nonsense, but divine wisdom. The walls 'fell down' (epesan, ἔπεσαν) supernaturally, not through siege engines or battering rams but through faith acting on God's word.

This account illustrates that God's methods often contradict human wisdom. Paul writes, 'the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men' (1 Corinthians 1:25). Marching and shouting wouldn't topple fortified walls by natural means; God's power accomplished what human strength couldn't. Faith obeys divine commands even when they appear ineffective, trusting God's power rather than human methodology.

The pattern of seven days, seven circuits, and seven priests with trumpets suggests ceremonial, liturgical action rather than military strategy. Jericho's fall was worship warfare—God fought for Israel as they obeyed in faith. Similarly, spiritual warfare succeeds not through human wisdom or strength but through faith-filled obedience to God's revealed will. 'The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds' (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Historical Context

Jericho, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, featured formidable fortifications in Joshua's time (approximately 1406 BC). Archaeological excavations reveal massive stone walls and defensive systems. The biblical account describes walls falling outward and flattening, allowing Israel to charge straight in (Joshua 6:20). Some archaeological evidence suggests violent destruction in the Late Bronze Age, though dating remains debated. Ancient Near Eastern warfare typically involved long sieges of fortified cities; Jericho's rapid, supernatural conquest demonstrated that Israel's victories came from God's power, not military prowess, establishing the pattern for Canaan conquest.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'Jericho walls' in your life require faith in God's power rather than human strategy to overcome?
2. How does this passage challenge you to obey God's commands even when they seem foolish by worldly wisdom?
3. In what ways should you engage spiritual warfare through worship and faithful obedience rather than merely human effort?

Interlinear Text

Πίστει	τὰ	τείχη	Ἰεριχὼ	ἔπεσεν	κυκλωθέντα	ἐπὶ
By faith	G3588	the walls	of Jericho	fell down	after they were compassed	about
G4102		G5038	G2410	G4098	G2944	G1909
ἑπτὰ	ἡμέρας					
seven	days					
G2033	G2250					

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