

# Joshua 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

## Analysis

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**Jericho was straitly shut up** (סָגְרֶת וּמִסְגְּרֶת, sogeret u-mesugeret)—The Hebrew doubling emphasizes absolute closure: 'shut up and being shut up,' a hendiadys expressing Jericho's desperate lockdown. Archaeological evidence confirms Jericho's massive double walls (outer wall 6 feet thick, inner wall 12 feet thick) made it seemingly impregnable.

**Because of the children of Israel**—Terror had paralyzed Jericho. They chose passive defense over negotiation or attack, fulfilling God's promise to send fear before Israel (Exodus 23:27). Yet their fear was not saving faith like Rahab's. The city's closure illustrates humanity's futile attempts to wall out God's purposes—a vivid picture of hardened hearts resisting divine grace.

## Historical Context

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Jericho was ancient Canaan's gateway city, controlling access to the central hill country. Its spring made it a valuable oasis. The city's closure occurred circa 1406 BC after the Jordan crossing. Excavations at Tell es-Sultan reveal destruction layers consistent with Joshua's conquest, though dating remains debated among archaeologists.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do people today 'shut themselves up' against God's word, choosing defensive isolation over repentant faith?
2. What 'impossible fortresses' in your life seem impregnable until God intervenes sovereignly?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֵרִיחוֹ	וּמָסְקָה רֶתֶת	וּמָסְקָה רֶתֶת	מִפְּנֵי י	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	אֵין
Now Jericho	shut up	shut up	because	of the children	of Israel	H369
H3405	H5462	H5462	H6440	H1121	H3478	
וְיֹצֵא	וְאֵין	בָּא:				
none went out	H369	and none came in				
H3318		H935				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 2:24** (Parallel theme): And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

**Psalms 127:1** (Parallel theme): Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.