

Joshua 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

Analysis

The pattern continues—compassing the city once on the second day, then returning to camp. The repetition emphasizes the test of faith through waiting. God doesn't explain why six days of circling are necessary before the seventh day's climax. Israel must trust and obey without full understanding of the plan's logic. This models the Christian walk: we often don't understand God's timing or methods, yet we're called to faithful obedience regardless. The phrase 'so they did six days' looks ahead to the pattern's completion, emphasizing the sustained faithfulness required. Six days of apparently fruitless circling preceded the seventh day's victory. This pattern appears throughout Scripture—six days of creation work before Sabbath rest, six days of gathering manna before the Sabbath, six years of sowing before the Sabbath year. The number six represents human labor and incompleteness; seven represents divine completion and rest.

Historical Context

For Jericho's defenders, the third day would have brought a mix of relief and anxiety. Relief that nothing catastrophic happened on day two; anxiety wondering what Israel's endgame might be. The psychological warfare intensified through repetition. Each day that passed without assault would have generated false hopes that perhaps nothing would happen—followed by renewed dread as the procession returned. This mirrors the patience of God in judgment: He gives space for repentance (2 Peter 3:9), yet those who presume on His patience face greater condemnation. Rahab's household, hidden safely within, experienced these days

differently—their fear transformed to hope through faith (Hebrews 11:31). The same circumstances, interpreted through faith or unbelief, produce vastly different responses.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when God's timing differs from your expectations or understanding?
2. What does the six-day pattern teach about the relationship between human labor and divine completion?
3. In what areas are you being called to persist faithfully even when you don't understand the full plan?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסָּבּוּ	אֶת	הָעִיר	יָמִים:	הַשֵּׁנִי	אֶחָד	פַּעַם
they compassed	H853	the city	day	And the second	once	H259
H5437		H5892	H3117	H8145	H6471	
וַיָּשׁוּבוּ	הַמַּחֲנֶה	כֹּה	עָשׂוּ	שֵׁשֶׁת	יָמִים:	
and returned	into the camp	H3541	so they did	six	day	
H7725	H4264		H6213	H8337	H3117	

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