

Joshua 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

This verse describes the climactic moment when supernatural intervention would manifest. The phrase "long blast" (mashakh beqeren hayovel, מְשַׁח בְּקָרֶן הַיּוֹבֵל) literally means drawing out the Jubilee horn—extended sound versus short blasts. The Jubilee connection is significant: Jubilee proclaimed liberty, debt cancellation, and land restoration (Leviticus 25). Jericho's fall would liberate Canaan from Canaanite wickedness and restore Abraham's promised inheritance to his descendants.

The command for "all the people" to "shout with a great shout" (yari'u...teru'ah gedolah, יָרִיעוּ...תְּרוּעָה גְּדוֹלָה) indicates corporate participation. This wasn't mere noise but liturgical acclamation recognizing God's victory. The Hebrew teru'ah (תְּרוּעָה) denotes joyful shout or battle cry, used in worship (Psalm 47:5) and warfare (Joshua 6:20). The shout proclaimed faith in God's promise before visible fulfillment.

The promise "the wall...shall fall down flat" (venaphlah chomat ha'ir tachteyha, בְּנֵפֶלֶת חֹמֶת הַעִיר תַּחֲטֵהָ) literally means fall down beneath itself—complete collapse creating accessible entry. The phrase "every man straight before him" (ish negdo, איש נגדו) indicates direct ascent into the city without siege equipment or climbing. God's supernatural intervention would remove all obstacles, requiring only faith and obedience. Theologically, this illustrates Ephesians 2:8-9—salvation is God's work, not human achievement. Israel's role was believing and obeying; God's role was accomplishing victory.

Historical Context

Archaeological excavation at Jericho (Tell es-Sultan) by Kathleen Kenyon found evidence of collapsed walls from the Late Bronze Age period. Excavator Bryant Wood argues evidence supports a 15th century BCE destruction consistent with biblical chronology, though dating remains debated. Physical evidence confirms that Jericho experienced catastrophic destruction, with walls collapsing outward and downward, creating accessible rubble ramps—exactly as Scripture describes.

Ancient city walls were formidable defenses. Jericho's fortifications included double walls—outer wall 6 feet thick and inner wall 12 feet thick, separated by 15 feet. The walls stood on earthen ramparts 35-40 feet high. For such massive structures to collapse simultaneously requires supernatural intervention—no human agency could accomplish it. The collapse pattern (falling outward/downward creating ramps) defies normal siege results where walls fall inward from battering or undermining.

The liturgical shout accompanying wall collapse connects worship and warfare. Similar shouts appear at ark's movement (2 Samuel 6:15), temple dedication (Ezra 3:11), and eschatologically at Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:16). The shout expressed corporate faith, celebrated anticipated victory, and acknowledged God's sovereign power. This corporate worship participation prefigures the church's mission—proclaiming gospel truth that brings down strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jericho's wall collapse through shouting and trumpet blast illustrate that spiritual victories come through proclamation and worship, not human effort?
2. What 'walls' in your spiritual life require God's supernatural intervention rather than your strategic planning to overcome?
3. How does the connection between Jubilee trumpets and Jericho's fall point to gospel themes of liberation and restoration?
4. In what ways do you struggle to 'shout' (proclaim faith) before seeing visible evidence of God's promises being fulfilled?
5. How does this miracle prefigure the greater miracle of salvation—God removing sin's barriers through Christ's finished work?

Interlinear Text

וְיֹאמֶר	בְּמַשְׁךְ	רֹא	בְּקָרֶב	כִּי
H1961	And it shall come to pass that when they make a long	H4900		horn
				H7161
blast with the ram's	and when ye hear	H853	the sound	of the trumpet
H3104	H8085	H6963	H7782	H7321
all the people	shout	with a great	shall fall down	and the wall
H3605	H5971	H8643	H1419	H2346
of the city	flat	shall ascend up	all the people	every man
H5892	H8478	H5927	H5971	H376
				H5048

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:30 (Parallel theme): By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

Exodus 19:19 (Parallel theme): And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Joshua 6:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

Joshua 6:20 (Parallel theme): So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

1 Samuel 17:52 (Parallel theme): And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates

of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

1 Samuel 4:5 (Parallel theme): And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

1 Samuel 17:20 (Parallel theme): And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org