

Jericho and the Grace of God

Archaeology of Jericho

- a. Walls and floors were blackened...by fire. In most rooms the fallen debris was heavily burnt . . . (Kenyon). Josh.6:24
- b. Garstang found remains of two walls, 14 ft. apart with beams running across them where dwellings were built in the poorer section of the city. Rahab's house was on the side of the wall. Josh.2:15
- c. Kenyon described brick pile as result of wall's 'collapse.' Amount of bricks found in cross-section of Kenyon's work area would suggest an upper wall 6½' wide & 12' high. Josh.6:20

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- d. Three Egyptian scarabs (beetle-shaped amulets) bearing names of three pharaohs who ruled from 1500 to 1380's B.C. contradict Kenyon's belief that the city had been abandoned around 1550 B.C.
- e. Invasion occurred just after the 14th of Abib (Josh.5:10), a time of harvest (3:15). Rahab dried flax on her roof (2:6).
- f. Most abundant item found in the ruins (apart from pottery): grain. In limited excavation area, Kenyon recovered 6 bushels of grain in one season. This is unique ...

Archaeology of Jericho

- Facts –
 - The city did not fall in a siege (common in ancient times); it was destroyed after only seven days (Josh.6:15, 20)
 - If citizens could have escaped, they would have taken grain with them
 - If siege had lasted for years, they would have eaten the grain
 - Attackers normally plunder grain; this grain was devoted to destruction
- Jericho teaches valuable lessons on several salvation subjects

I. God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

- God's approach: Josh.3:...15-17
 - In same Jordan, people saw glory of Jesus after being baptized of John. His followers would partake of His spiritual rest...
- God's instructions:
 - Israelite army was to encompass the city once a day for 6 days, 7 times on the 7th; then the priests were to blow the trumpets; the people were to shout with a great shout

- God's promises:
 - City wall would fall flat. The ruins appear as if a mighty blast had gone off in the city, forcing the walls outward
- God's ways: Is.55:8-9
 - His thoughts: would we have reasoned like this?
 - His ways: would we have done it this way?
- Citizens of Jericho probably thought Israelites were ridiculous. No battering ram?

God's ways

- Is.55:8-9
- Jer.10:23, the way is not in us
 - Save the firstborn, Ex.12:22 (blood...)?
 - Cure snakebite, Nu.21, (serpent of brass)?
 - Heal leprosy, 2 K.5 (dip in Jordan)?
 - Salvation, Ac.22:16
- Unbelievers do not understand God's ways

I. God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

II. The Grace of God

Josh.6:2, “I have given...” [1:3; 8:1; 24:13]

Though Jericho was a gift from God, He required exact obedience before they could receive it.

Josh.7: why did Achan die? Was he not part of this promise like the others?

- Hb.10:28-29 . . . [Conditional as Josh.6]
- Hb.12:15, ‘fall short of His grace’ = “to miss out on something through one’s own fault, to miss, fail to reach” (BDAG)
- In 4:1, excluded from the promised rest
- Same thought as Mt.19:20

Many passages illustrate how one receives grace

1. Food, Gn.1:29

2. Land, Josh.1:3, 13; 2:9

[Israel had to obey God's instructions to receive this gift, Josh.6 ... 24:13]

3. Word, Jn.17:14

4. Salvation, Ep.2:5

["Salvation is God's gift; you can't earn it"]

[So was Jericho! ...our food. ...God's word.]

A GIFT CAN BE CONDITIONAL

I. God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

II. The Grace of God

III. The Meaning of Faith

Hb.11:30, 'by faith'

- Ordinary walls do not fall by walking around them and shouting
- These were fortified defenses

Hb.11:30, 'by faith'

- Ep.2:8, 'saved through faith' [not works]
- They contradict –
 - Josh.6: Israel marched (trust)
 - seven days (endurance)
 - looking at the fortified city (courage)
 - silence; blew horn, shouted...(obedience, humility)
 - 'Faith' / 'believe' do not occur in Joshua
 - Hebrew writer describes the 7 days of marching around the city, the shouting, the fighting, etc. "by faith" (Hb.11:30). Ja.2:24

Hb.11:30, 'by faith'

- Marching with the ark kept their focus on God, and directed their attention away from their military skill and the difficulty of their task
- The issue is not salvation by faith (who could deny that?) . . .
- Issue is salvation by faith when?
 - Hb.11:30, “by faith . . . after . . .” (Josh.6:16, 20-21)
 - Faith saved when faith obeyed

I. God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

II. The Grace of God

III. The Meaning of Faith

IV. God's Way Works

When God gives a command...

And attaches a promise to it...

He will do what He says...

Even if we cannot see the connection between
the command and the promise

- Jericho: **MARCH . . . WALLS FALL**

Denominations claim that baptism is salvation by works

- Some apostates now make same claims:
 - “If we must obey a pattern, this is salvation by works, not by grace and faith; the new covenant has no law!”
- This is as wrong as asserting that marching around Jericho was by works, not the gift of God!

Is it possible for someone to do what God says for the reason He gives?

- E.g.: baptism . . . Lord's supper . . . (Ep.2:10)
- If so, we can do exactly what God says for the reason He gives w/o violating grace or faith (we obey; we do not earn our salvation).
- What else can faith do but submit to God's will? Jer.10:23
- Those who try to turn obedience to God's will into an effort to earn salvation, or to be saved by some way other than the blood of Christ are perverting the word of God. Just read Josh.6