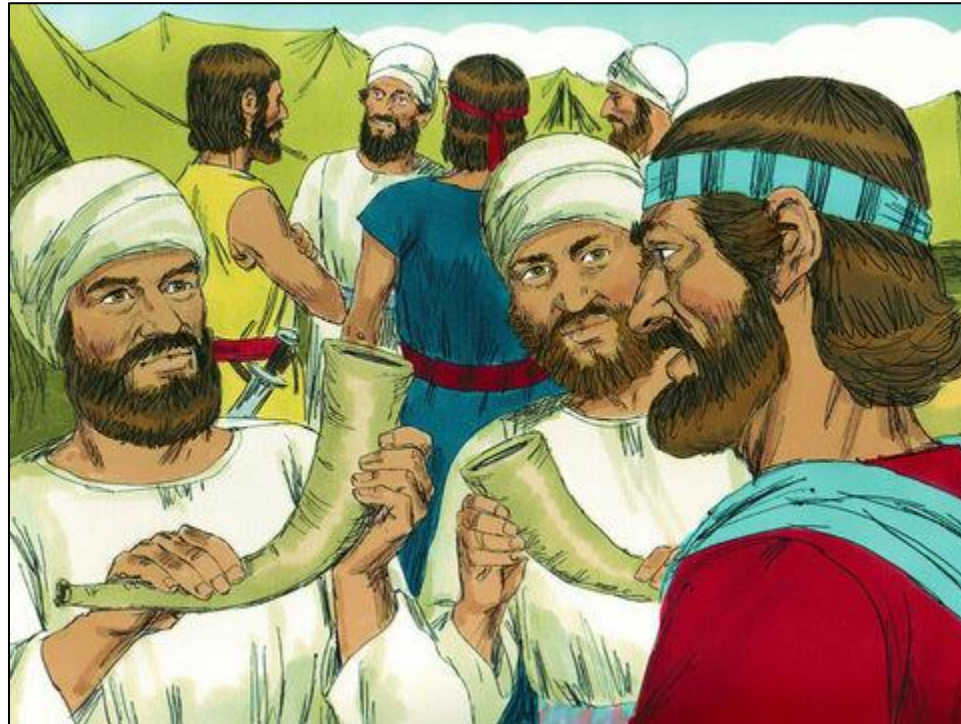


# The Battle of Jericho and a terrible prophecy

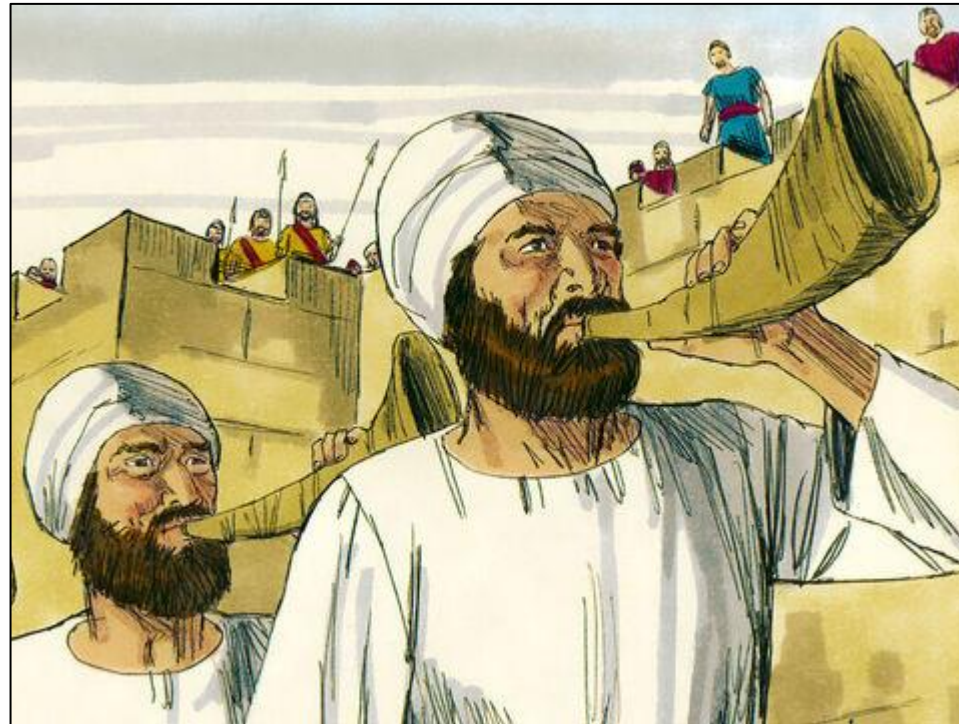
Joshua Chapter 6 :6-27



So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." And he ordered the people, "Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD."



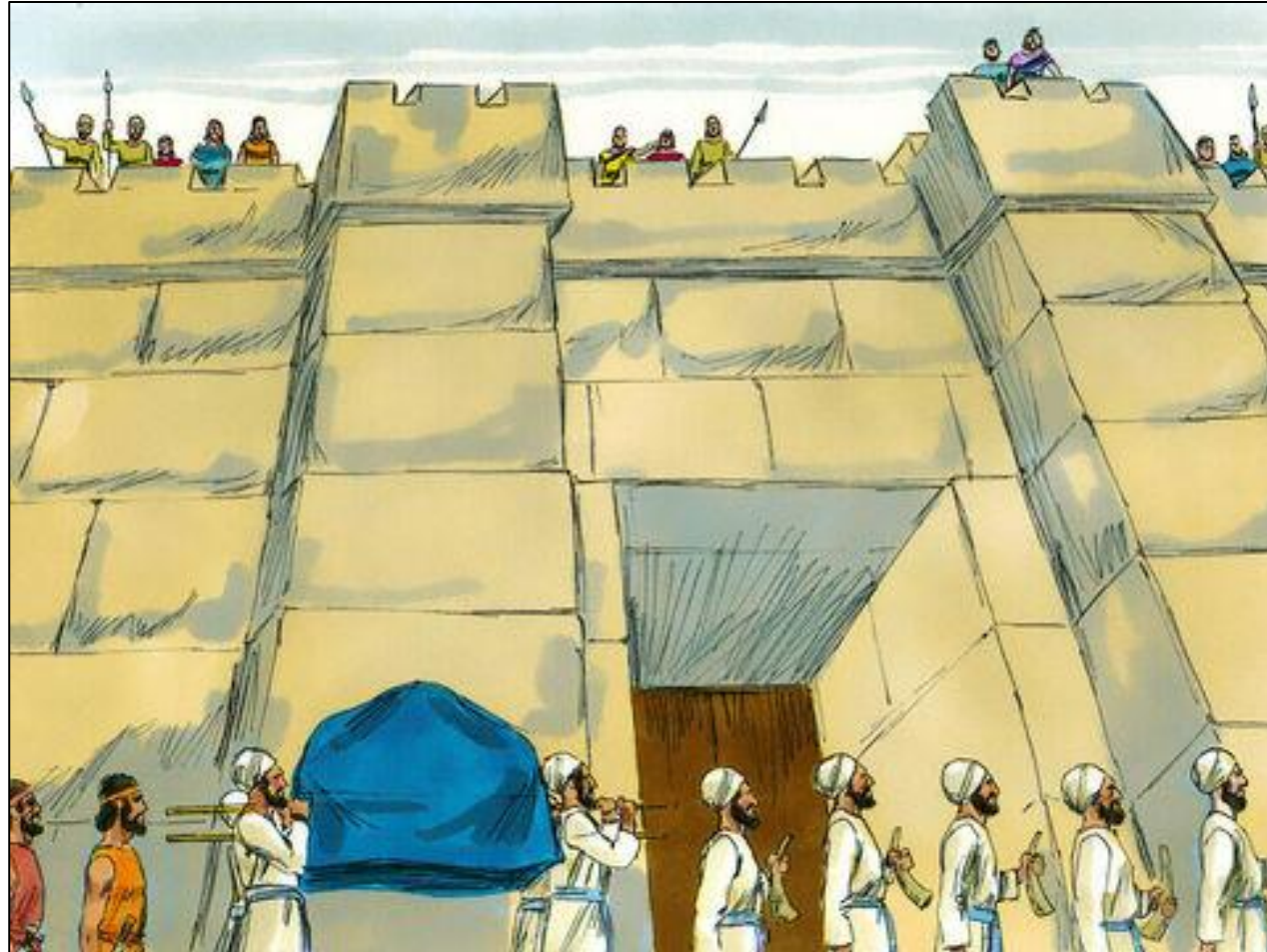
When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark.



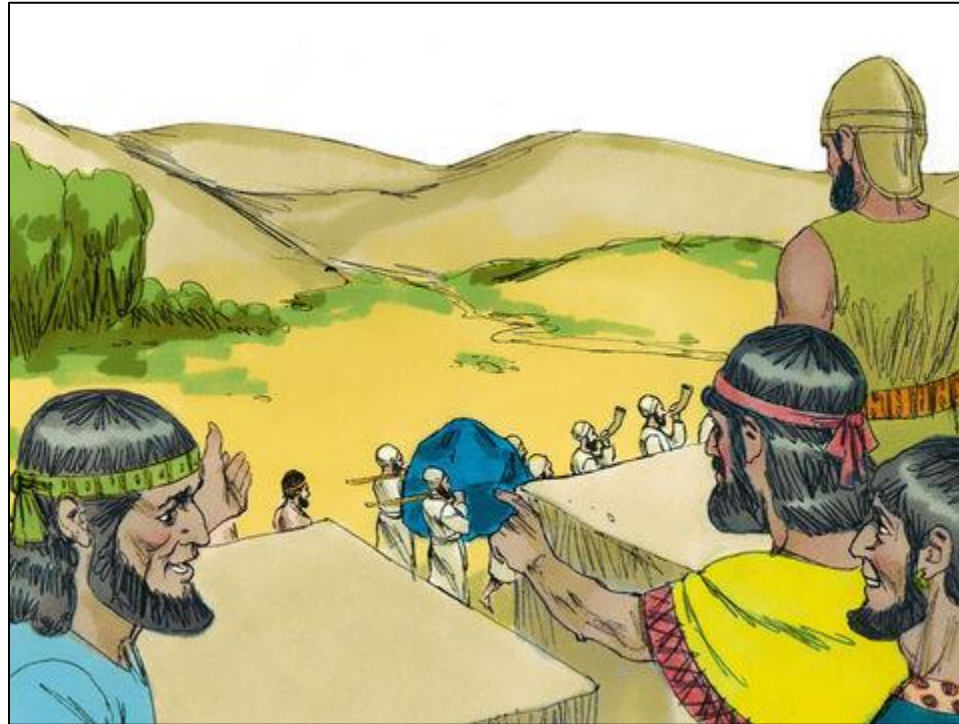
All this time the trumpets were sounding. But Joshua had commanded the people, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!"



So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there.



Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding.



So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

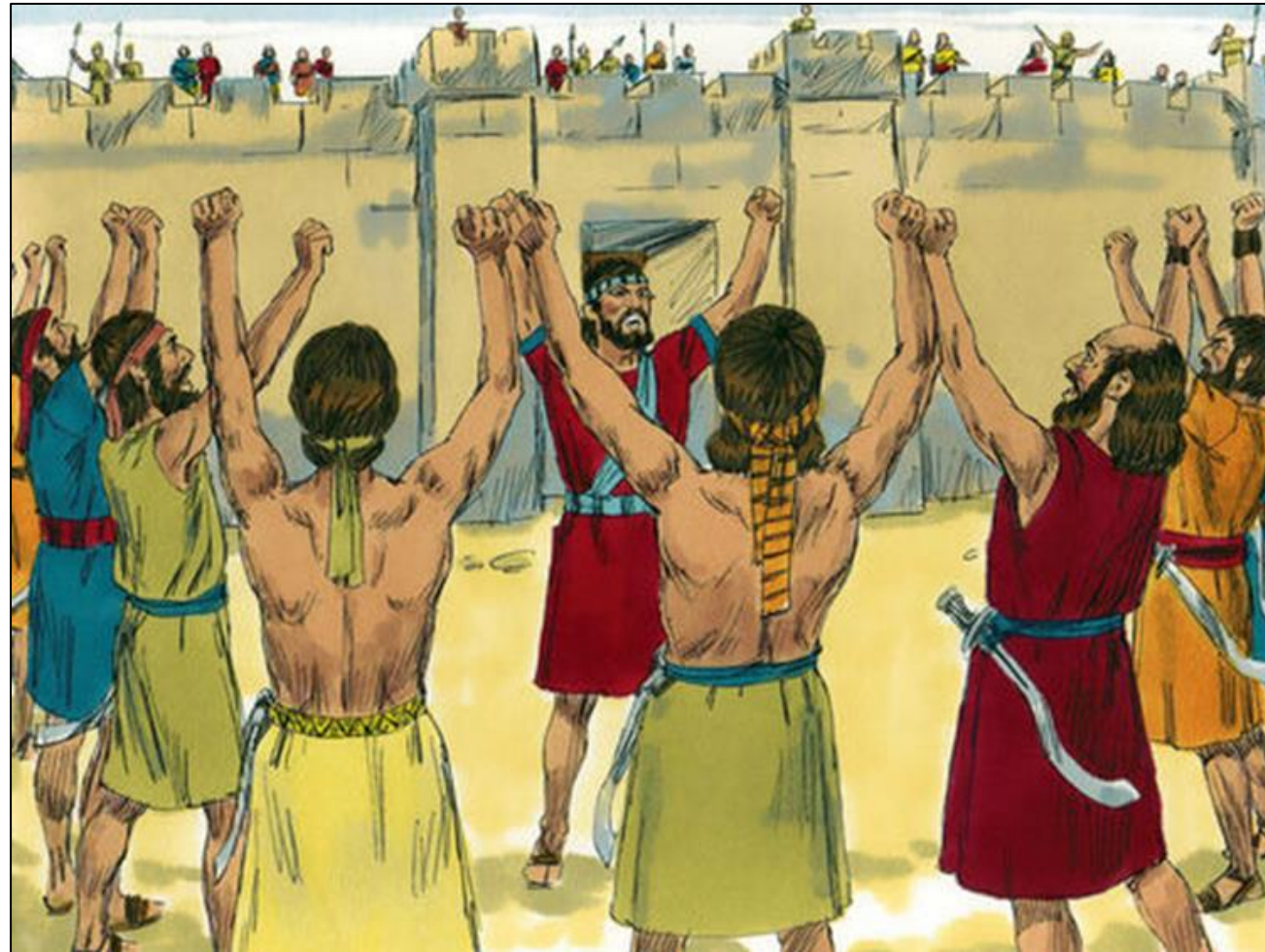


On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.

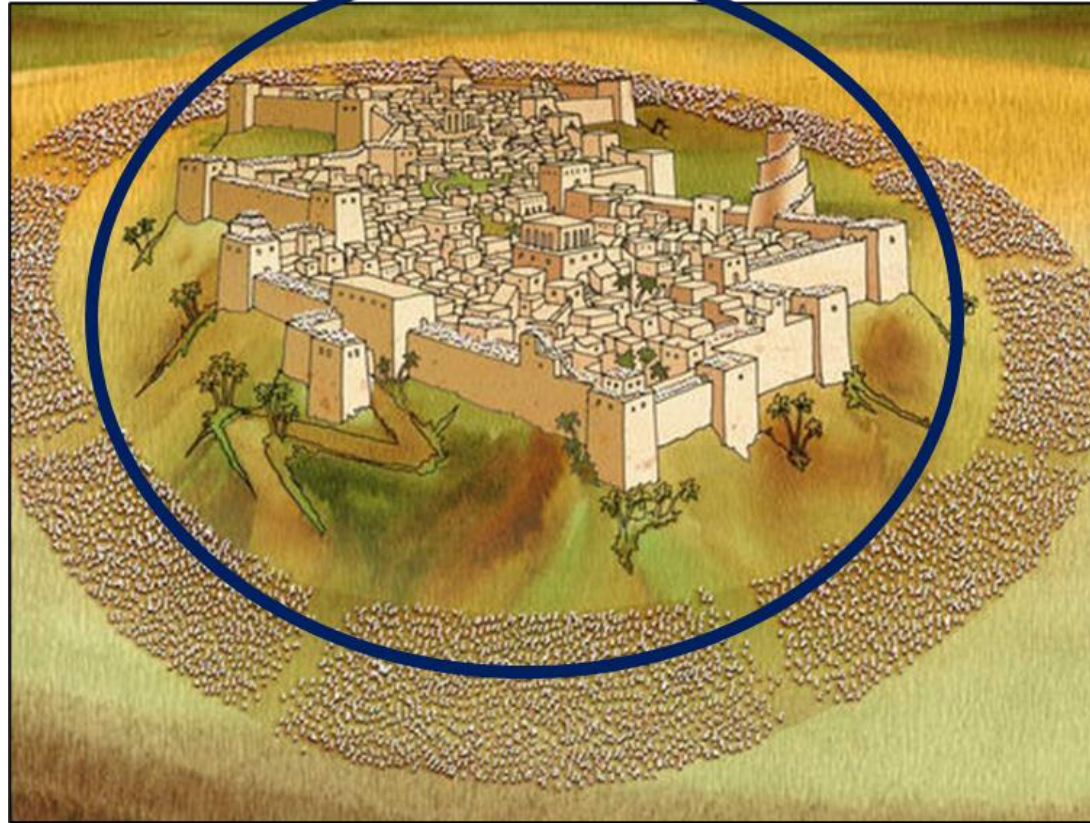




The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!"



The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD.



**No looting!**

Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.



But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.



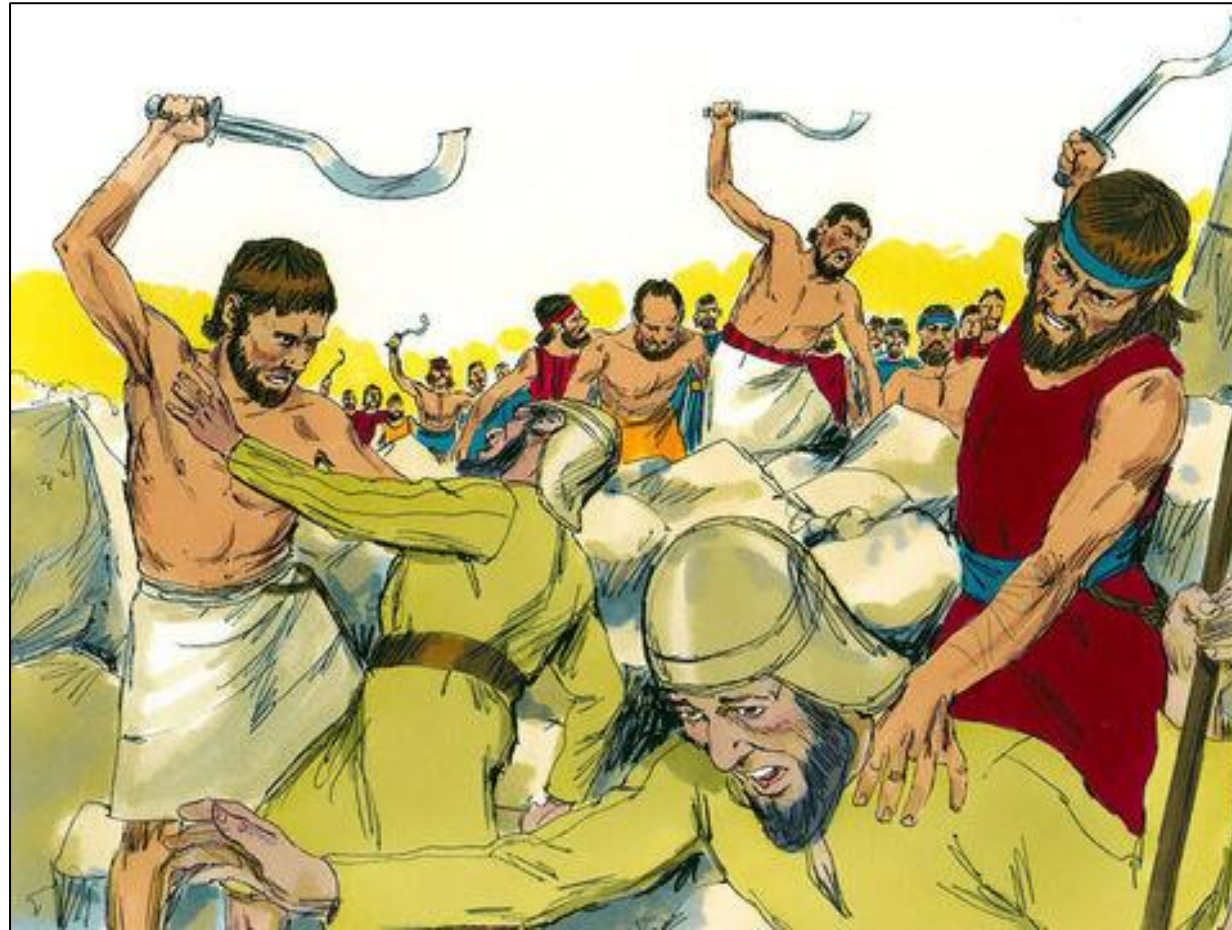
All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."



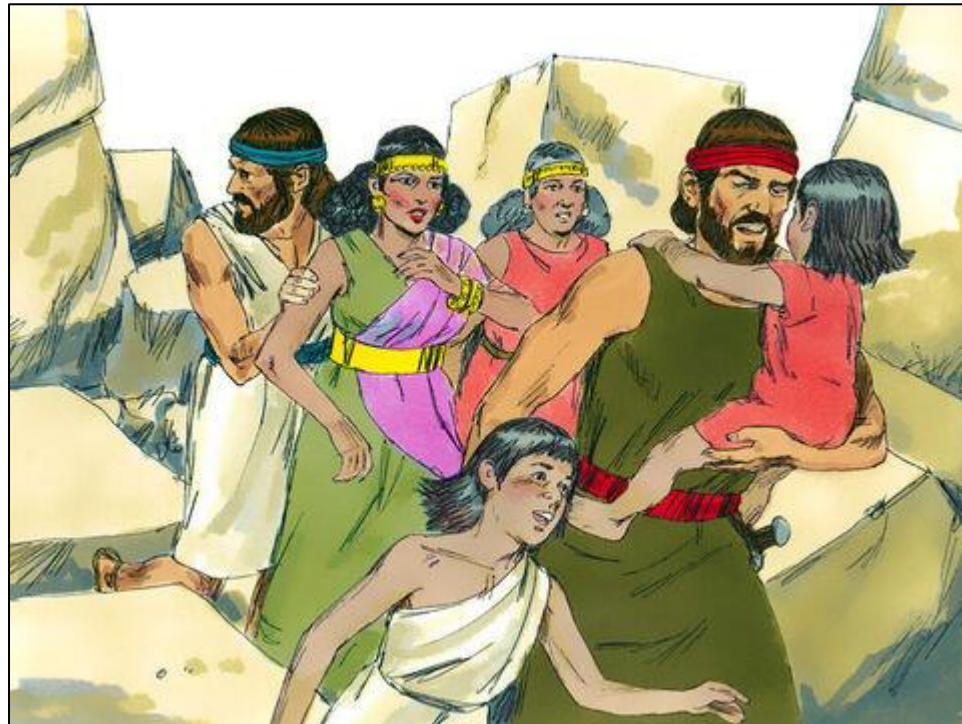
When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.



They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it--men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

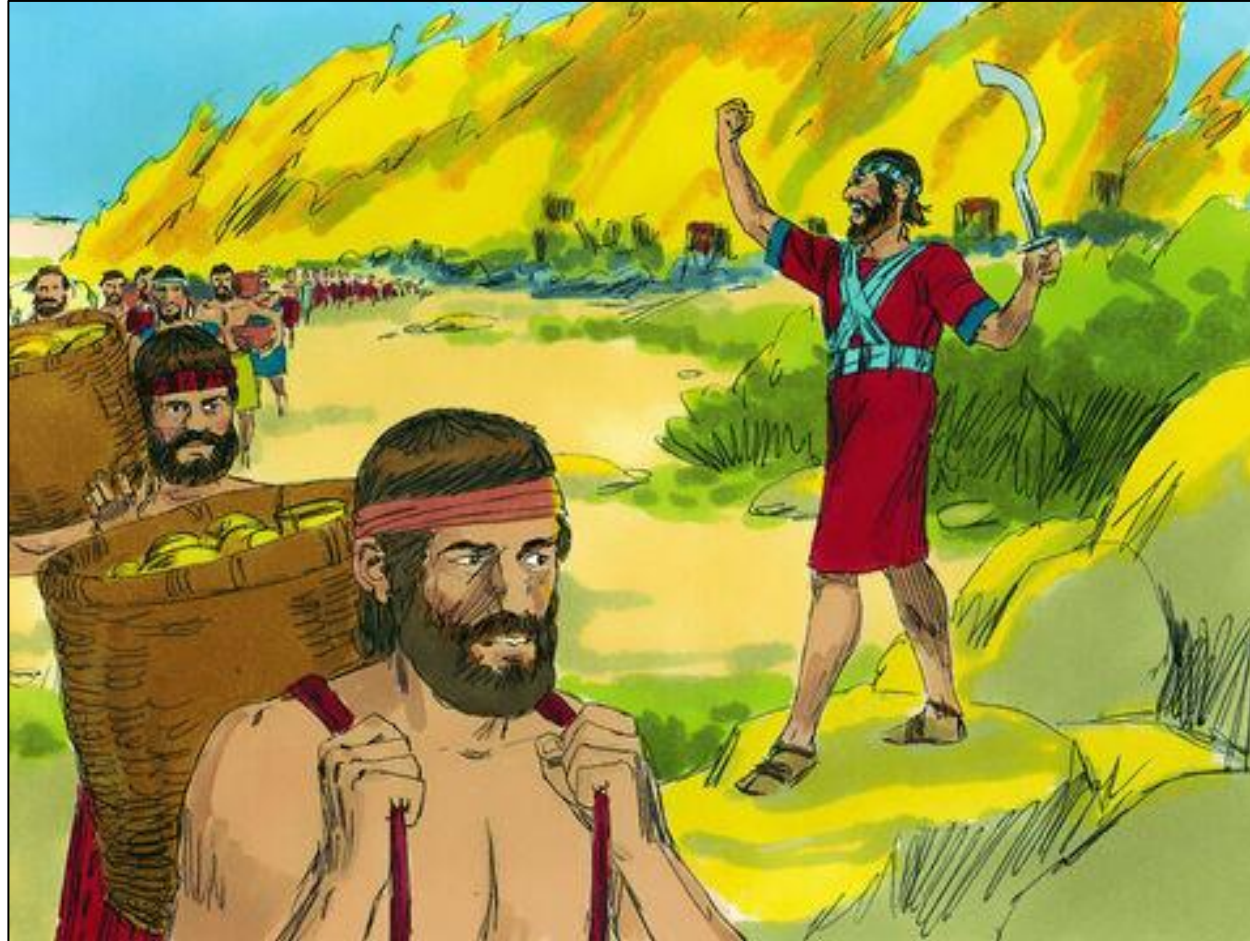


Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.





Then they burned the whole city and everything in it,  
but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron  
into the treasury of the LORD's house.



But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho--and she lives among the Israelites to this day.



At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath.. "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho. "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates."

These were not empty words

The arrogant man who defied it

1 Kings 16:34 In the days of King Ahab, Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.

So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.



**Many people have a problem with this chapter and others relating to the capture of the land of Canaan.**

They consider this as no different to acts of genocide at other times and in other nations.

Eg. The Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Turks (1915-17)

The age-old issue of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust (1941-45)

The Congo war between the Hutus and Tutsi groups(1996-7)

The Balkan war between Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia(1991-99)



**All these we rightly condemn as atrocities.  
So what is the difference in the time of Joshua?**

**Firstly, God told Abraham 400 years before, that the time would come when they would be ripe for judgement because of their continuing sinful behaviour.**

Genesis 15:16 And they (*Abraham's descendants*) shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

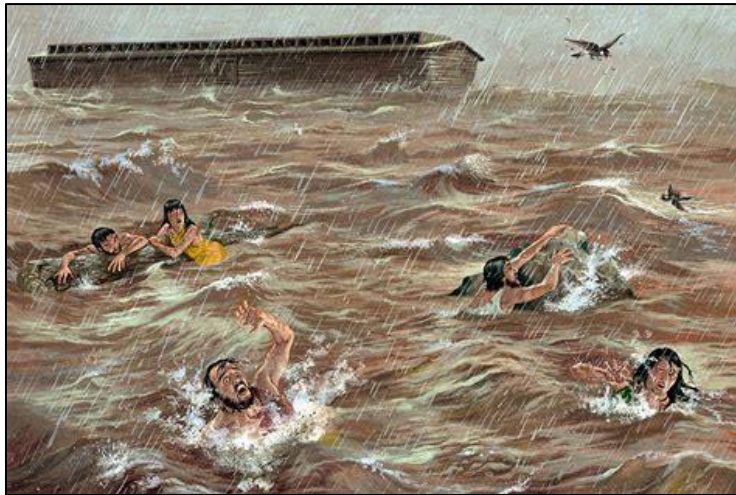


**Secondly, God appointed Israel as the means of carrying out His judgement.** It also was intended to prevent the Israelites from adopting the pagan practices of these people.

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, **but you shall devote them to complete destruction**, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, **as the LORD your God has commanded**, that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

## God had acted in serious judgement before

Genesis 6:5-8 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD.





## God will act in serious judgement again

2 Peter 3:5-7 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.



Revelation 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

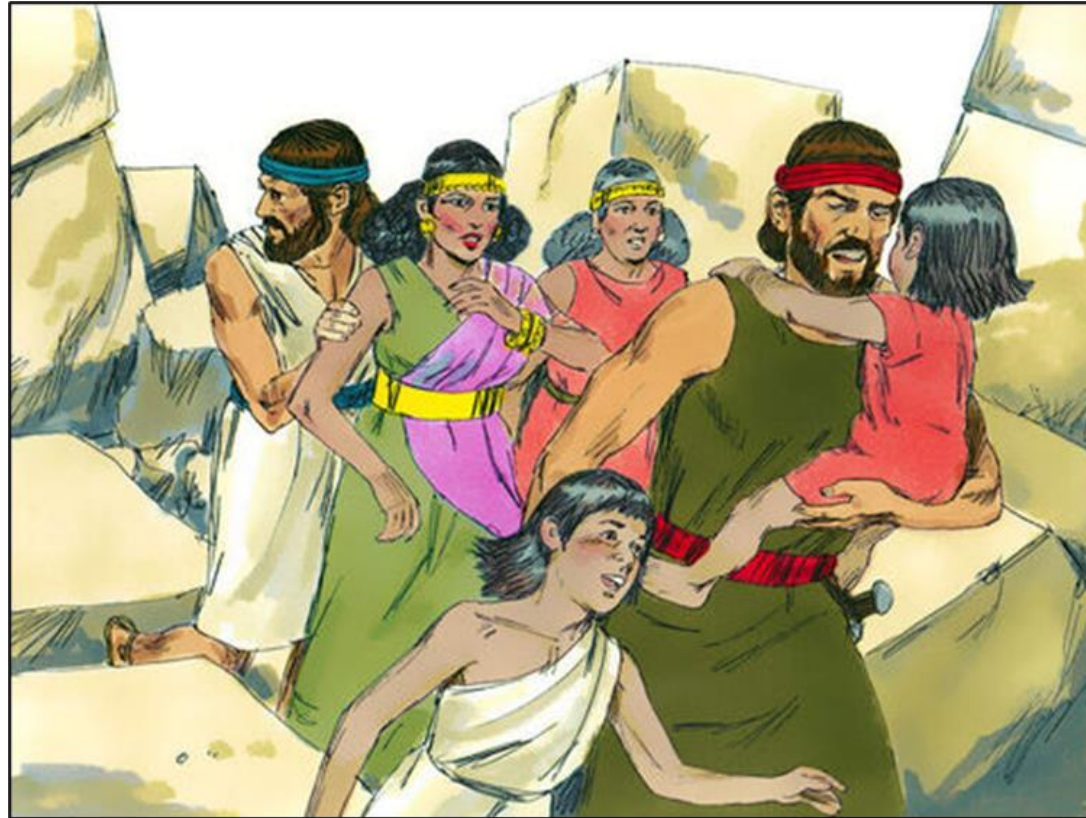
## God is righteous in all His ways

Revelation 16:4-7 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!” **And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!”**

16:8-9 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. **They did not repent and give him glory.**

## It might have been different ...

They brought out Rahab's entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.



## It was different for Nineveh ...

Jonah 4:2 That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.



Jonah 3:8-10 (*The King ordered*) but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

**Joshua's day is prophetic of what will be at the end**

**BUT in the meantime ...**

**An important lesson from Jesus' parable of the weeds**

Matthew 13:24-30 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’”



## Jesus' parable of the weeds

So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"



## Jesus' explanation of the parable of the weeds

Matthew 13:37-43 Jesus answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. **The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.** Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, **so will it be at the end of the age.** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

**At the present time judgement is deferred – not cancelled**

# What should we do?

## Paul shared the gospel

Acts 17:26-31 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.



Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.



## What should we do?

He warned them of the danger ahead

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

