



L2L50: Joshua and the Battle of Jericho

Joshua 6

After the Israelites made it across the Jordan River, they prepared to meet the next obstacle - the great walled city of Jericho. The men who Joshua sent to spy out the city had come back with important information, but now Joshua needed a plan. Joshua knew that God was the one who would give Israel the victory, but he needed some directions. And, guess what? The Commander of the Army of the Lord Himself came to deliver them. On top of that, the directions He gave were not ordinary battle plans. These plans required a little bit of patience and a whole lot of faith!

Discuss:

- All the people of the land had heard of the children of Israel. How do you think the people of Jericho felt when they heard that the Israelites had crossed over the Jordan into their territory? Do you think the people of Jericho felt safe inside the city walls?
- What were the directions that God gave to Joshua? What was unusual about them? What do you think the people of Jericho were thinking when they saw the Israelites following the directions they were given?
- How was the instruction for the army different on the seventh day than on the other days? Who did God protect in the city?
- Why do you think God planned the Battle of Jericho the way He did?



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Memory Challenge:

Joshua 6:2

And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor."



L2L51: Moving the Ark

1 Samuel 4-6

When Israel finally came into the land God promised them, under Joshua's leadership each of the tribes were given different territories where they could build their homes and families. During their wanderings in the wilderness, God had led them with the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle to represent his presence. Upon entering the new land, Joshua and the people set up the tabernacle in Shiloh where the ark would stay for many years, long after Joshua was gone. For a long while the ark was undisturbed and kept by the Levites in the tabernacle, but the people were forgetting why it was important. One day, when the Israelites were desperately preparing to go out to battle against their enemies, they made a rash decision. If they were to bring the ark of the covenant into battle with them like in the days of Joshua, surely God would protect them, right?

Discuss:

- Why was the ark of the covenant so important? What did it represent?
- Why do you think the Israelites decided to bring the ark into battle with them? Why didn't their plan work?
- What did the Philistines do with the ark when they first captured it? What happened to their idol when the ark was put in their pagan temple? What message do you think God was trying to send?
- Why did the Philistines decide to give the ark back to the Israelites? How did they do it?
- Where was the ark kept after the Philistines sent it back?
- The next person to move the ark of the covenant was King David (2 Samuel 6). Why did David move it? What happened when he tried?
- Why do you think God planned the Battle of Jericho the way He did?



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Memory Challenge:

1 Samuel 4:22

And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."



L2L52: Solomon's Temple

1 Kings 5-8

King David had a special desire: He wanted to build God a house. He felt bad that God still dwelt in the Tabernacle as He had with the Israelites in the wilderness while he lived in his own beautiful palace. However, God had other plans in mind for His house. He decided that King David was not the right man for the job, but rather He would let David's son do the special project. Four years after Solomon began to reign over Israel, he started to build a house for God—the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon spared no expense to get materials of the finest quality with which to construct this marvelous dwelling place for the Most High. Even the stones were carefully shaped to fit perfectly together so that not a single hammer would need to be used when they assembled it. When it was finally completed, seven years later, it certainly must have been something wondrous to behold. The Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Most Holy place, and there awaited one more essential component—the presence of God Himself.

Discuss:

- What didn't God want David to build the temple even though it was something he desired? Why did He instead give the job to Solomon?
- To whom did Solomon write asking for help in building the temple?
- What were some of the key materials Solomon used to build the temple? What were some of the elements that were built or crafted for the temple?
- Why do you think Solomon had the stones crafted perfectly before they were brought to the temple mount to be put together? What kind of connections can we make between this and us as a spiritual temple? (Read Ephesians 2:19-22 for some clues)
- What were some of the colors used in the temple when it was furnished?
- At the dedication of the temple, what were some of the things included in the ceremony? What happened when the priests brought the ark of the covenant into the Most Holy place? Try to describe what it would have been like to be there.



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Memory Challenge:

1 Kings 8:30

And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.



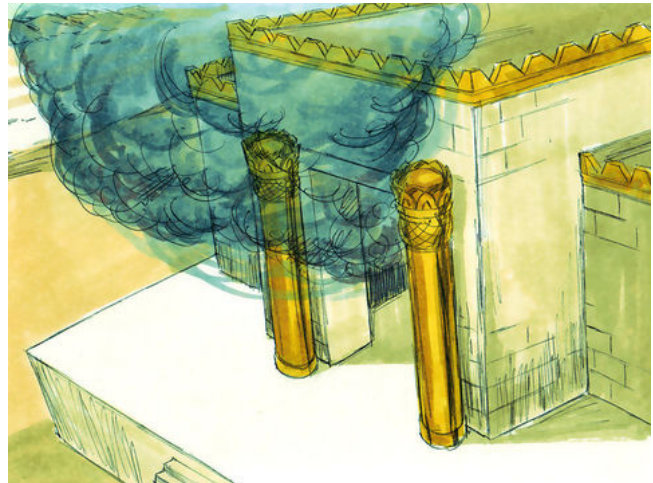
L2L53: God Leaves His House

2 Chronicles 36; Ezekiel 10-11

After the days of King Solomon, the Kingdom of Judah and the city of Jerusalem were ruled by many different kings. Some were good kings who led the people to serve God and worship Him properly at His temple, and God was pleased with them. Sadly, not every king wanted to follow God's laws, but rather they turned away from God to worship pagan idols and led the people to sin against God's commandments. This made God very sad, and as time went by the problem seemed to get worse and worse. As God had told the Israelites many years before, if they turned away from Him to worship false gods, He would no longer protect them and He would have to leave the people and the house that was built for Him. After all, there was no longer room for Him in a house filled with idols. Just as the prophets of God had warned the people, if they didn't repent of their sins God was going to leave His house and teach them a hard lesson.

Discuss:

- Who was the last king of Judah? What kind of attitude did he have toward God?
- The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the glory of God leaving the temple in Jerusalem. Why did God remove His glory from the temple?
- Why did God send prophets to warn the people? What did the people of Jerusalem do when the prophets of God warned them what would happen if they didn't listen to God?
- Who were the enemies who surrounded and conquered the city of Jerusalem? What happened to the temple and the things in it?
- Even though God removed His glory from the temple, did that mean that God would leave His people forever? What are some of God's promises to the people of Judah and Israel?
- After the first temple was destroyed, who was the person God worked with to proclaim that the temple could be rebuilt?



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Memory Challenge:

2 Chronicles 36:23

Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: "All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!"