

- Recap: The Israelites confirm to Joshua that they have heard him and acknowledge that he is the rightful successor to Moses. They also confirm the plan, and mention that those who do not follow the plan shall be put to death. They even confirm using the same language (“strong and courageous”). (Joshua 1:16-18). Joshua appoints two spies to go over into the first city they will come to conquer. Remember that this will be the first time they have ever had to do battle. So the spies went and took refuge in a prostitute named Rahab’s house. (Joshua 2: 1) Rahab hides them and explains why she is giving them refuge. She essentially says that they have heard what great things God has done for Israel, and it has caused all our courage to go out of us. (Joshua 2:8-11) This is already fulfilling something God told them would happen. God tells Israel that all the nations of the earth will see his power through them. (Deuteronomy 30:1). The spies tell her to put the red rope they used to escape hanging outside her window when the Israelite army comes back to town. They say that anyone in the house with you at this time will be saved, but the whole thing is invalid if you tell anyone. (Joshua 2:17-20) God gave specific details about how the people who cross Jordan and go into the promised land including the priest going ahead of the people and carrying the Ark of the Covenant. As soon as the priest’s feet touched the water in the Jordan River, it parted so that everyone could walk through into the Promised Land on dry ground. (Joshua 3:12-17)
- What we’re skipping. In Joshua chapters 4 and 5 which we are skipping for today. The Israelites actually go over the Jordan in the same way God tell them it would happen (Joshua 4:10-11). There were about 40,000 people in the army (Joshua 4:13). They set up an altar of twelve stones taken from the river which will remind the people (Joshua 4:20-24). People including Kings in the land hear about how God parts the waters for them yet again and they are very afraid (Joshua 5:1)
- God has the Israelites surround the city, so it is sealed up. (Joshua 6:1) That was important because all the agriculture for the city was usually outside the walls, all the livestock was there, all the trade routes with other cities were there. Usually just a few days of being under siege like that would break a city. The people inside the city knew that and so they did not feel too good about it, especially since they already feared Israel.
- God reminds them they are going to take the city, and tells them they should circle the city one time in a day, and do that for six straight days. (Joshua 6:2-3)
- God also tells them that seven priests with seven ram’s horns are to lead the army, followed by the Ark of the Covenant, followed by the army, and that on the seventh day, they are to all circle seven times, and the priests with the ram’s horns are to blow them then for a long time, and all the people are to shout out loud. When they do this, God tells them, the walls of the city will fall down. (Joshua 6:3-5)
- Joshua passes God’s message on to the people. (Joshua 6:6-16)
- Joshua does mention that Rahab and her house are to be spared, but to take nothing else except all the gold, silver, brass, and iron. (Joshua 6:17-19)
- It happened just like God said it would. (Joshua 6:20)
- The army of Israel left nothing alive – people or animals – with the exception of Rahab and her house. (Joshua 6:21-23)
- The army of Israel took all the gold, silver, brass, and iron for the treasury, and then they burned the city. (Joshua 6:24)
- Rahab and her family were taken in as guests (not POWs) and dwelt in Israel. (Joshua 6:25)
- The Bible keeps calling her “Rahab the Harlot.” It is true, this was her occupation. We tend to not think very highly of this occupation. It was obvious that she ended up marrying someone named

Salmon within the tribe of Israel. In fact, their son Boaz would later marry Ruth and would be the great-grandfather of the great King David. We know all of this because Rahab ends up being mentioned in the genealogy that leads to Jesus (Matthew 1:5). It is worth noting that it is in God's nature to choose the weak and foolish things of this world to humble the wise. (I Corinthians 1:27)

- Joshua curses anyone who tries to rebuild the city. (Joshua 6:26)
- Joshua's fame goes throughout the country. (Joshua 6:27)
- So we find out that one guy named Achan took something he should not have at Jericho and we will find out what later in the chapter. (Joshua 7:1)
- Joshua sent some people to spy on the next city called Ai. The people came back and said "we don't need to take the whole army" so they sent 3,000 people, and got routed. They fled away and also got 36 people killed in the process. (Joshua 7:2-5)
- Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothes and put dirt on their heads for a long time. Then Joshua said to the Lord "why is this happening and what should I tell people?" (Joshua 7:6-9)
- God tells Joshua to get up because what happened is that someone took something he shouldn't have and that is why they lost the battle. Furthermore, God instructs Joshua to find that person and to burn them. (Joshua 7:10-15)
- The next morning Joshua has to conduct a methodical questioning of the people, tribe by tribe they were brought before him. Eventually Achan confesses and they search his tent and find the items – some fancy clothes, 200 shekels of silver (about \$50 today) and a bar of about 50 shekels of gold (about \$2000 today). This would have been a fortune then. (Joshua 7:16-22)
- The Israelites took all his goods away. Joshua said "why did you cause us all this trouble?" Then the Israelites stoned him and then burned his body. (Joshua 7:23-26)
- God tells Joshua that they will conquer Ai this time just like they conquered Jericho, but the method will not be the same this time. He says "this time you are going to ambush them." (Joshua 8:1-2)
- Joshua takes the army (remember that it was 40,000 as we saw in Joshua 4:13) and says "30,000 of you hide while the rest of us go to draw them out of the city, then they will think they are going to make us run away like they did before so they will chase us then you go in and take the undefended city. He also tells them that the plan is to set it on fire like at Jericho. (Joshua 8:3-8)
- It also seems like he deploys another 5,000 to wait in ambush in yet another area, and they would help surround the forces of Ai. The plan works perfectly. Incidentally another city called Bethel seems to have also been in league with Ai, which make sense since it was only about a mile and a half away. Anyway, all the forces of both cities come out and leave their cities undefended. Joshua gives the signal and the towns are destroyed. When the opposing forces see their towns burning, they try to flee but they are surrounded and 12,000 men die. (Joshua 8:9-26)
- Joshua does take the cattle and items from the city for the people. Ai becomes a desolate place to this day (it still is), and hangs the King of Ai. (Joshua 8:27-31)
- After the battle, Joshua built an altar, sacrificed burnt offerings on it, wrote the law of Moses on it, and then read the law to the people. (Joshua 8:27-35)

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Joshua 6-8

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Questions:

1. What is the significance of being sealed in a city?
2. How many times did God tell Israel to circle Jericho for the first six days?
3. How many times did God tell Israel to circle Jericho on the seventh day?
4. How many total times did the warring men of Israel circle Jericho?
5. Who is to be left alive in Jericho?
6. What things were okay to take from Jericho?
7. Who did the army of Israel kill in Jericho?
8. What did Israel do to the city of Jericho after they conquered it?
9. What happened to Rahab and her family?
10. How many people went to fight at Ai the first time?
11. How many people got killed fighting for Ai the first time?
12. What did Joshua and the elders of Israel do after they got routed at Ai?
13. What things Achan take?
14. How did Achan die?
15. How many people did Joshua take to Ai the second time?
16. How did Joshua divide up the force at Ai the second time?
17. What tactic was used by the Israelite army at Ai the second time?
18. Why would the army of Ai chase the Israelites the second time they came?
19. How many men of Ai died in the second battle?
20. What did Joshua do the King of Ai?
21. What did Joshua build after the battle of Ai?

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