

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 3

Law/Gospel

Prideful, I trust in walls of self-made security, but my works and my accomplishments are weak and crumble around me. **God delivers me from the ruin of my sin and provides me a mighty fortress in Christ.**

Bible Words

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.
2 Samuel 22:2

Fun Facts

Jericho's fall occurred in the Late Bronze Age (1550–1200 BC). Archaeologists locate the city at a spot called Tell es-Sultan, a mound about a mile northwest of modern Jericho.

Although scientific analysis varies, one excavated layer shows evidence matching the Bible's description of Jericho's destruction: collapsed mud bricks at an outer base of stone; massive destruction by fire; and jars of charred grain in fire-destroyed buildings. These show evidence of a recent harvest, a short siege, broken walls, and a consuming fire.

Just Joking

Which Bible person had no earthly parents (besides Adam and Eve)?

Joshua, son of Nun

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6

Directed by God's chosen leader Joshua, the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and prepared to defeat the ungodly, idolatrous people. High-walled Jericho, close to the Jordan River, was the first challenge.

Military leaders used two ways to conquer a walled city: (1) lay siege and slowly starve the people out, or (2) find a way in and ambush them.

Jericho residents trusted their infamous strong walls. They did not fear the Israelites, even though they heard about their miraculous crossing of the flooded Jordan River. They scoffed when Joshua, the ark of the covenant, seven priests blowing rams' horn trumpets, and the men of war marched around the city once a day for six days.

Continuing to follow God's command, the Israelites rose early on the seventh day and marched around the city seven times. Then the priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted, and God knocked down the walls.

God's message was clear: follow His Word and victory was sure, regardless of the enemy's advantages. Ignore His Word and experience defeat, regardless of the situation.

Only Rahab and her family survived from Jericho. Allied with the Israelites, she became a great-great-grandmother to King David and an ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).

Knocking Down Our Walls

What walls do we construct out of personal pride or a search for protection? Do we trust in our successes, spiritual heritage, or good deeds? Do we hide behind our secret sins, pride, and self-sufficiencies? God takes down each wall for our own good to show us that He is all we need.

Christ is our mighty fortress, our defense, and our shield. He is our hiding place. We find peace in Him. Those who believe in Jesus receive the benefits of His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead: forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and the riches of His grace.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, knock down the barriers that keep us from Your grace.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

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