

Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

Joshua triumphs over Jericho

When Joshua was alone praying, the Lord appeared to him and said, "My servant Moses is dead. I will make the same promise to you that I made to him. You may keep whatever land you walk on. I will always be by your side and I will always love you."

"But, my Lord," Joshua said, "I am only a young man. The people will never follow me like they followed Moses."

"Be brave and have courage. You will be a great leader to my children of Israel. Obey my laws, pray each day, and you will succeed at everything you do."

After the Lord had gone, Joshua called the officers of the people together. He told them, "Pack up your supplies. In three days we will be leaving to cross the Jordan River. God has given us the land on the other side."

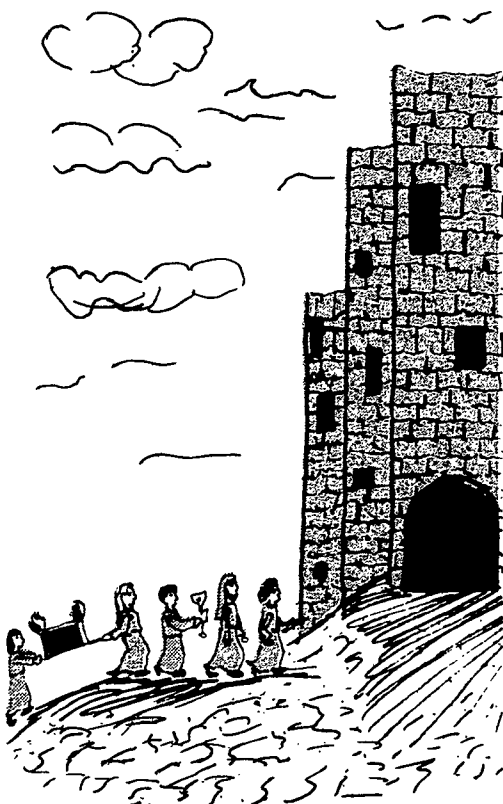
One of the captains replied, "We will do whatever you tell us to do. As we trusted Moses, we will trust you."

Before the Israelites traveled very far, Joshua commissioned two soldiers to serve as scouts. "Bring me a report of everything you see," he told them. "And I especially want information on Jericho, which is a heavily fortified city."

The two scouts went to Jericho and stayed at an inn owned by a woman named Rahab. The king of Jericho had been told that Israelite spies were in his city, so he sent a messenger to Rahab.

"Are you hiding two spies from Israel?" he asked. "I have orders to bring them before the king."

"Two men did stay here, but I did



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

not know where they were from," Rahab answered. "They left just before the city gates were locked for the night. If you hurry, you may catch up to them."

The messenger called for a platoon of soldiers and went looking for the Israelites. But actually, Rahab had hidden the two scouts in her attic.

Rahab climbed the steps to where the men were hiding.

"The soldiers have gone," she said. "The entire city is afraid of you because of the things we have heard your God can do. All I ask is that you promise no harm will come to me or my family."

One of the scouts said, "If you do not tell anyone where we went, we will protect anyone who stays in this house with you. Tie a scarlet sash to your window, so we will know which house is yours."

Rahab's house was built on part of the city wall, so she helped the scouts escape by lowering a rope out

one of the windows.

"Take the route that cuts across the hills, and no one will find you," Rahab said. "Good luck."

The spies reported everything to Joshua, including Rahab's kindness.

"We leave for Jericho at dawn," ordered Joshua.

Before the sun came up, the Lord appeared to Joshua again.

"Joshua, son of Nun," the Lord said, "today I will perform miracles before your eyes. Instruct your priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant, in which you keep the commandments I gave Moses, and lead the procession. When they set foot in the Jordan River, it will stop flowing and your people will cross safely and dry."

The water stopped flowing just as the Lord had promised, and when the last Israelite stepped out of the river, the waters returned to flood depth.

When Jericho came into view, an angel flew down out of the sky and said to Joshua, "I am the commander of the Lord's army. Command your people to march around Jericho led by seven priests with trumpets and carrying the Ark of the Covenant. But make no noise. Do this once each day for six days. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times. On the seventh time blow the trumpets and shout, 'Lord break down the walls!'"

The people of Israel did as the angel had said and the stone walls of Jericho crumbled to the ground. The Israelites captured the city in the name of the Lord. Rahab and her family remained safe because she had helped Joshua's scouts.

Read More about it: The Book of Joshua, chapters 1-6.

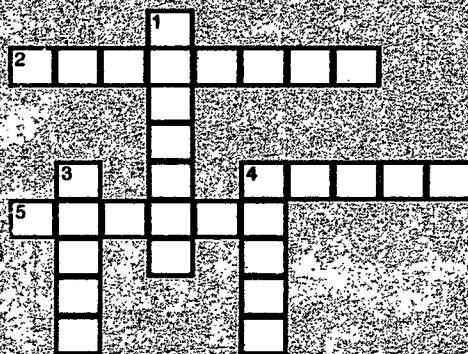
Q & A

1. What is inside the Ark of the Covenant?
2. How did Rahab mark her house to be recognized?

Crossword Puzzle

The answers to the crossword puzzle may be found in the story; the answer key can be found on page 11.

- ACROSS
2. Ark of the _____
 4. The Jordan _____
 5. (_____), son of Nun
- DOWN
1. The city that fell.
 3. Leader before Joshua.
 4. The innkeeper.



The Bible Times

JERICHO — 1450 BC

The seemingly indestructible city of Jericho is now only a burning pile of rubble.

Former city residents claim that the destruction came after Israelites marched in silence six times around the city for six days, then, on the seventh day, circled Jericho seven times, blowing trumpets and screaming at the top of their lungs during the seventh lap.

An architect who worked on the wall said it had been designed to last 1,000 years. He said even as he watched it being destroyed, he could not believe what he was seeing.

An innkeeper named Rahab had been rumored to have helped the Israelites, but it is not known what she could have done. After the Israelites entered Jericho, however, her family received special treatment from Joshua, the Israelite leader.

Several Jericho residents claim the city was surrounded by angels with swords just before the attack.

Officials speculate that the city was lost because of fear of the Israelite God, who reportedly stopped the Jordan River from flowing.

Whatever really caused the city's downfall may never be known. But one thing is certain: it will never be rebuilt.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart."

Proverbs 7:1,3

Talking to God

Lord,
When the things I have to do seem impossible, let me remember the faith of Solomon.

"I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done"

Psalms 143:5

Bible Trivia

What was the name of the body of water that God parted for Moses? (Exodus 14)

Send answers to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name with your entry.

All entries must be received by Aug. 12, 1993. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift.

Last month's winner was Marie Barney, who correctly identified Luke as the gospel writer who wrote the Book of Acts.

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