**Basic Story of Joshua and Jericho: (from** [**www.christianity.about.com)**](http://www.christianity.about.com))

**Scripture Reference:**

Joshua 1:1 - 6:25

**Battle of Jericho - Story Summary:**

The battle of Jericho featured one of the most astounding miracles in the Bible, proving that God stood with the Israelites.

After the death of [Moses](http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/exodus/p/Moses.htm), God chose [Joshua](http://christianity.about.com/od/oldtestamentpeople/a/Joshua-Faithful-Follower-Of-God.htm), son of Nun, to be the leader of the Israelite people. They set about to conquer the land of [Canaan](http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_maps_asia_canaan.htm), under the Lord's guidance. God said to Joshua, *"Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9,

Spies from the Israelites sneaked into the walled city of Jericho and stayed at the house of [Rahab](http://christianity.about.com/od/oldtestamentpeople/a/Rahab.htm), a prostitute. But Rahab had faith in God. She hid the spies from the king's soldiers, and when the time was right, she helped the spies escape out a window and down a rope, since her house was built into the city wall.

Rahab made the spies swear an oath. She promised not to give their plans away, and in return they swore to spare Rahab and her family when the battle of Jericho began. She was to tie a scarlet cord in her window as a sign of their protection.

Meanwhile, the Israelite people continued to move into Canaan.

God commanded Joshua to have the priests carry the [Ark of the Covenant](http://christianity.about.com/od/glossary/qt/JZ-Ark-Of-The-Covenant.htm) into the [center of the Jordan River](http://christianity.about.com/od/Old-Testament/fl/Crossing-the-Jordan-River.htm), which was at flood stage. As soon as they stepped into the river, the water stopped flowing. It piled up in heaps upstream and downstream, so the people could cross on dry ground. God performed a miracle for Joshua, just as he had done for Moses, by [parting the Red Sea](http://christianity.about.com/od/Old-Testament/a/JZ-Crossing-The-Red-Sea.htm).

God had a strange plan for the battle of Jericho.

He told Joshua to have the armed men march around the city once each day, for six days. The priests were to carry the ark, blowing trumpets, but the soldiers were to keep silent.

On the seventh day, the assembly marched around the walls of Jericho seven times. Joshua told them that by God's order, every living thing in the city must be destroyed, except Rahab and her family. All articles of silver, gold, bronze and iron were to go into the Lord's treasury.

At Joshua's command, the men gave a great shout, and Jericho's walls fell down flat! The Israelite army rushed in and conquered the city. Only Rahab and her family were spared.

**Points of Interest from the Battle of Jericho Story:**

• Joshua felt [unqualified](http://christianity.about.com/od/topicaldevotions/qt/ijustcantdoit.htm) for the monumental task of taking over for Moses, but God promised to be with him every step of the way, just as he had been for Moses. This same God is with us today, protecting and guiding us.

• Rahab the prostitute made the right choice. She went with God, instead of the evil people of Jericho. Joshua spared Rahab and her family in the battle of Jericho.

• Joshua's strict [obedience to God](http://christianity.about.com/od/whatdoesthebiblesay/a/Obedience-To-God.htm) is a key lesson from this story. At every turn Joshua did exactly as he was told and the Israelites prospered under his leadership. An ongoing theme in the Old Testament is that when the Jews obeyed God, they did well. When they disobeyed, the consequences were bad. The same is true for us today.

• As Moses' apprentice, Joshua learned firsthand that he wouldn't always understand God's ways. Human nature sometimes made Joshua want to question God's plans, but instead he chose to obey and watch what happened. Joshua is an excellent example of humility before God.

**Questions for Reflection:**

Joshua's strong faith in God led him to obey, no matter how illogical God's command might be. Joshua also drew from the past, remembering the seemingly impossible deeds God had accomplished through Moses.