

A silhouette of a person wearing a turban and blowing a long, curved horn. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The background is a clear sky with a bright sun setting or rising on the horizon, creating a gradient from light yellow to blue. The overall mood is dramatic and evocative.

Holy War
Are You Ready?

Joshua 6

Holy War

I. God is holy, just, righteous and pure.

“The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know” (Gen 18:20-21)



Holy War

2. Our sense of justice originates from the image of God within us.



Holy War

2. Our sense of justice originates from the image of God within us.

“God waits until the fruit rots on the tree before he takes an axe to the roots.” Ray Stedman



Holy War

3. God does not sweep the righteous away with the wicked

The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment..." (2 Pet 2:9)



Holy War

4. God gave Israel his holy sword to execute his justice on earth



No Superiority!

5. The role is a privilege, not a right

“Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. Remember and do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.” (Deut 9;6-7)



The Day of the Lord Redefined

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light,

as if a man fled from a lion,

and a bear met him,

or went into the house

and leaned his hand against the wall,

and a serpent bit him.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

Amos 5:18-20

Holy War

6. Holy war is transformed and intensified in Jesus Christ who conquers spiritual forces behind world powers by the Spirit and “the sword of his mouth.”



Holy War

7. The material warfare of the Old Testament becomes a paradigm for how we wage war by faith in the Spirit.



The Battle of Jericho

I. Instructions for Holy War (1–7)

- A. The Lord's instructions to Joshua
- B. Joshua's instructions to the people

II. The Holy Procession (8-20)

- A. Day 1
 - B. Days 2–6
 - C. Day 7
- 
- circling in silence
 - cry of the shofar
 - circling 7 times

III. Engaging in Holy War - Shout! (21-25)

- A. Jericho dies
- B. Rahab lives

IV. After the Battle (26-27)

- A. A curse on Jericho
- B. Joshua exalted

The Battle of Jericho

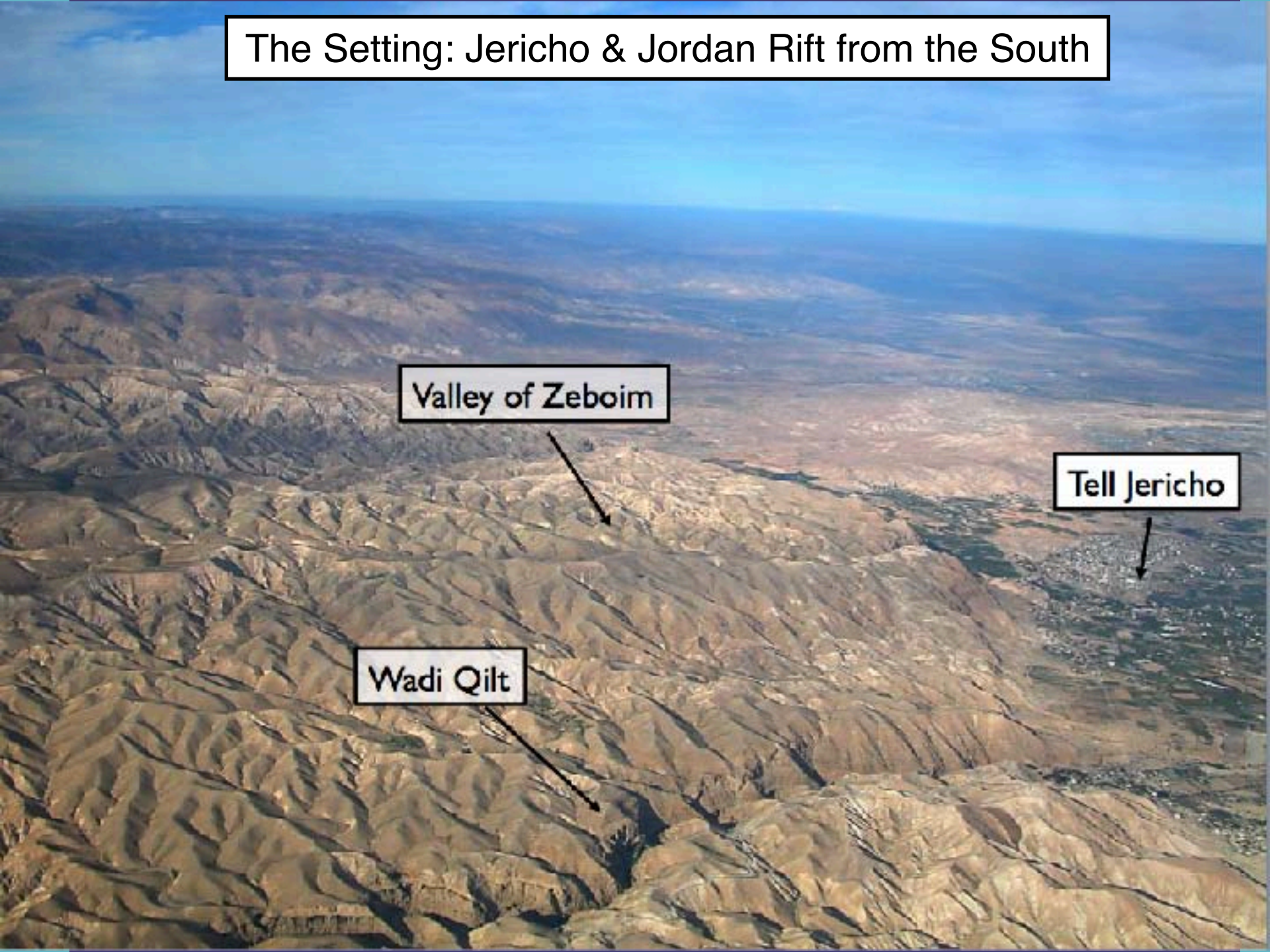
I. The Setting of the Battle

II. The Instructions for the Battle

III. Lessons of Faith from the Battle

IV. Time of Reflection

The Setting: Jericho & Jordan Rift from the South



Valley of Zeboim

Tell Jericho

Wadi Qilt



Tell Jericho

Jericho tell and cliffs aerial from east

An aerial photograph of the Jericho tell, a large archaeological site. The tell is a prominent, rounded mound of earth and stone, situated in a valley. It is surrounded by modern buildings and roads, indicating its proximity to a contemporary city. The tell itself shows various levels of ancient structures, including walls and foundations. The surrounding landscape is a mix of urban development and open land.

Jericho tell aerial from east

Within the upper wall was an area of about 6 acres, while the area of the upper city and fortification system together was about 9 acres.

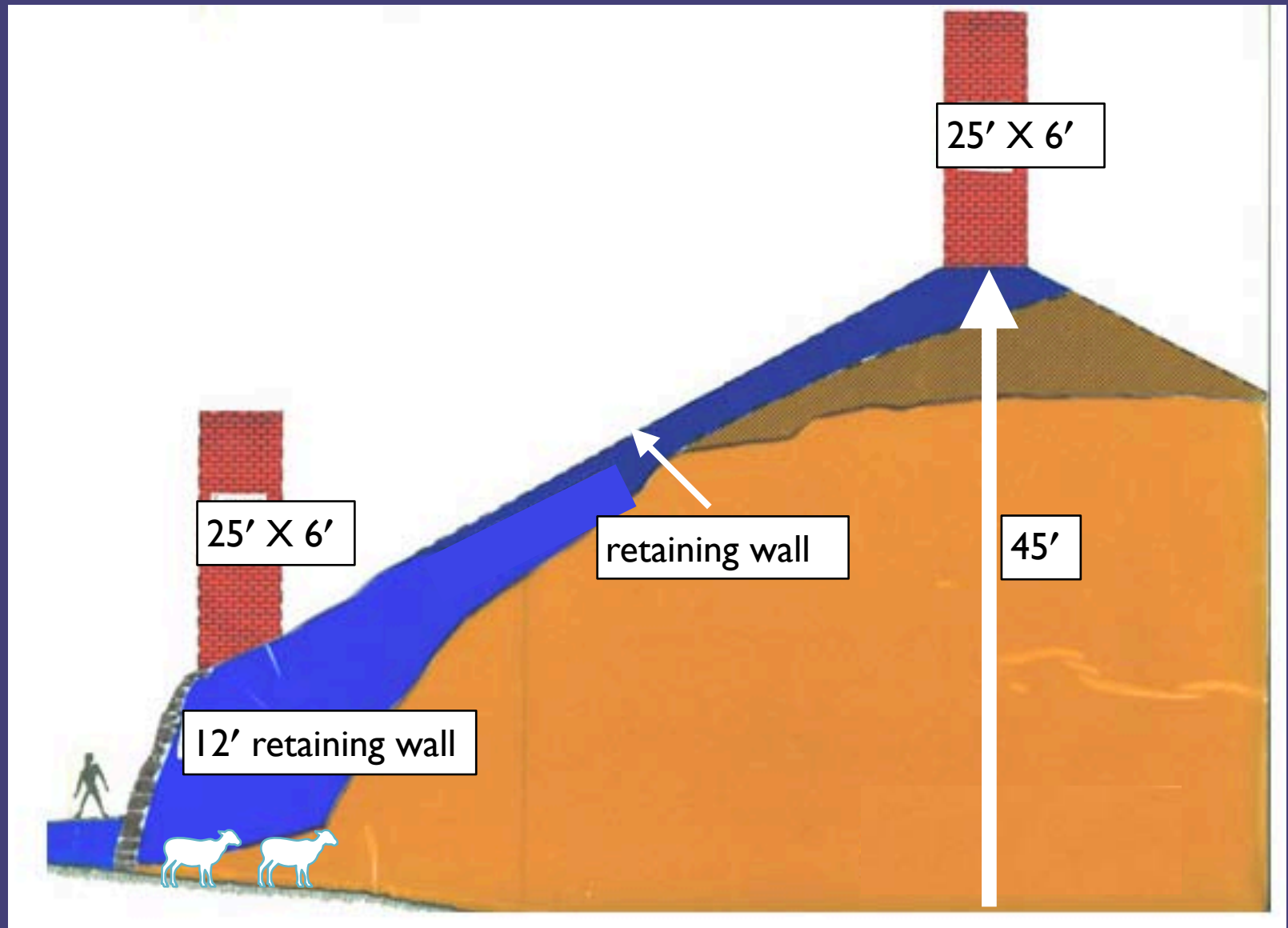
Artist's Rendition of Ancient Jericho



Ancient and Modern



Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen embankment, with a stone retaining wall some 12–15 ft high at its base. On top was a mudbrick wall 25' high.



Spying Out the City

Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua, “**See**, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.

*Jericho was shutting its gates, and closely shut...
no one was going out and in,*

Joshua 6:1-2



Where is Your Jericho?



Instructions for the Battle

“You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.”

Joshua 6:3-5

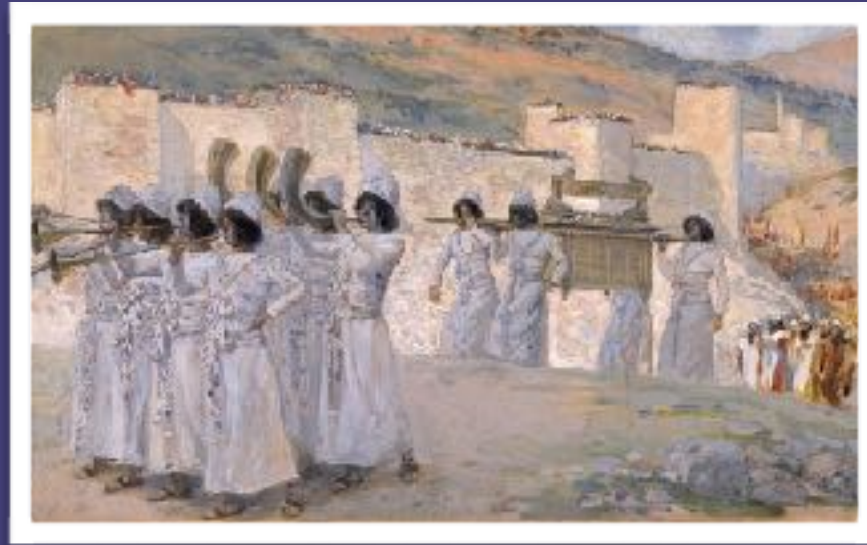
Sounds of Silence

“You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout.” So he caused the ark of the LORD to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.”

Joshua 6:10-11

Significance: Lessons of Faith

I. Battle plan = 7 day royal procession of worship



The Significance

1. Battle plan = 7 day royal procession of worship
2. Ark takes center-stage laying claim to the city



The Significance

3. Blowing of trumpets announces the arrival of the king and signals the start of holy war



The Significance

4. The sacred silence strengthens Israel's trust while simultaneously bringing down the enemies defenses, giving opportunity for repentance



The Significance

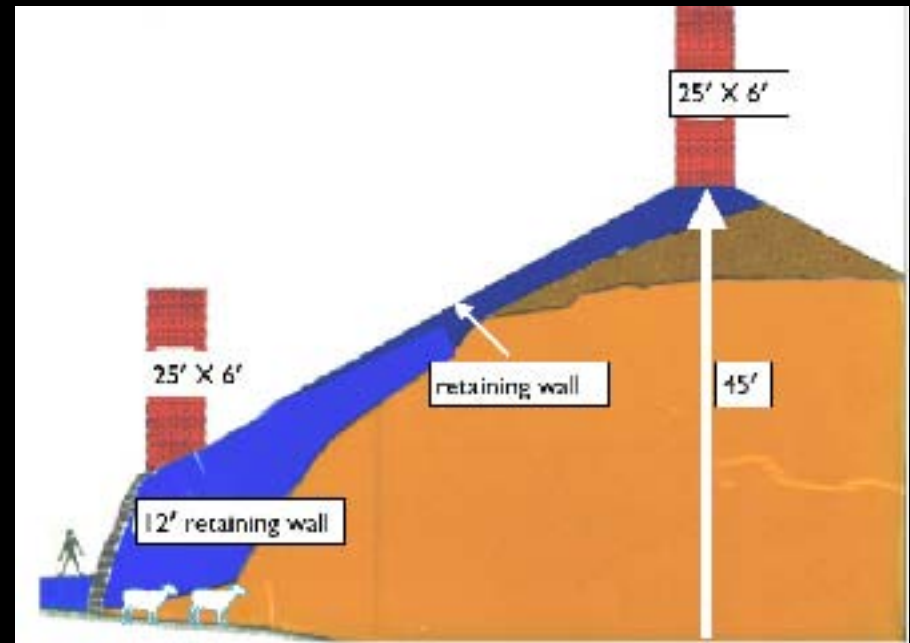
5. The shout gives voice to their faith testifying the battle is already won

So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. (v. 20)



The Significance

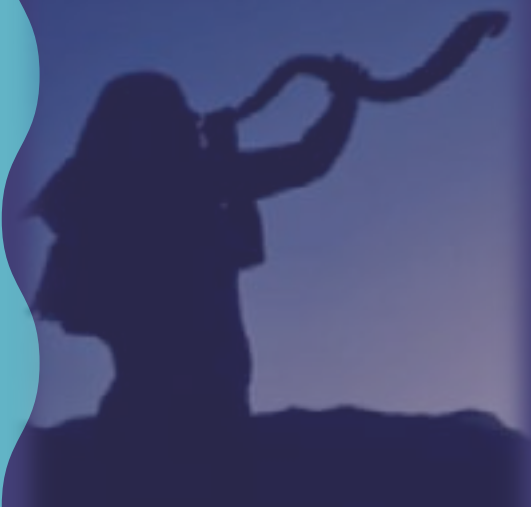
- Each warrior attacked the city straight ahead, indicating that each soldier exercised his own faith.



The Significance

7. Their faith was consummated in their perfect obedience to destroy Jericho and save Rahab

And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it....But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.



The Goal of Holy War

Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, “Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho.”

“At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation,
and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates.”

So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

Joshua 6:26-27

Holy War—Are you ready?



