

SAFE HOUSE

Joshua 5,6

When the kings of the Amorites, which were on the west side of the Jordan River, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the children of Israel until they had passed over, their hearts melted, nor was there any more spirit left in them to be able to fight the Israelites.

At that time the Lord told Joshua to circumcise all the males of Israel, for no one had been circumcised since the generation that had come out of Egypt had been circumcised. During this time, the Israelites were not able to defend themselves, but because the Lord had put great fear into the Canaanite's hearts, all Israel was safe.

The people encamped at Gilgal and there they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month on the plains of Jericho. They ate of the old corn of the land on the day after the Passover. The day after they ate of the corn of the land the manna ceased. The children of Israel did not eat manna again, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year. For forty years the Israelites had eaten manna every single day. It had been their life, now the time for manna was over, for they had come into the promised land, and no longer needed that miracle bread from heaven.

It so happened, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he looked up, and was startled to see a man standing by him with his sword drawn. Joshua said to the man, "Are you for us, or for our enemies?"

The man answered, "No; but as captain of the host of the Lord I have come."

Then Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"

The captain of the Lord's host said, "Take your shoes off from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Joshua did as the captain of the Lord's host told him.

Now the gates of Jericho were kept shut day and night because of the children of Israel. No one went out of the city and no one came into the city.

The Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho and its king, and its mighty men of valor into your hands. You shall march around the city, all the men of war, once each day for six days. Seven priests shall march before the ark carrying seven trumpets of rams horns. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow their trumpets. When the people hear the trumpets make a long blast, all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat. Then the people shall go into the city, every man straight in from the place where he is.

Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and told them to take up the ark of the covenant, and that seven priests were to go before the ark with their trumpets. He told the people to pass on and march around the city. The armed men marched before the priests with trumpets, while the rest marched behind the ark. Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word be spoken by you, until the day that I tell you to shout.

The ark of the Lord went round the city, once each day and then the people would return to their camp.

How frightening it must have been for the people within the city wall, who I'm sure were watching and wondering, what was going to happen. You will remember that their hearts were faint, and there was no hope left in them. Only for Rahab and her family was there hope, for they had put their trust in the God of Israel, and they were waiting for their rescue from the wicked city of Jericho.

The reason that the Lord had given the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants was because of the people's great wickedness. God used Israel to bring judgment upon them. God is not cruel when he brings judgment on a people, but righteous in all his ways. He waits patiently for people to turn to him, but in the end, if they refuse, his judgment will come, just as it did to the people of Canaan.

On the seventh day, the people marched around the city seven times, as the Lord had commanded. Then the priests blew their trumpets and Joshua commanded the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given the city into your hands. The city shall be accursed, it and all that live in it. Only Rehab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with here in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. Make sure that no one takes any thing from the city for themselves. If you do you will make yourself accursed, and the camp of Israel a curse, and will bring trouble to

the camp. Destroy everything, but the silver, gold, and things of brass, and iron, are consecrated to the Lord. They shall come into his treasury.”

Then the people shouted with a great shout as soon as they heard the priests blow their trumpets, and the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. They fell down flat, so that the army of Israel could go right up into the city, every man straight in front of him. The army utterly destroyed all that was in the city, all the people, and animals, and things as God commanded. They saved only those objects of gold, silver, brass, and iron that God had specified.

Joshua had told the two men who had spied out the city to go in and bring Rahab and those that were with her out safely. They brought Rahab and her family out of the city and set them outside the camp.

Then Israel burnt the city of Jericho with fire.

The Lord placed a curse on anyone that would rebuild the city Jericho, saying it would cost him his firstborn and his youngest son.

Now all the people saw that the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was spread throughout the land.

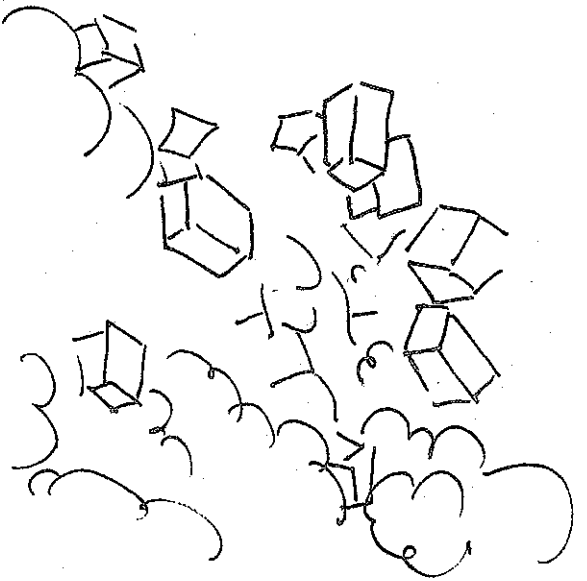
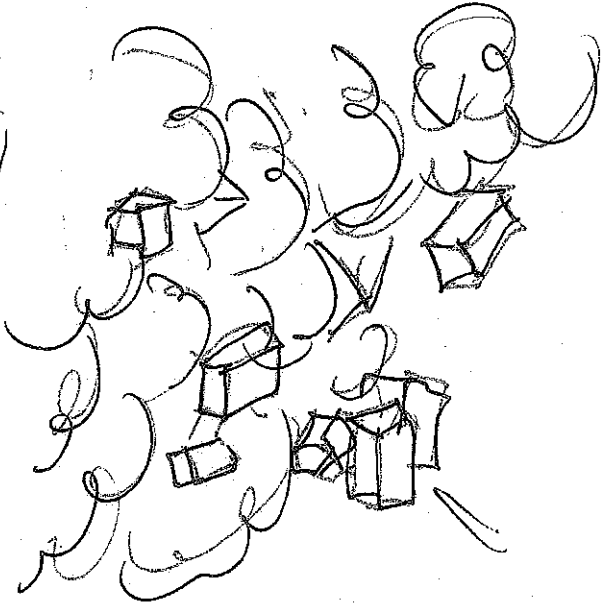
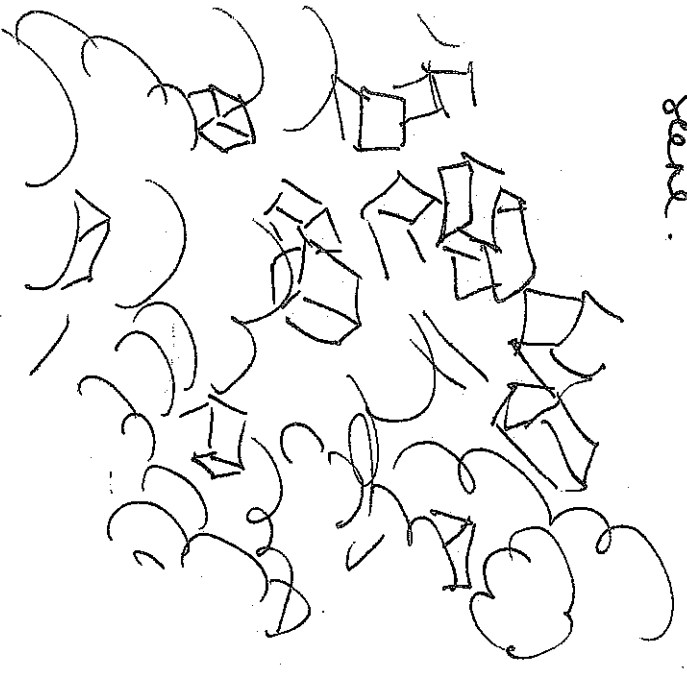
How wonderful to know that the Lord can bring a mighty city such as Jericho down, while at the same time caring for a woman within that very city and protecting her. Rahab's house was on the city wall, and while all the wall of the city fell down flat, Rahab's house stayed standing so that her life and the lives of her family were kept safe. Our God is powerful, he can control all things, and he is faithful to his promise to care for those that love him.

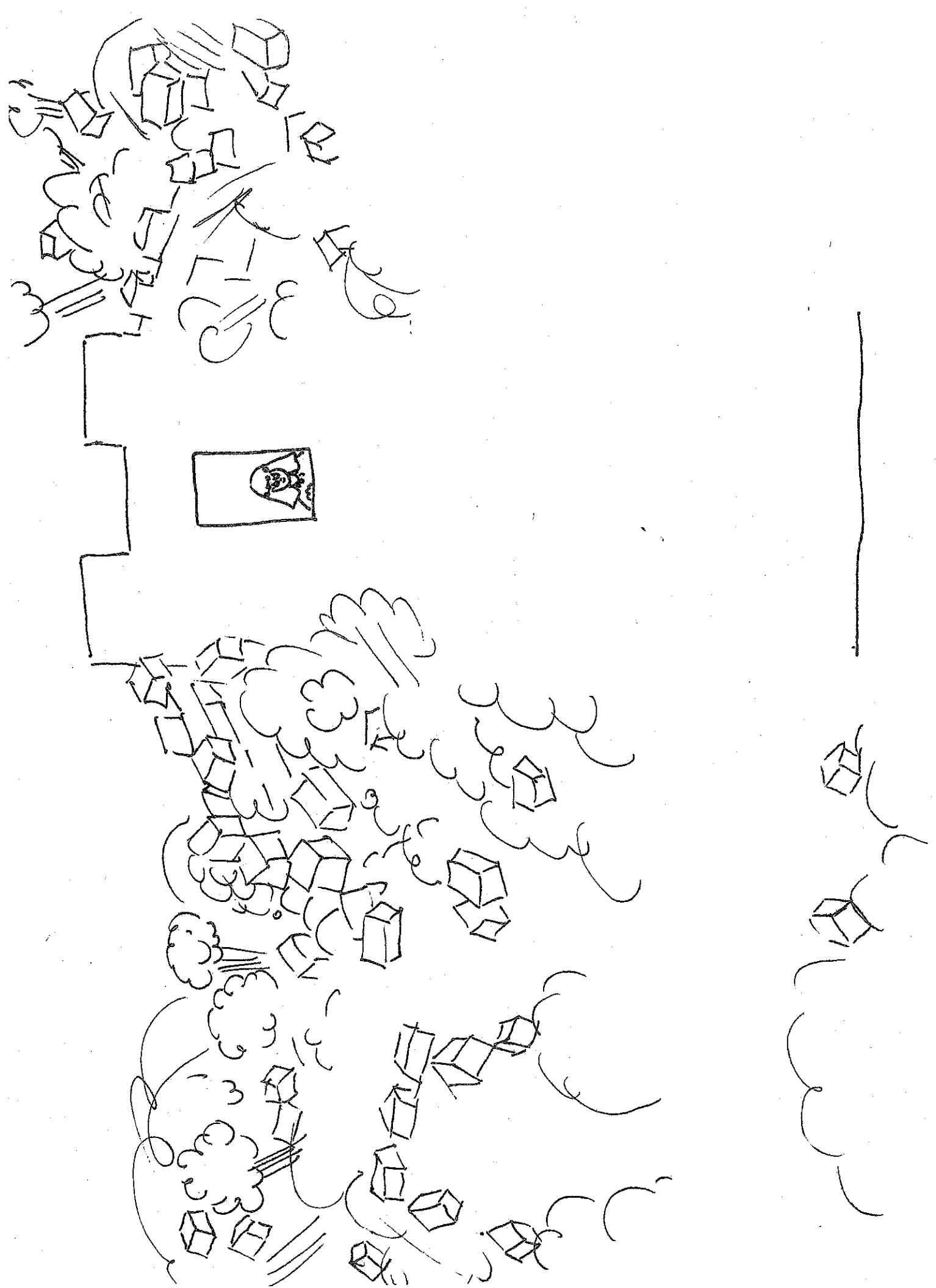
LEARN: The fear of man ~~bring~~ ^{bringeth} a snare; but whose putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.
Proverbs 29:25

1. Color the scene and groups of falling walls.

2. Paste red cord in Rahab's window.

3. Paste groups of falling walls that you have cut out on scene.





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Proverbs 29:25

