

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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IF WALLS COULD TALK

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The Bible sometimes conveys messages through objects that do not speak. God said the voice of the blood of Abel “*crieth unto me from the ground*” (*Gen. 4:10*). We know blood does not speak, but that the murder of Abel was not hid from God and the sin demanded retribution.

This week our Vacation Bible School focuses in upon certain walls in the Bible that could tell us important things if they could talk. Children will learn important Bible facts and principles by examining what happened on and to these walls.

Jericho’s walls speak to us about a faith that is active and saves. First, the wall formed a part of Rahab’s house. Because of her faith in the power of God, she was willing to receive two young spies of Israel. She let them down the wall with a scarlet cord and gave them instructions for their safety. That same cord was the token displayed in her window on the wall when the children of Israel took the city of Jericho and she and her family were saved. James, describing saving faith, uses Rahab’s exam-

ple of faith issuing into works which justifies one before God. (*James 2:25*). Secondly, the walls of Jericho could speak of obedience of faith. God gave specific instructions to Israel to follow for six days. On the seventh day, after marching seven times around the city, and upon hearing the long blast of a ram’s horn, the people were to shout and then the walls of Jericho would fall down flat before them (*Joshua 6:3-5*). When they obeyed what God commanded, the walls fell down and the event went into the collection of great examples of faith: “*By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed about for seven days*” (*Hebrews 11:30*).

If walls could talk, Jericho’s walls could tell all that people are not saved by faith only, but by a faith that works or obeys!

Jerusalem’s walls were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar’s army in 586 B.C. After years of disarray, a caring Nehemiah encouraged his people to rebuild the walls. Through his leadership the people manifested “*a mind to work*” and accomplished the job in the midst of enemies (*Nehemiah 4:6, 17*). If walls

could talk, these walls could speak of what can be accomplished when God’s people decide to get busy and work wisely to overcome barriers.

A barrier or wall divided the Jews from the Gentiles when Jesus came to earth. In the temple, a wall divided the inner court which was for the priests, from that of the court of the Gentiles. Jews were not allowed to join themselves to or come unto one of another nation (*Acts 10:28*). Jesus’ death not only brought an end to the Law of Moses regarding the Jews, but constructed a new spiritual temple—the church with no barriers dividing people of one nation from another (*Ephesians 2:14-16*). The tearing down of this middle wall of partition, speaks of Christ’s solution to racism.

The walls of Heaven appear at first as being high (*216 feet-Rev. 21:17*) but in comparison to the height of the city (*1,500 miles-Rev. 21:16*) it is low. These walls speak of the fact that in Heaven we will no longer need protection. The gates are never closed, nothing unclean can enter, and we can never die. Listen, the walls are talking!