

CURRENT TEACHING SERIES

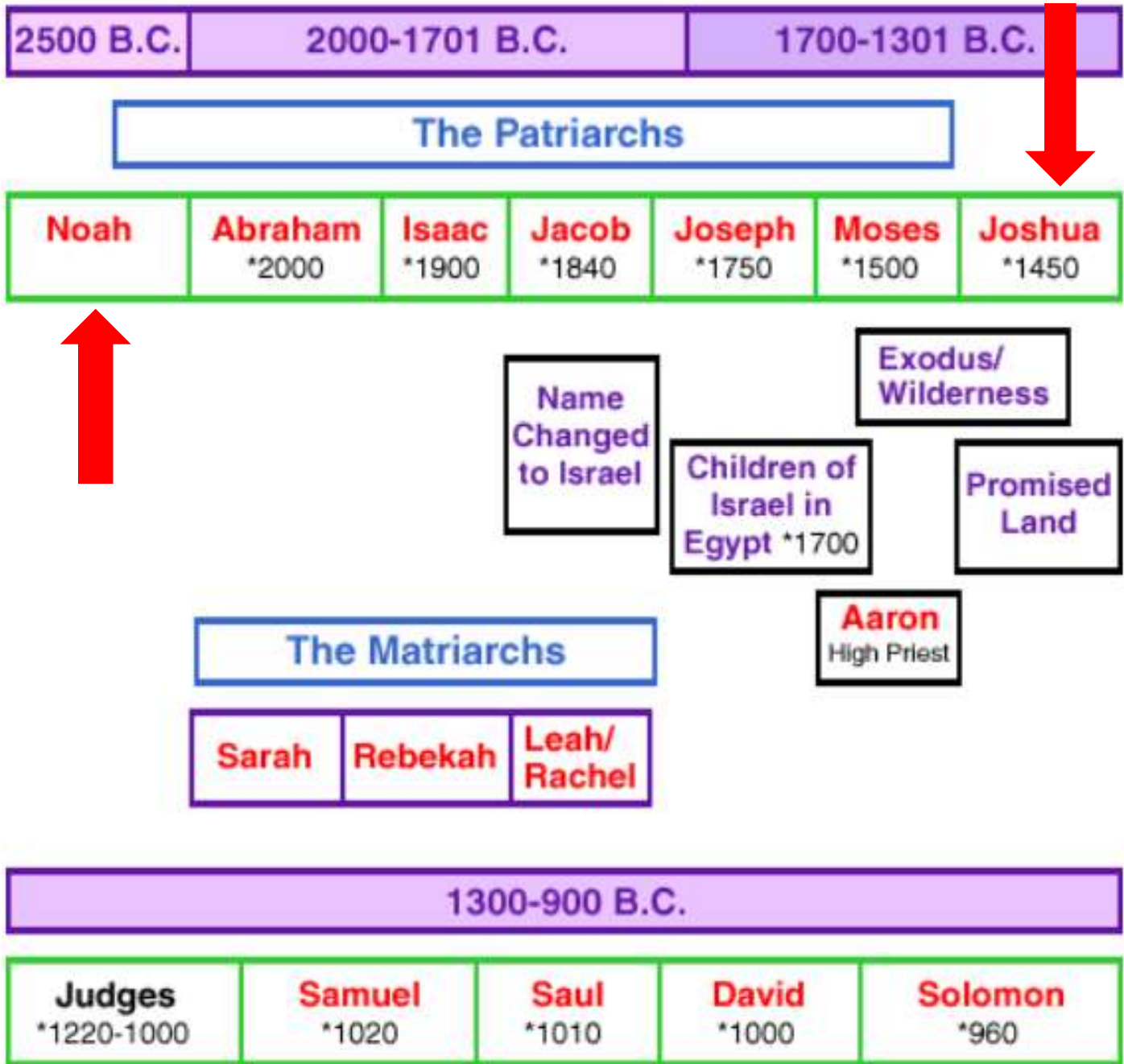
EPIC TALES

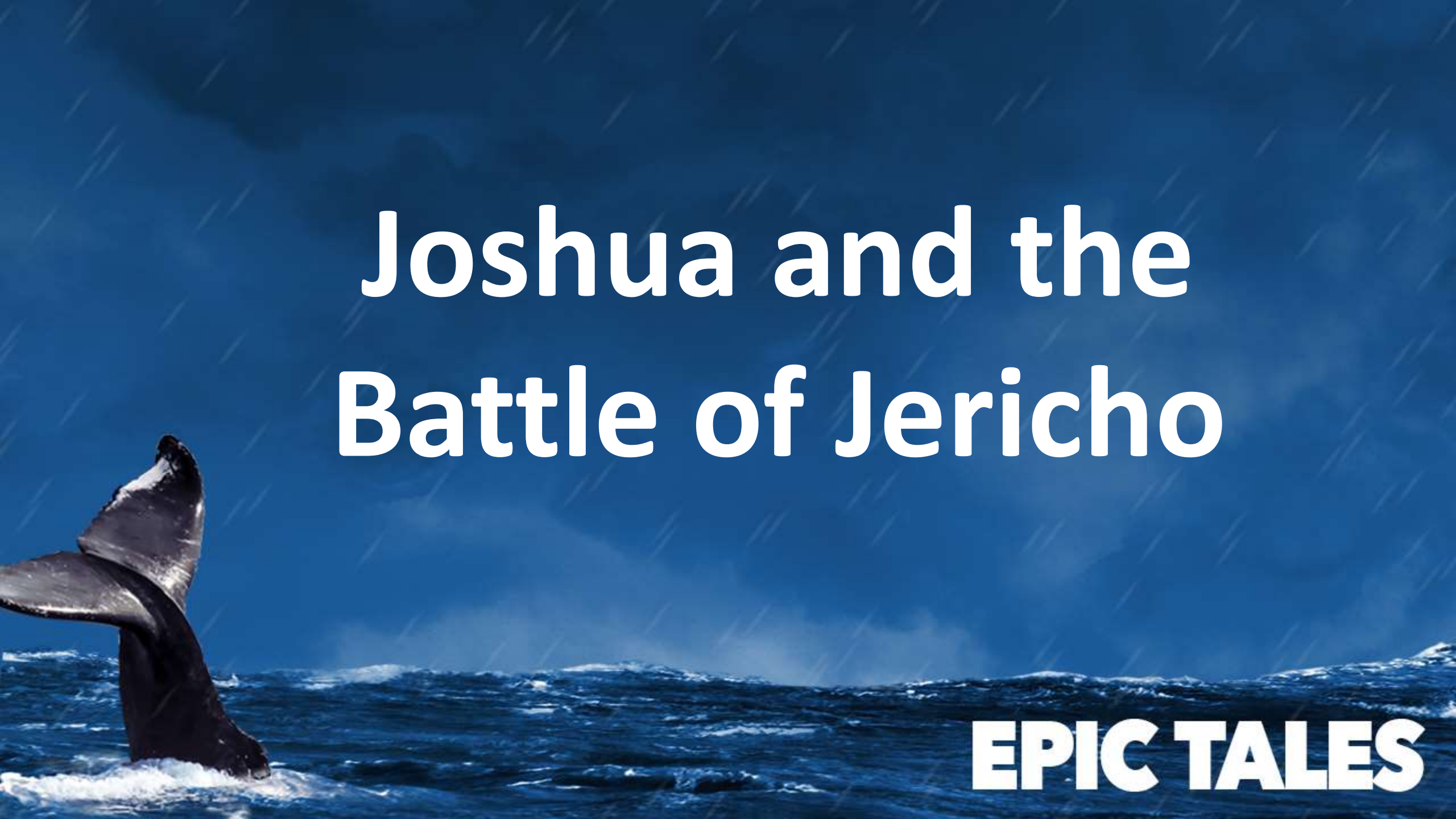
A dramatic scene featuring a whale's tail fluke rising from the churning blue ocean. The sky is dark and filled with rain, creating a sense of intensity and awe. The overall composition is dynamic, with the whale's tail as the central focus against the backdrop of a storm.

**RELEARNING THE ANCIENT BIBLE
STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY**

Bible Timeline

By Genelle Austin-Lett and Mary Jane Chaignot



A dramatic scene of a whale's tail fluke rising from the churning, dark blue ocean under a stormy, rain-filled sky. The water is turbulent with white foam from the waves. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

Joshua and the Battle of Jericho

EPIC TALES

Joshua was the successor of Moses and supervisor of Israel's conquest of Canaan and of the allotment of the land to the tribes. According to Numbers 13:16, Joshua was an Ephraimite, originally called Hoshea and renamed by Moses. He first appears in Exodus 17:8-13, where Moses appoints him to lead the battle against Amalek, which he does successfully. In Exodus 33:11 he appears as a young man serving as Moses' assistant in the tent of meeting. One of the twelve spies sent to reconnoiter Canaan, Joshua and Caleb constitute the minority who recommend confidence in God and a direct assault (Numbers 14:6-10). For this God exempts them from the general condemnation of that generation to death in the wilderness. Source: Harper's Bible Dictionary

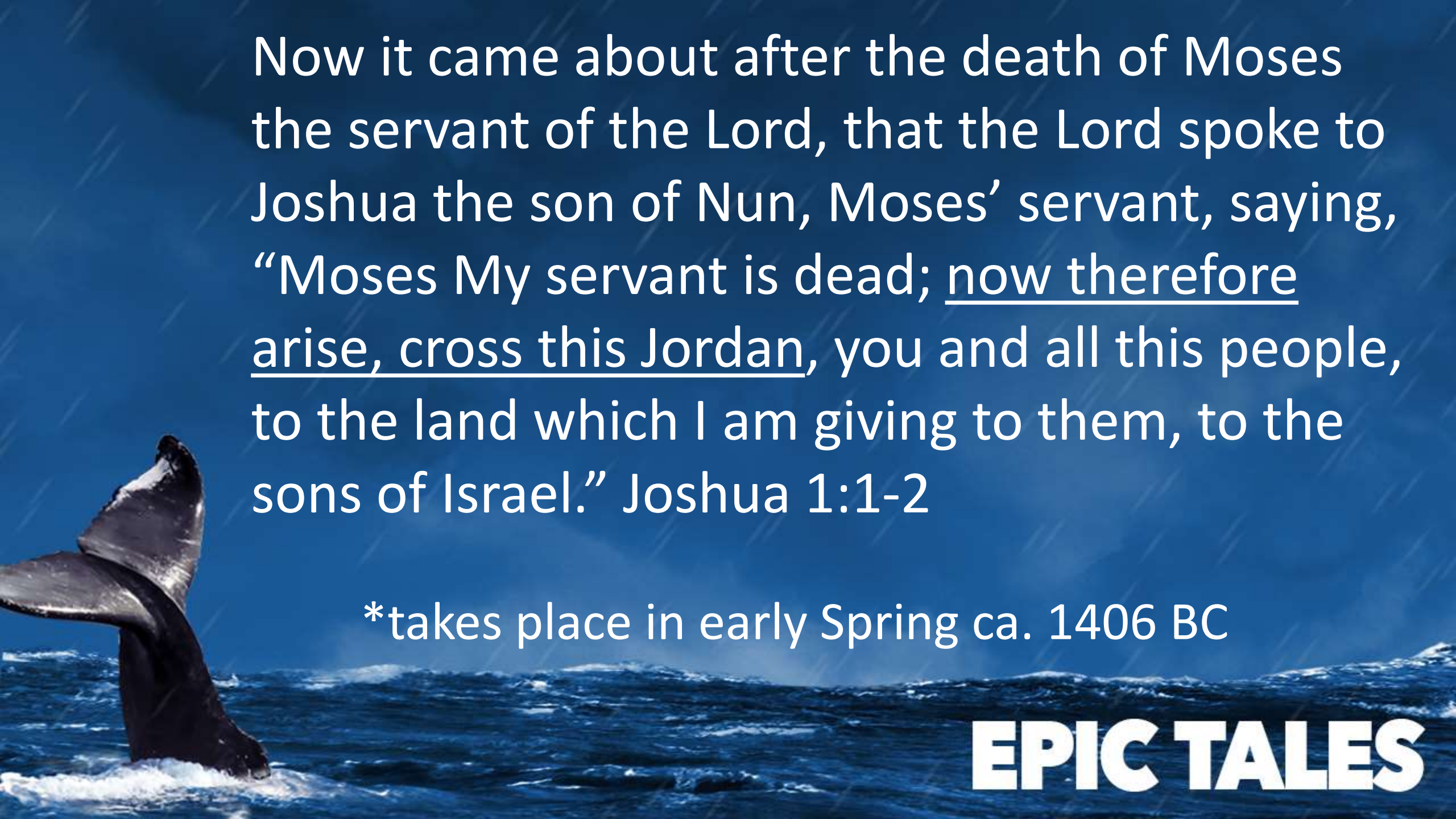
So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him" Numbers 27:18

EPIC TALES

Joshua chapter 1



EPIC TALES

A whale tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear, deep blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel." Joshua 1:1-2

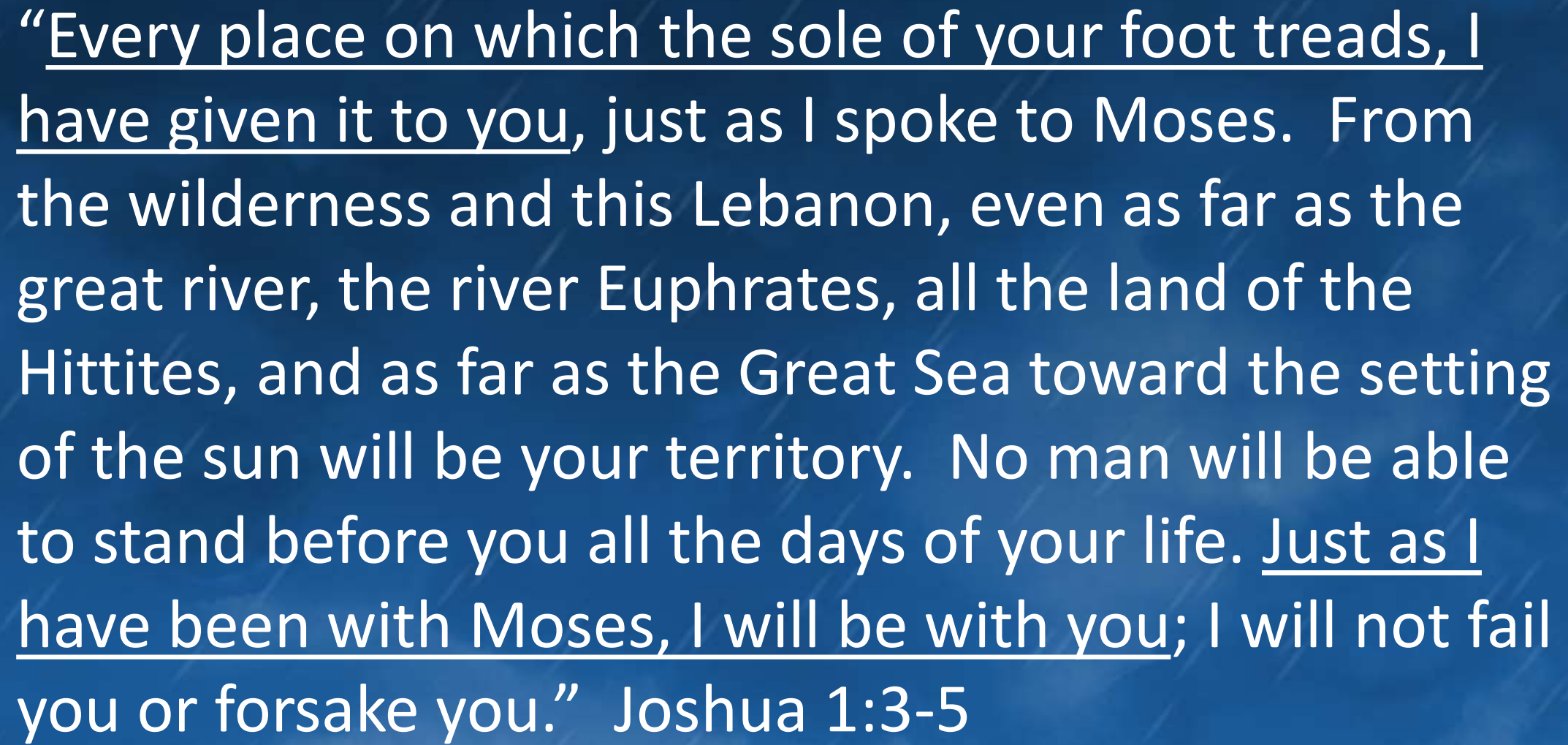
*takes place in early Spring ca. 1406 BC

EPIC TALES

ISRAEL'S EXODUS FROM EGYPT AND ENTRY INTO CANAAN

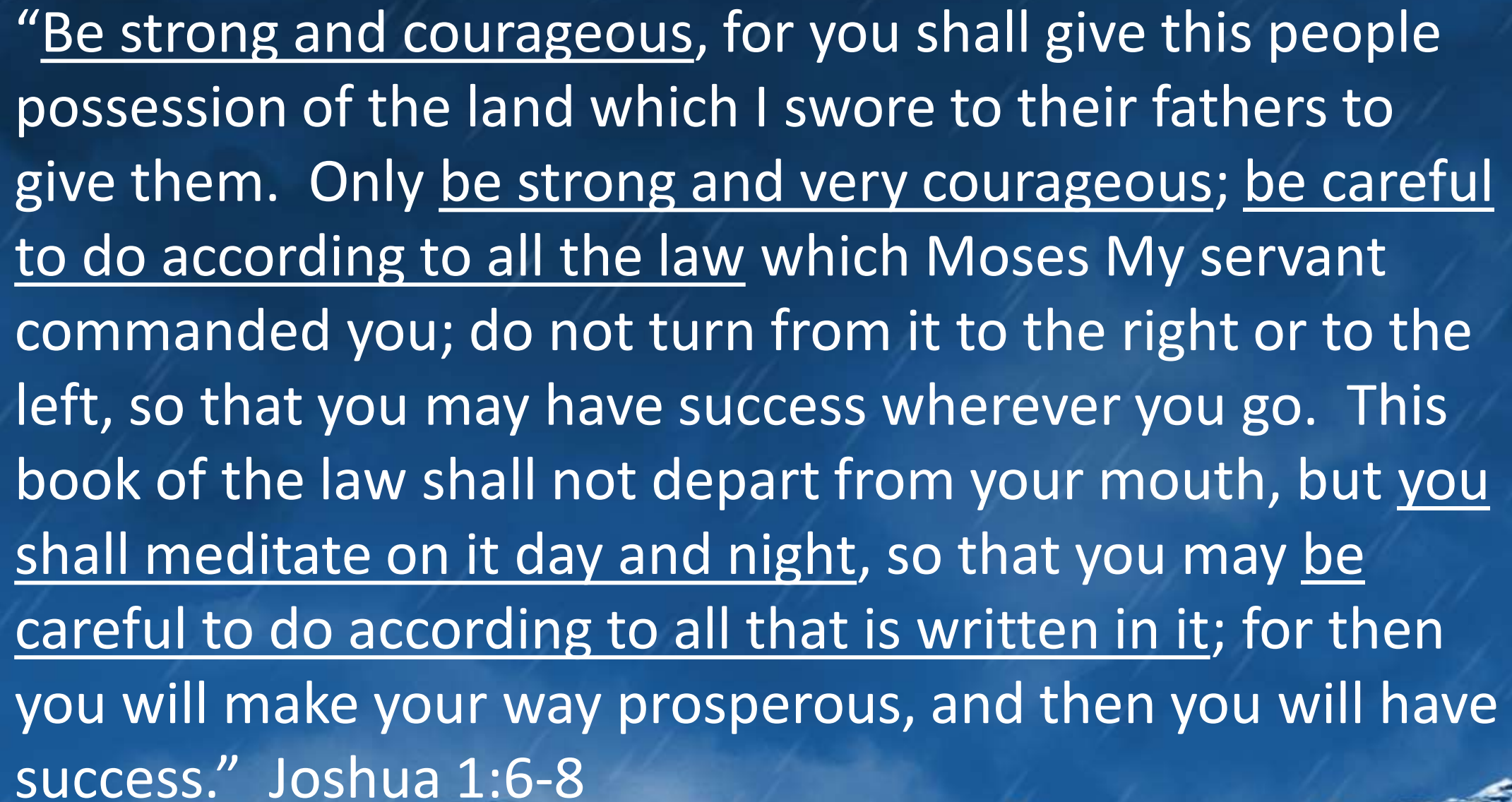
MAP 2



A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the point of exit. The water is a deep blue with white-capped waves. The sky is a clear, bright blue.


“Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.” Joshua 1:3-5

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the point of exit. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” Joshua 1:6-8

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a blue sky and sea background. The whale is dark grey/black, and the water is a deep blue with white foam at the base of the tail.

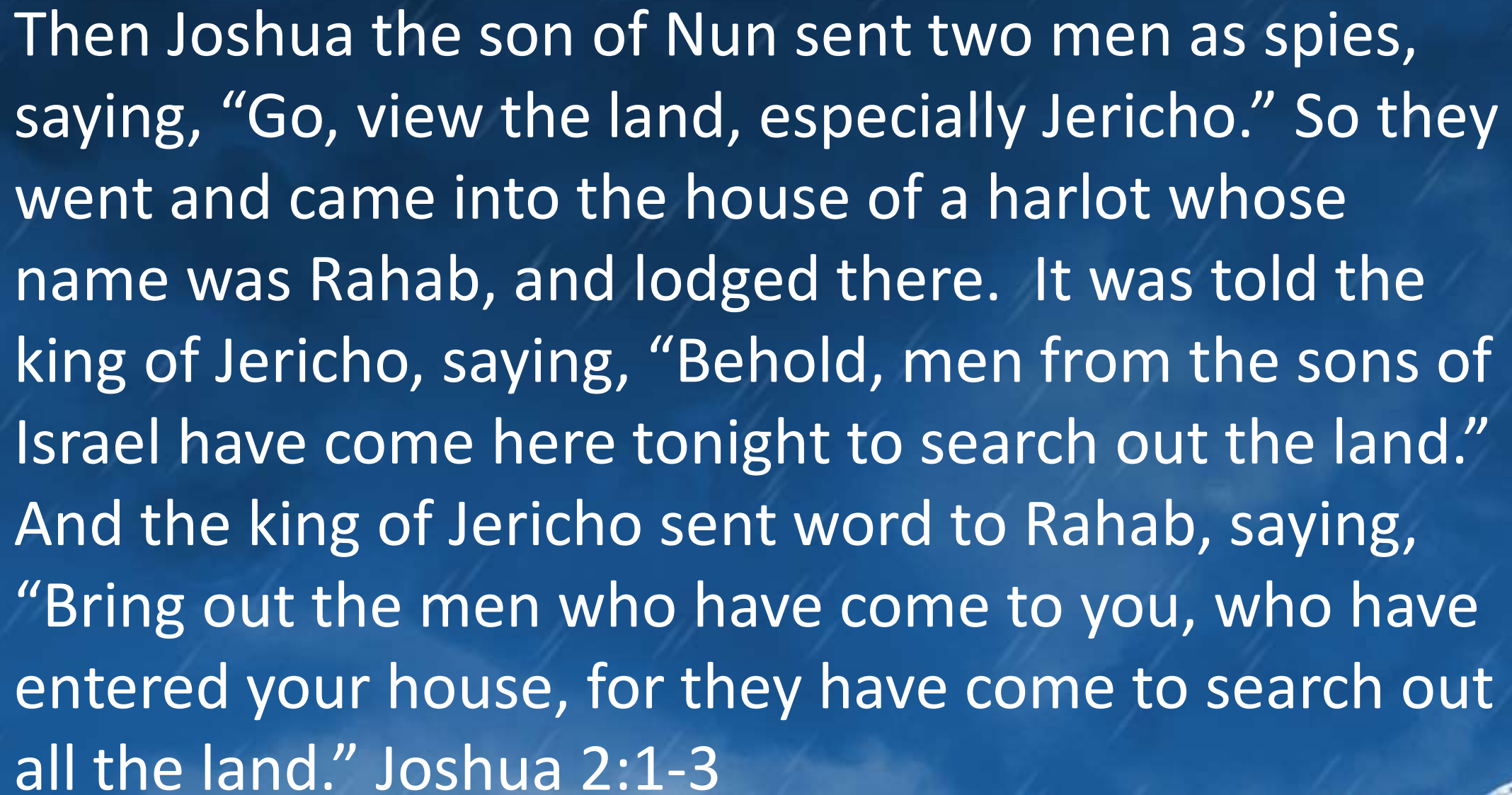
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you, to possess it.’ ” Joshua 1:9-11

EPIC TALES

Joshua chapter 2




EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the surface of the ocean. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the whale's splash. The background is a clear, bright blue sky.

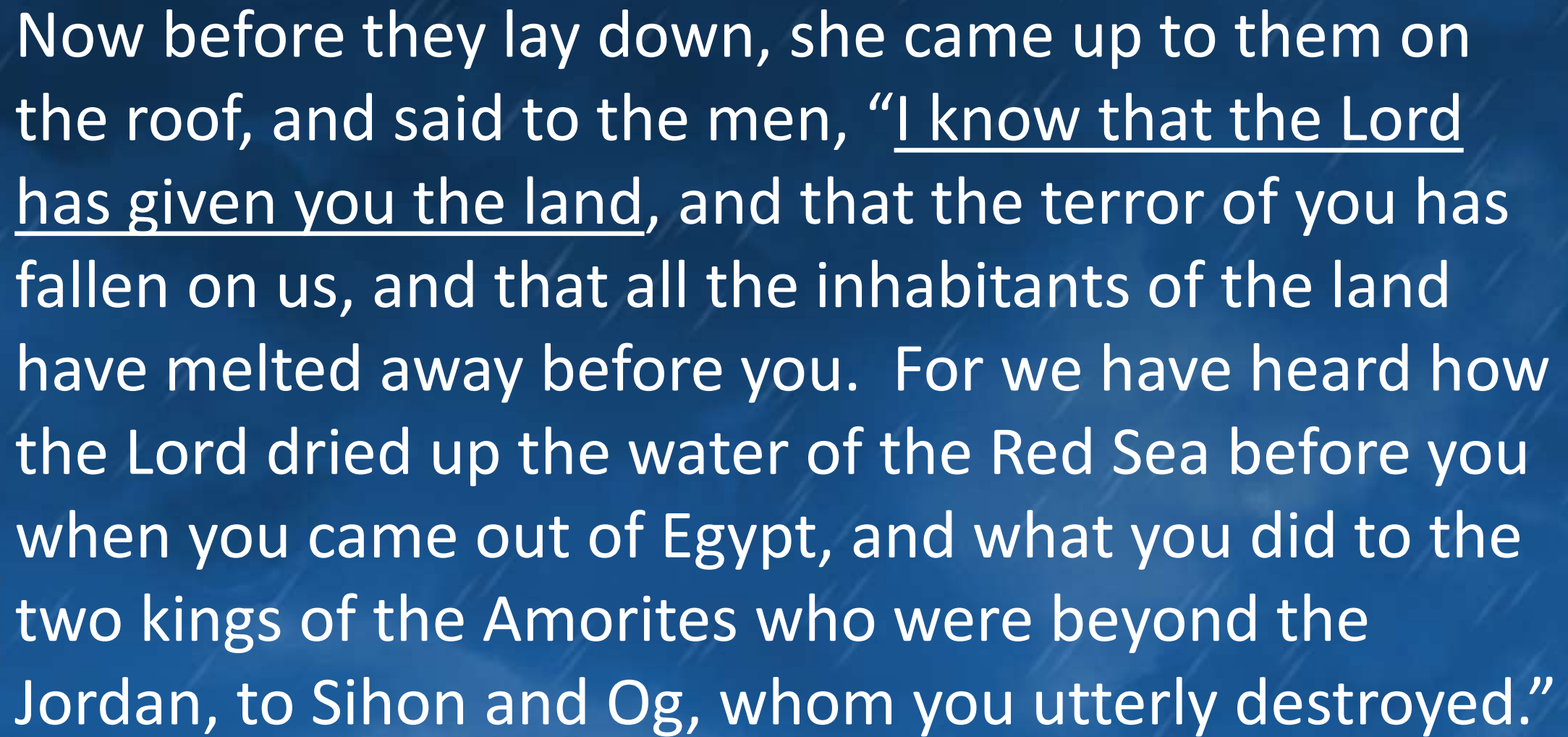
Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there. It was told the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” And the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.” Joshua 2:1-3

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of light rays.

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. It came about when it was time to shut the gate at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof. So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan to the fords; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate. Joshua 2:4-7

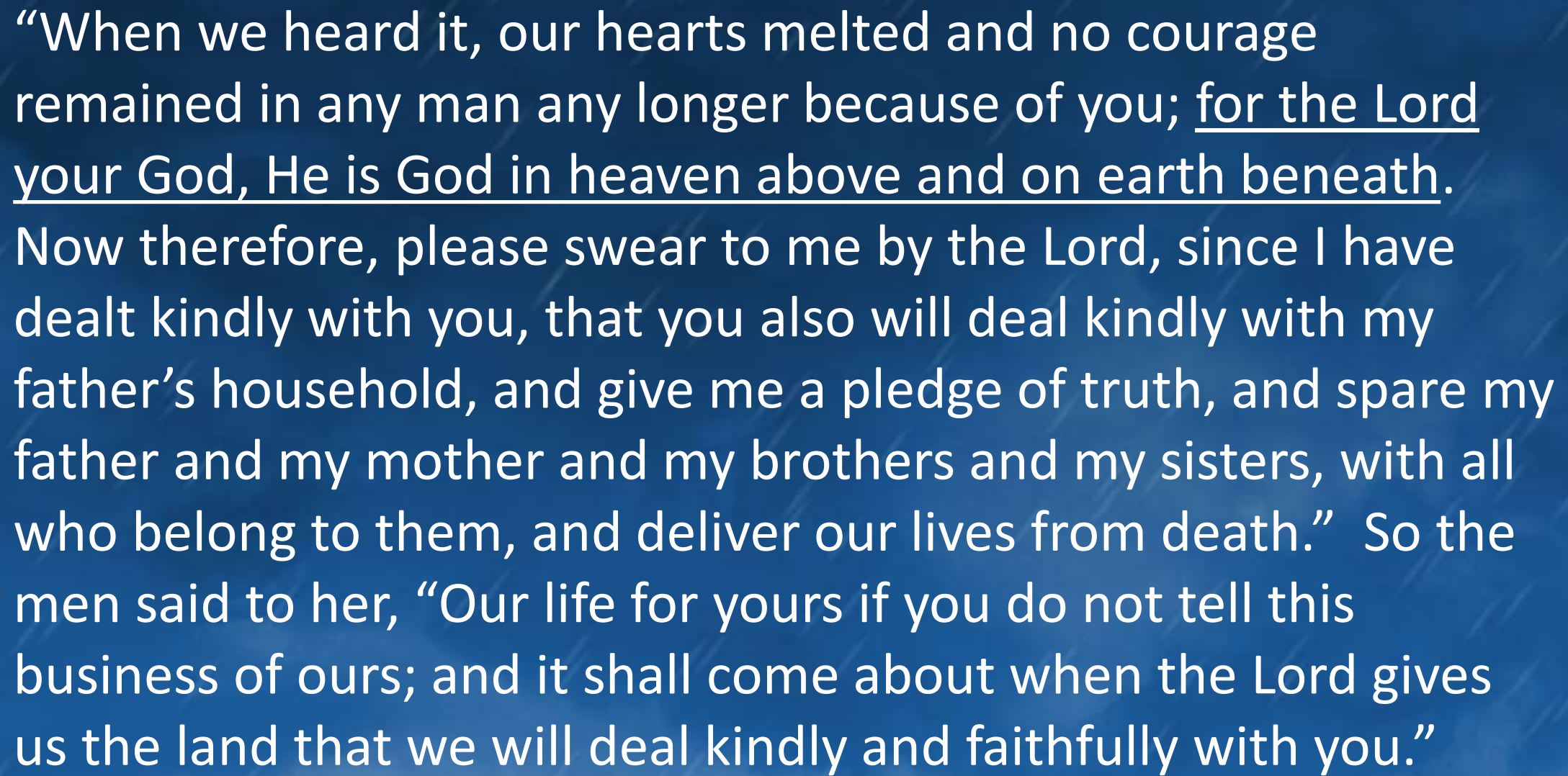
EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean. The background is a deep blue sky with some light rays or lens flare effects.

Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.”

Joshua 2:8-10

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean. The tail is dark and has a lighter patch near the top. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the waves.

“When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Now therefore, please swear to me by the Lord, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father’s household, and give me a pledge of truth, and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” So the men said to her, “Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the Lord gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

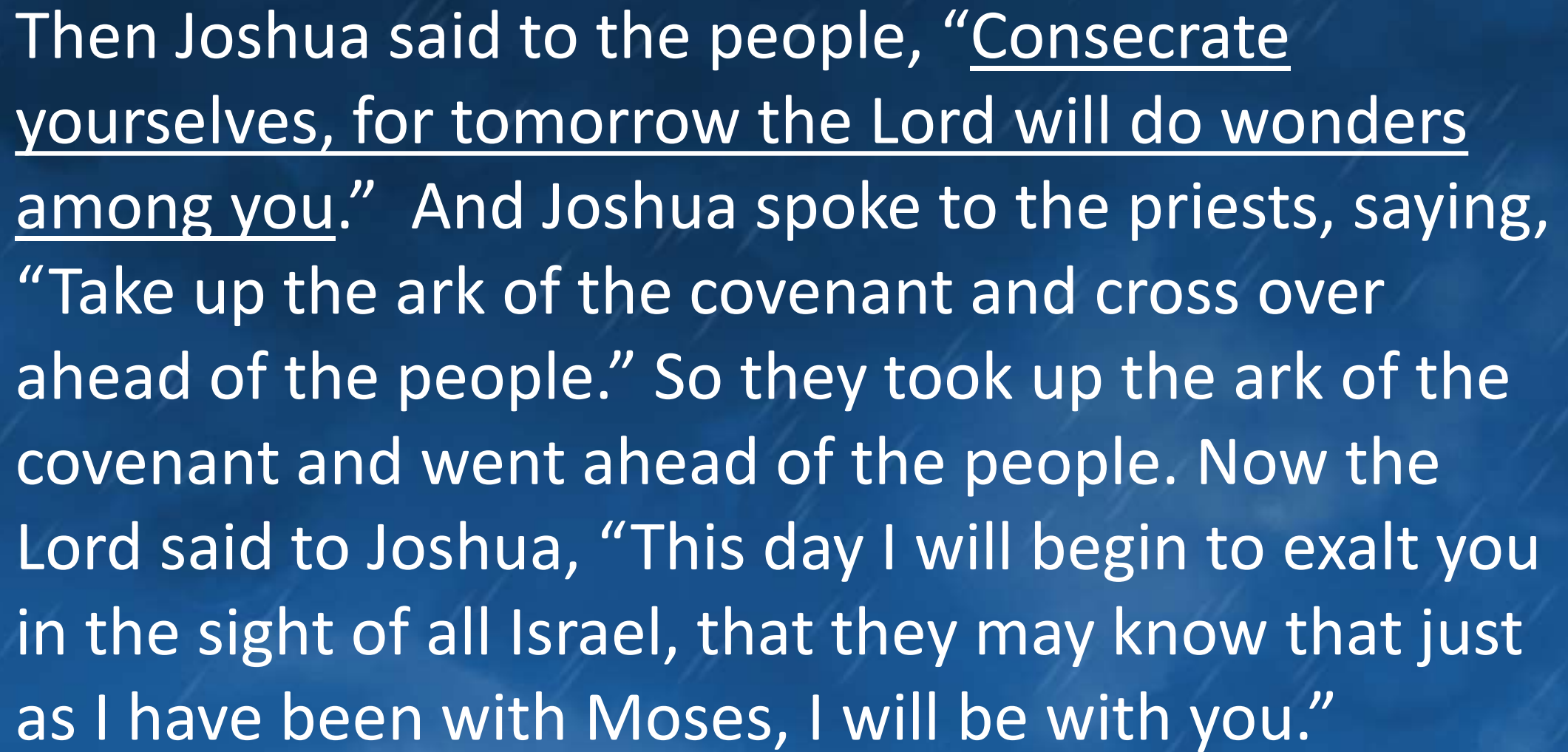
Joshua 2:11-14

EPIC TALES

Joshua chapter 3




EPIC TALES

A blue whale's tail is visible on the left side of the image, emerging from the dark blue ocean. The background is a vast, deep blue sky with some light rays or clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people. Now the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you.”

Joshua 3:5-7

EPIC TALES




“You shall, moreover, command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’ ” Then Joshua said to the sons of Israel, “Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God.” Joshua said, “By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite. Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan.” Joshua 3:8-11

EPIC TALES




C TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the surface of the ocean, set against a blue sky and sea background. The whale is dark grey, and the water is a deep blue with white foam at the base of the tail.

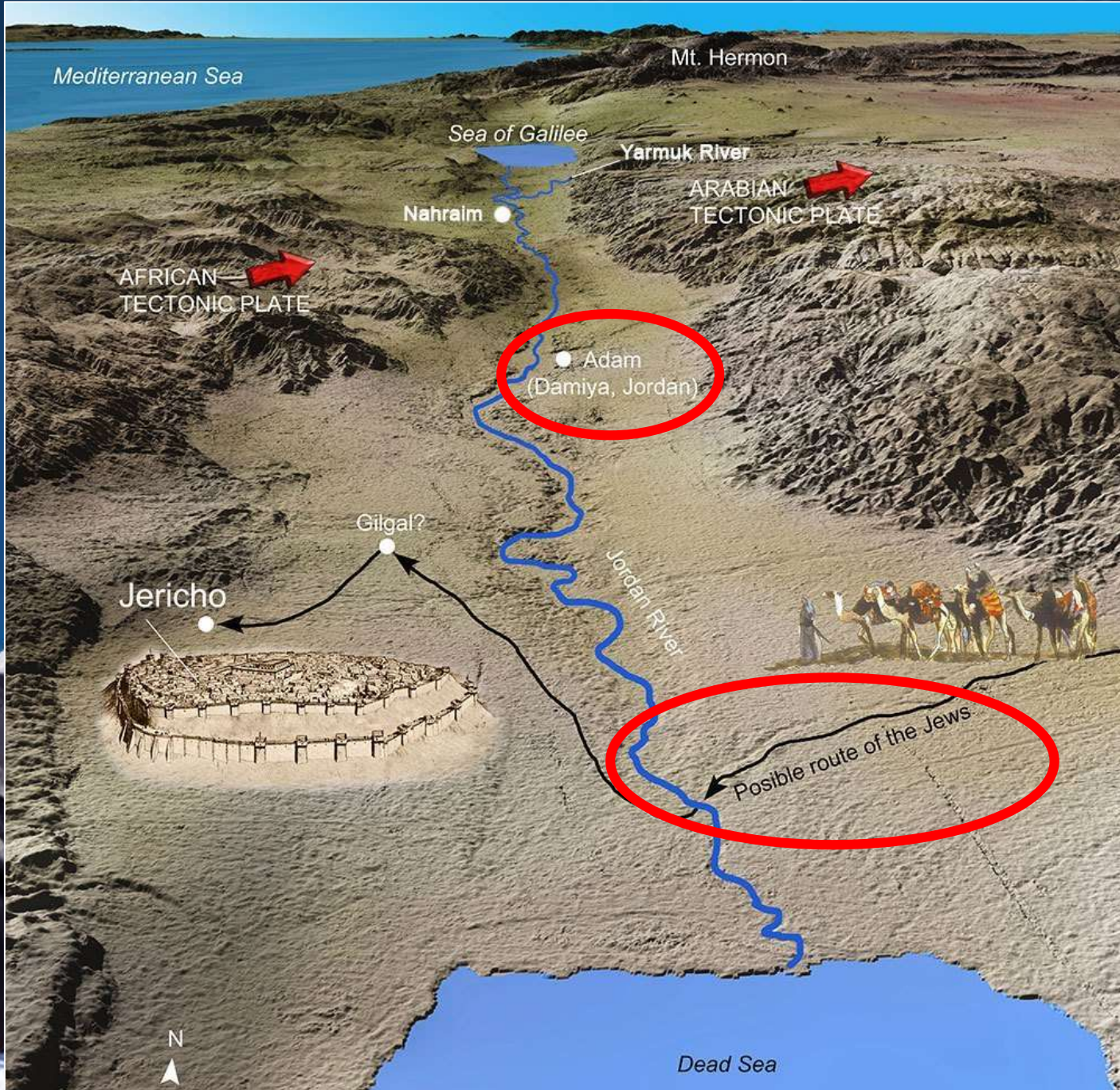
“Now then, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe. It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap.” So when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people, Joshua 3:12-14

EPIC TALES



and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho. And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan. Joshua 3:15-17

EPIC TALES



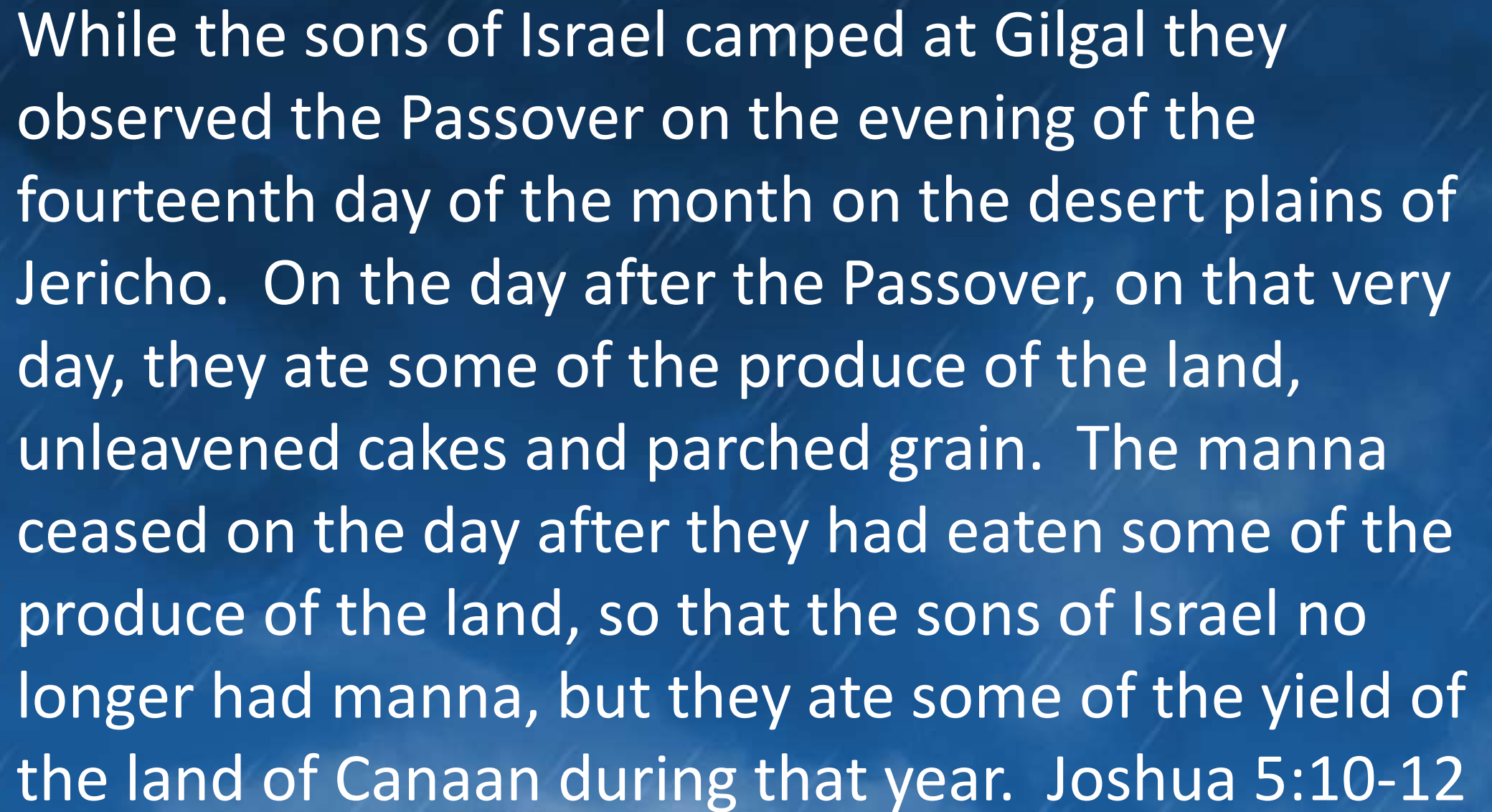
<https://stephenmillerbooks.com/2015/06/more-evidence-for-the-miracle-jordan-river-stops/>

EPIC TALES

Joshua chapter 5

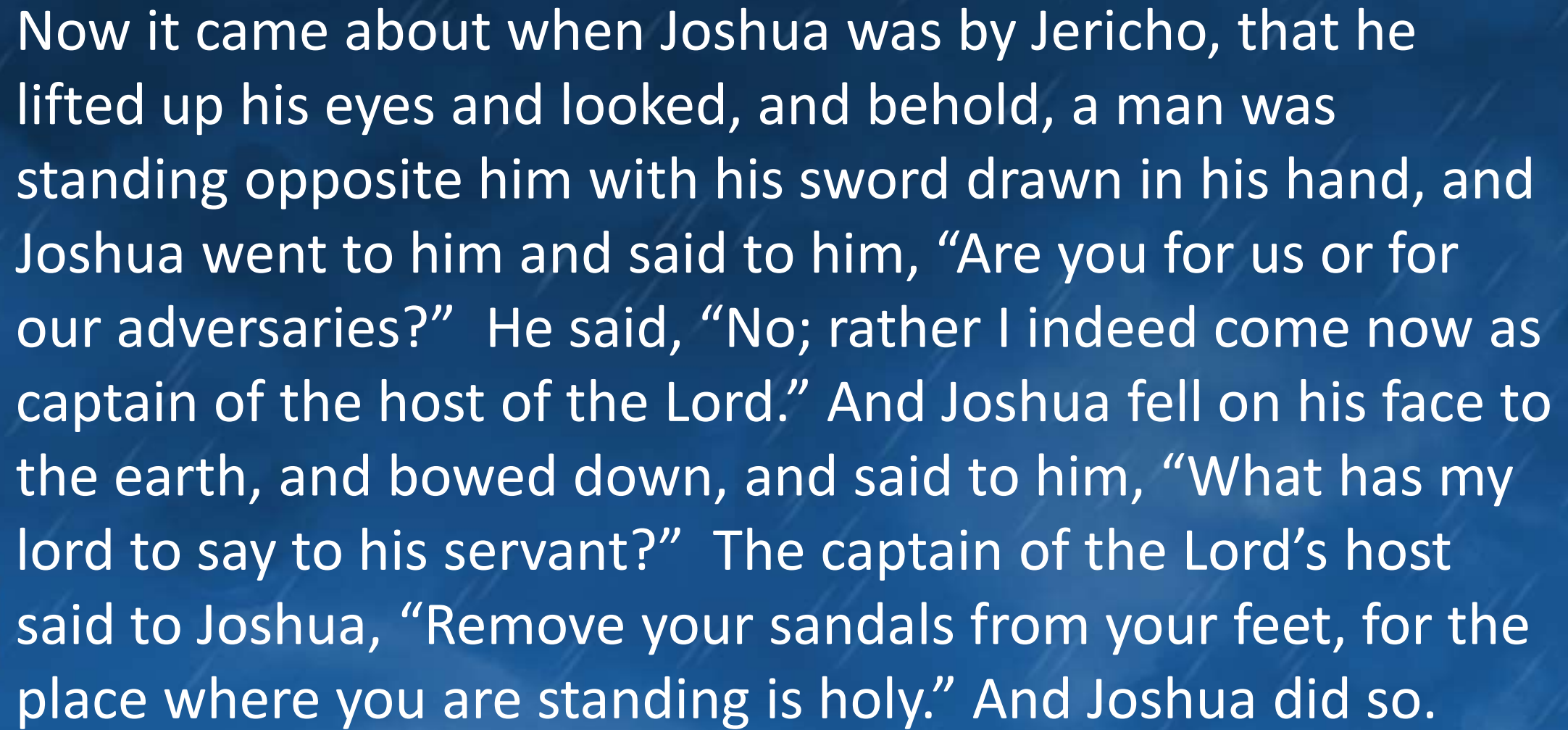


EPIC TALES

A whale's tail is seen breaching the surface of the ocean, creating a splash of white water. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they observed the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year. Joshua 5:10-12

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The whale's tail is dark and has a white patch near the top. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the waves.

Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” He said, “No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” The captain of the Lord’s host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

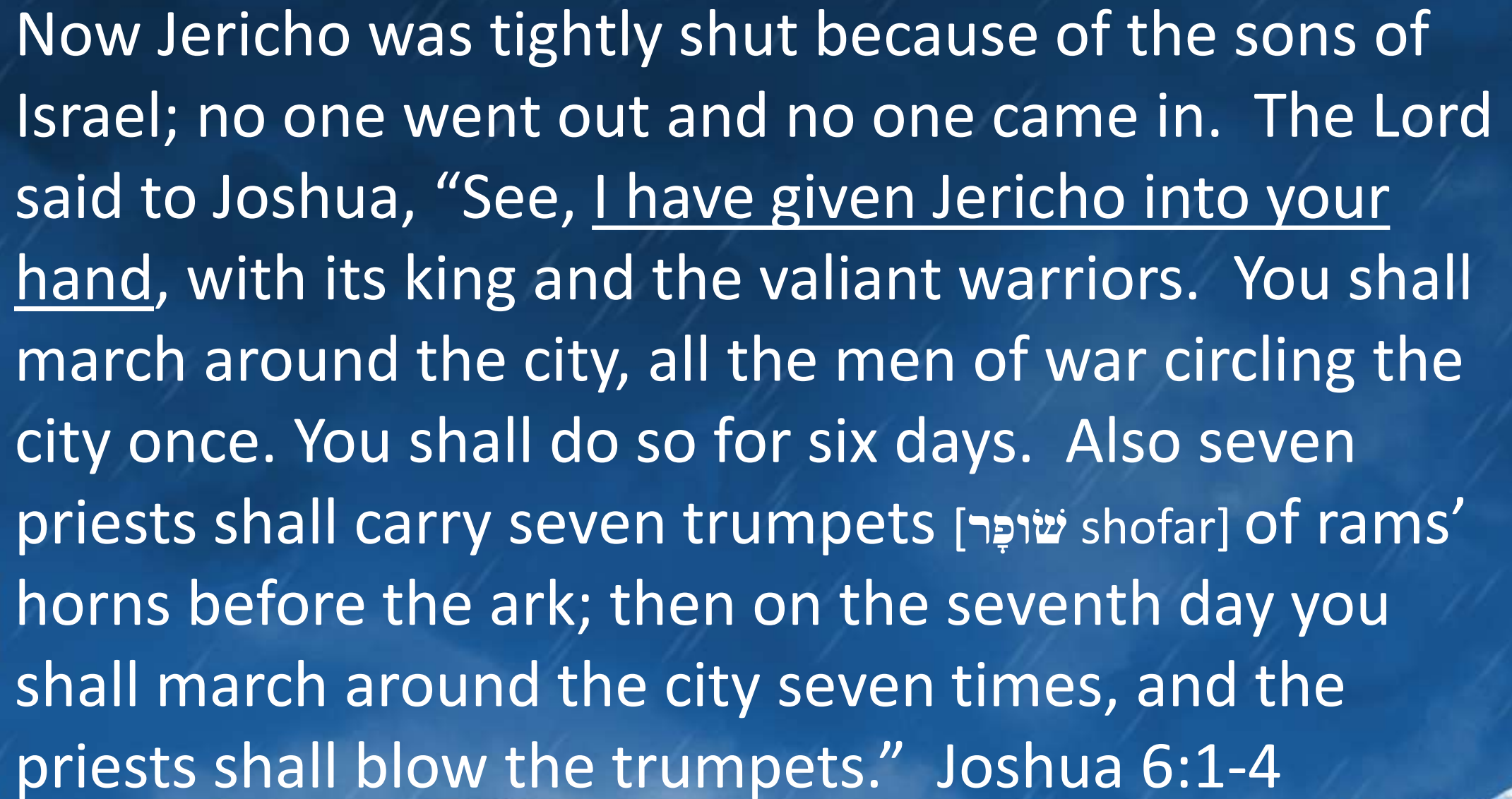
Joshua 5:13-15

EPIC TALES

Joshua chapter 6

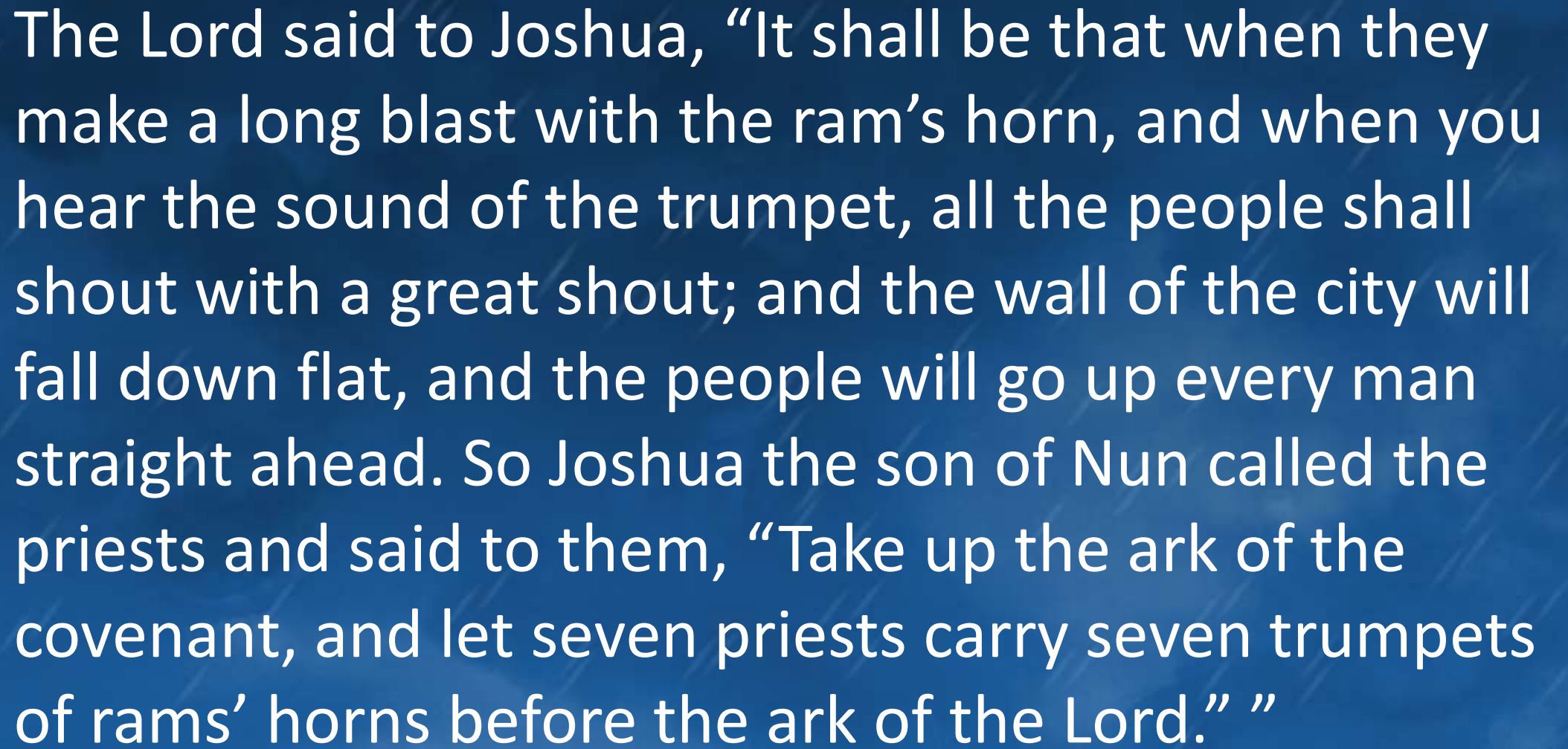


EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. The Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets [שׁוֹפָר shofar] of rams’ horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.” Joshua 6:1-4

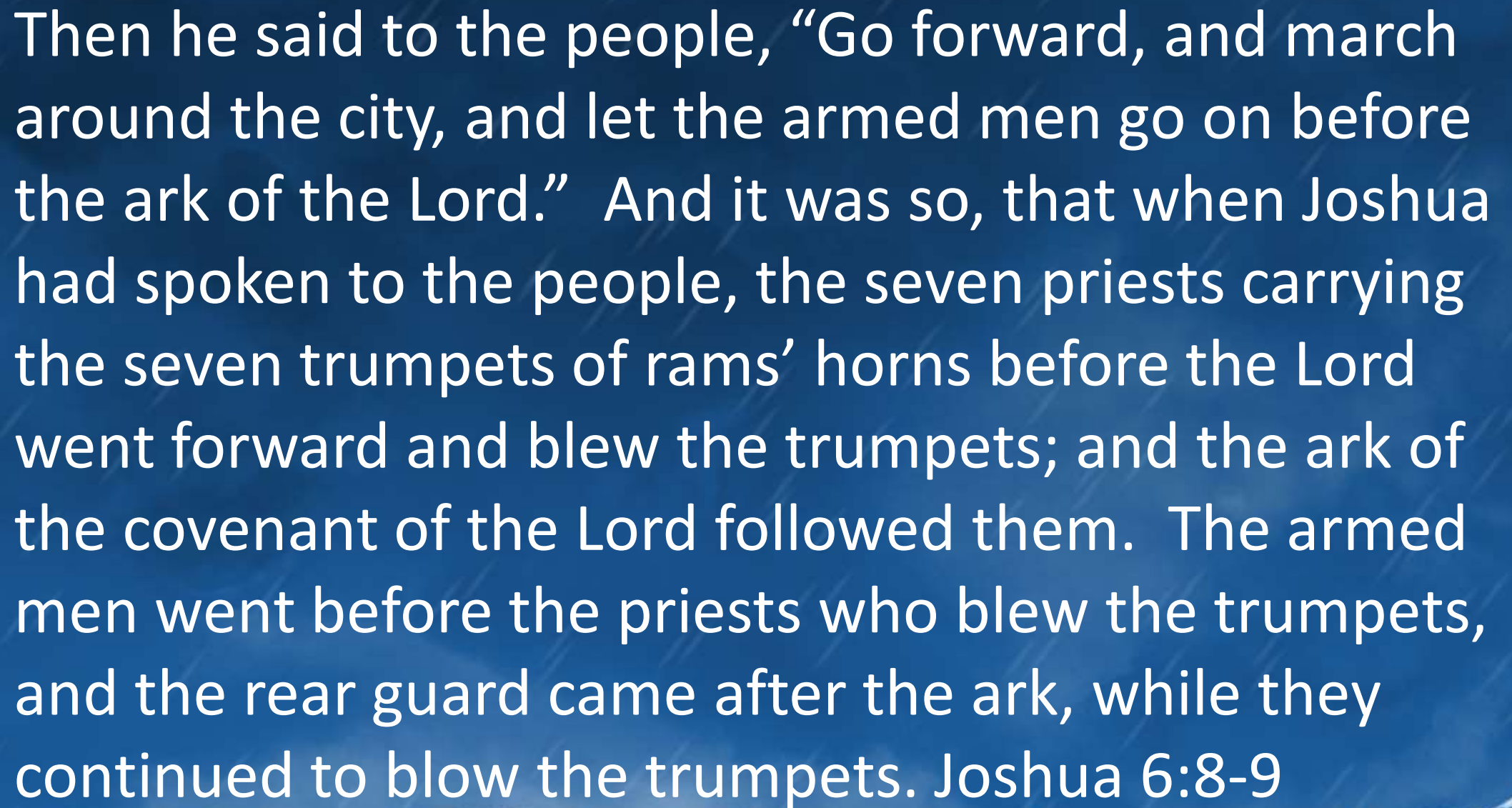
EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the surface of a deep blue ocean. The water is slightly choppy with white foam at the base of the tail. The background is a clear, bright blue sky.

The Lord said to Joshua, “It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead. So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord.” ”

Joshua 6:5-7

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the point of exit. The water is a deep blue with white-capped waves. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then he said to the people, “Go forward, and march around the city, and let the armed men go on before the ark of the Lord.” And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the Lord went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets. Joshua 6:8-9

EPIC TALES

Battle Plan

Joshua 6

Configuration of the
Jericho march

1



Armed guard marches first

2



7 priests carrying trumpets
march second

3



Priests carrying the ark
march third

4



Rear guard marches fourth

5

Israelites march around Jericho
once a day for 6 days, with the
priests blowing trumpets

6


Israelites march around Jericho
7 times on 7th day

7

Israelites shout and blow
trumpets on 7th march around
Jericho

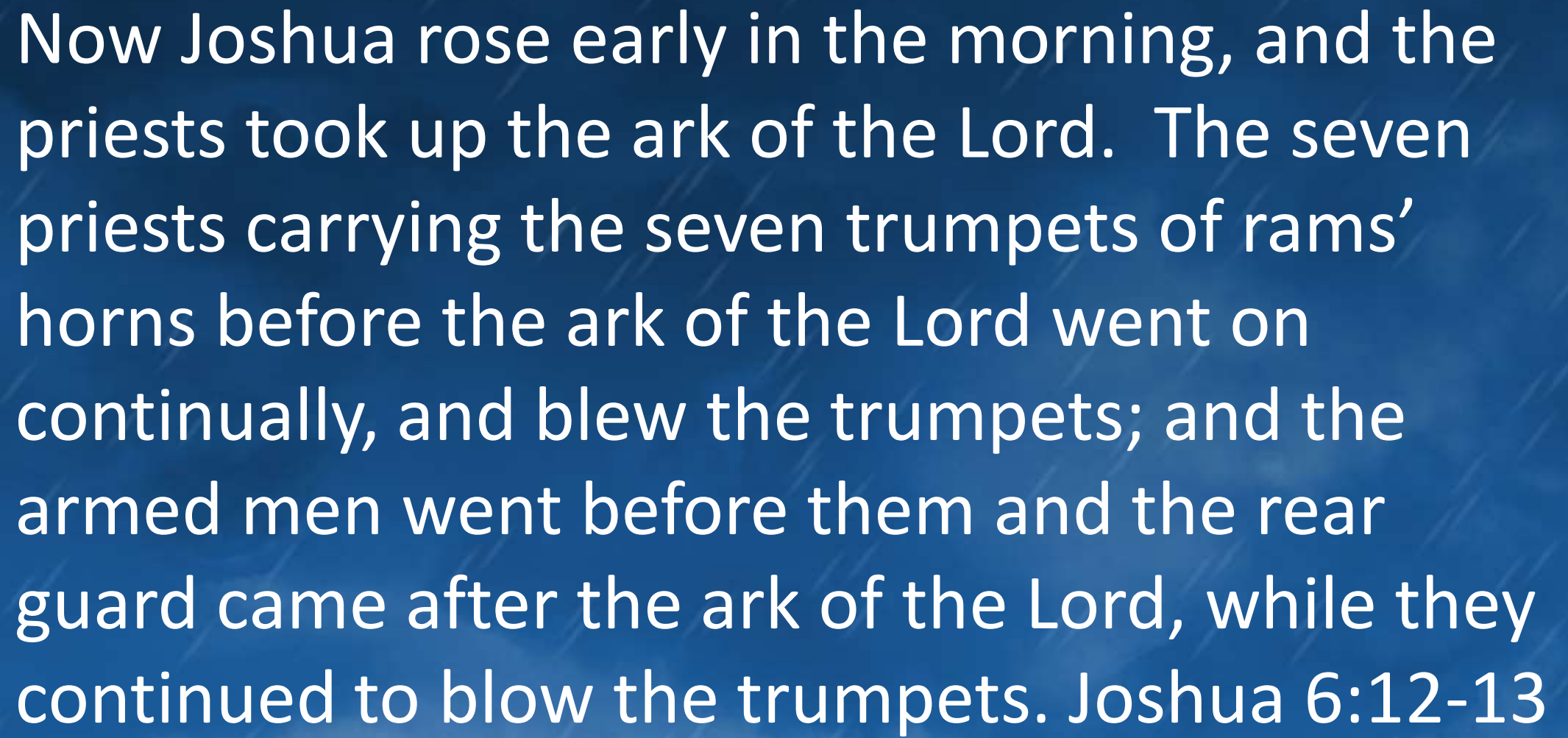


EPIC TALES

A close-up photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the dark blue ocean, creating white foam at the base. The background is a vast, deep blue sky with a subtle pattern of light rays.

But Joshua commanded the people, saying, “You shall not shout nor let your voice be heard nor let a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I tell you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout!” So he had the ark of the Lord taken around the city, circling it once; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp. Joshua 6:10-11

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the point of exit. The water is a deep blue with white-capped waves. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Now Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually, and blew the trumpets; and the armed men went before them and the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while they continued to blow the trumpets. Joshua 6:12-13

EPIC TALES

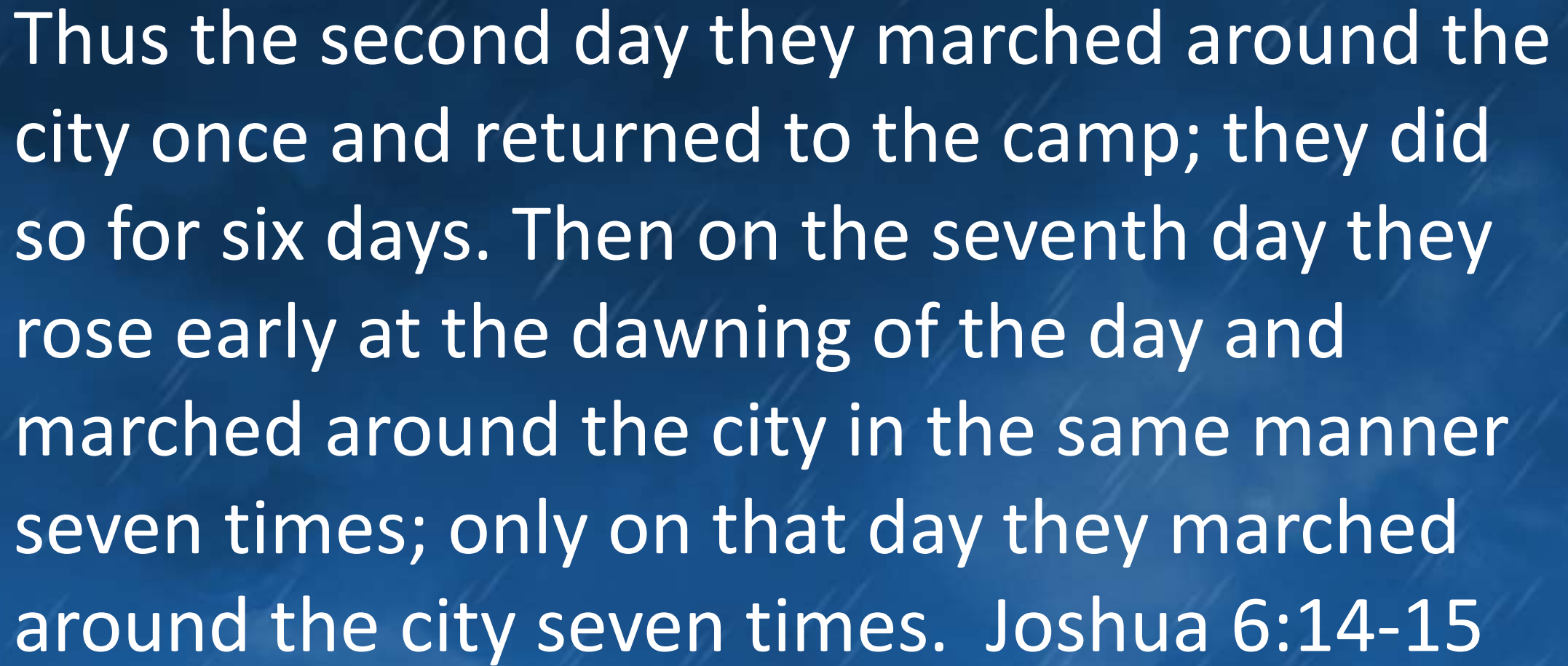
Evidence for a small fort rather than a city

- 1 The Israelites could march around it 7 times in one day and still have the energy to fight.
- 2 The archaeological remains suggest a walled structure of only about 9 acres. If we work on the assumption made by many archaeologists of 200 people per acre that would give us 1800 people living inside Jericho. We might estimate that more were living in the space between the two walls so we might estimate between 2-3000 people.
- 3 In the text the only people mentioned specifically in the account are, Rahab and her family, the king and his soldiers.

It is quite possible then that Jericho was a fortress manned by a relatively small garrison of soldiers and led by a “king” or royal ruler. Rahab and family perhaps ran a small inn that served the fort and its visitors.

4 Importantly Jericho is never mentioned in the bible as being anything other than an *ir*. Other places are prefixed with the adjective “great.” Gibeon for example is described as a “great city, *gib'on ir*”

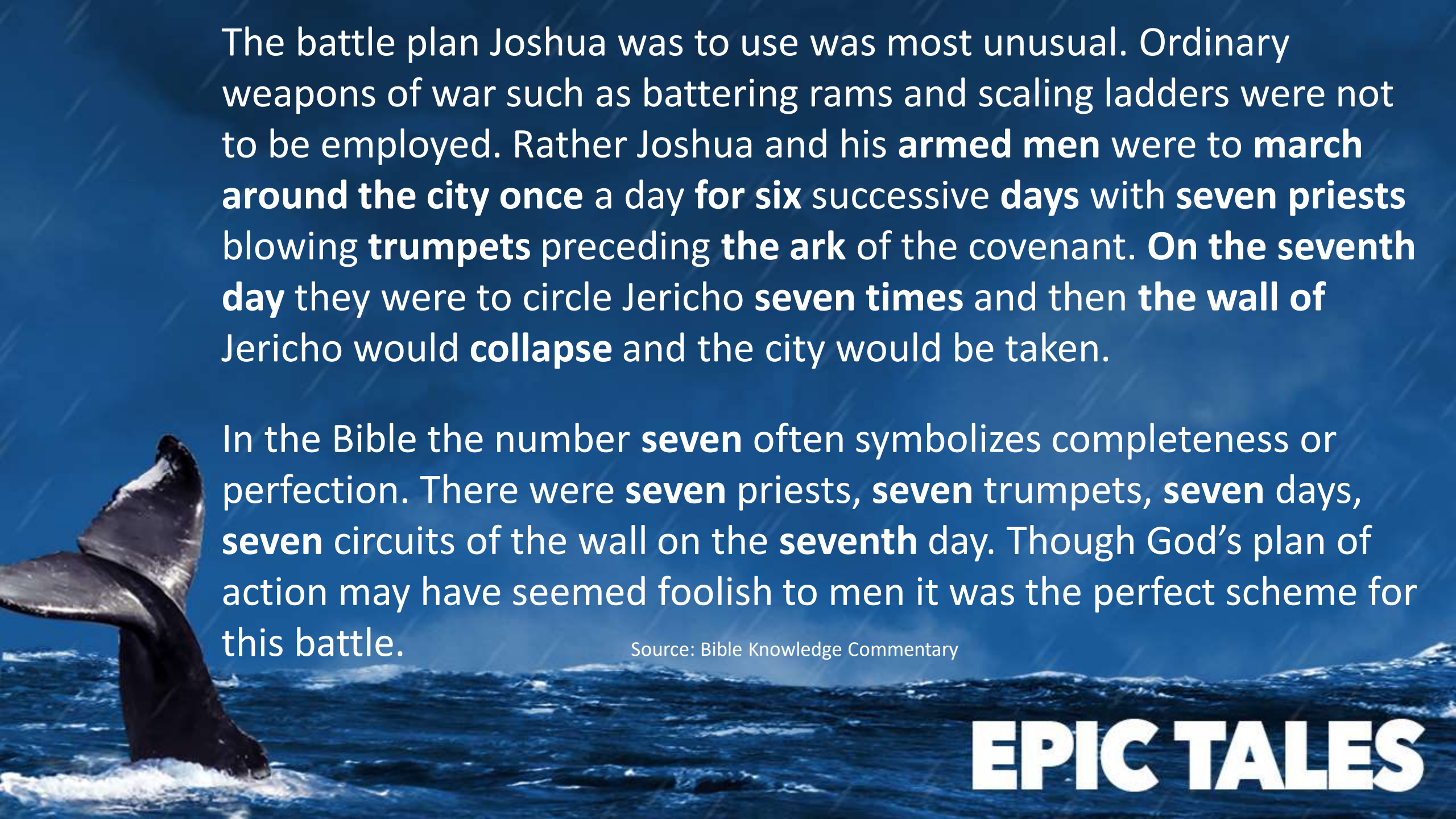
“that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.” (Joshua 10:2)

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The whale's tail is dark and has a white patch near the tip. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the tail's movement.

Thus the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp; they did so for six days. Then on the seventh day they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times. Joshua 6:14-15

Do we have the faith to keep obeying?

EPIC TALES

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The water is a deep blue with white foam at the base of the tail. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on this background in white, bold, sans-serif font.

The battle plan Joshua was to use was most unusual. Ordinary weapons of war such as battering rams and scaling ladders were not to be employed. Rather Joshua and his **armed men** were to **march around the city once** a day for **six successive days** with **seven priests** blowing **trumpets** preceding **the ark** of the covenant. **On the seventh day** they were to circle Jericho **seven times** and then **the wall of Jericho would collapse** and the city would be taken.

In the Bible the number **seven** often symbolizes completeness or perfection. There were **seven** priests, **seven** trumpets, **seven** days, **seven** circuits of the wall on the **seventh** day. Though God's plan of action may have seemed foolish to men it was the perfect scheme for this battle.

Source: Bible Knowledge Commentary

EPIC TALES

The seven day prelude – a period of preparation

The Israelites are commanded to march around the city for seven days. The verb used for “go all around” is the Hebrew word *naqaph*. It is also used significantly in these verses.

“Walk about Zion, And go all around her. Count her towers.” (Psalm 48:12)

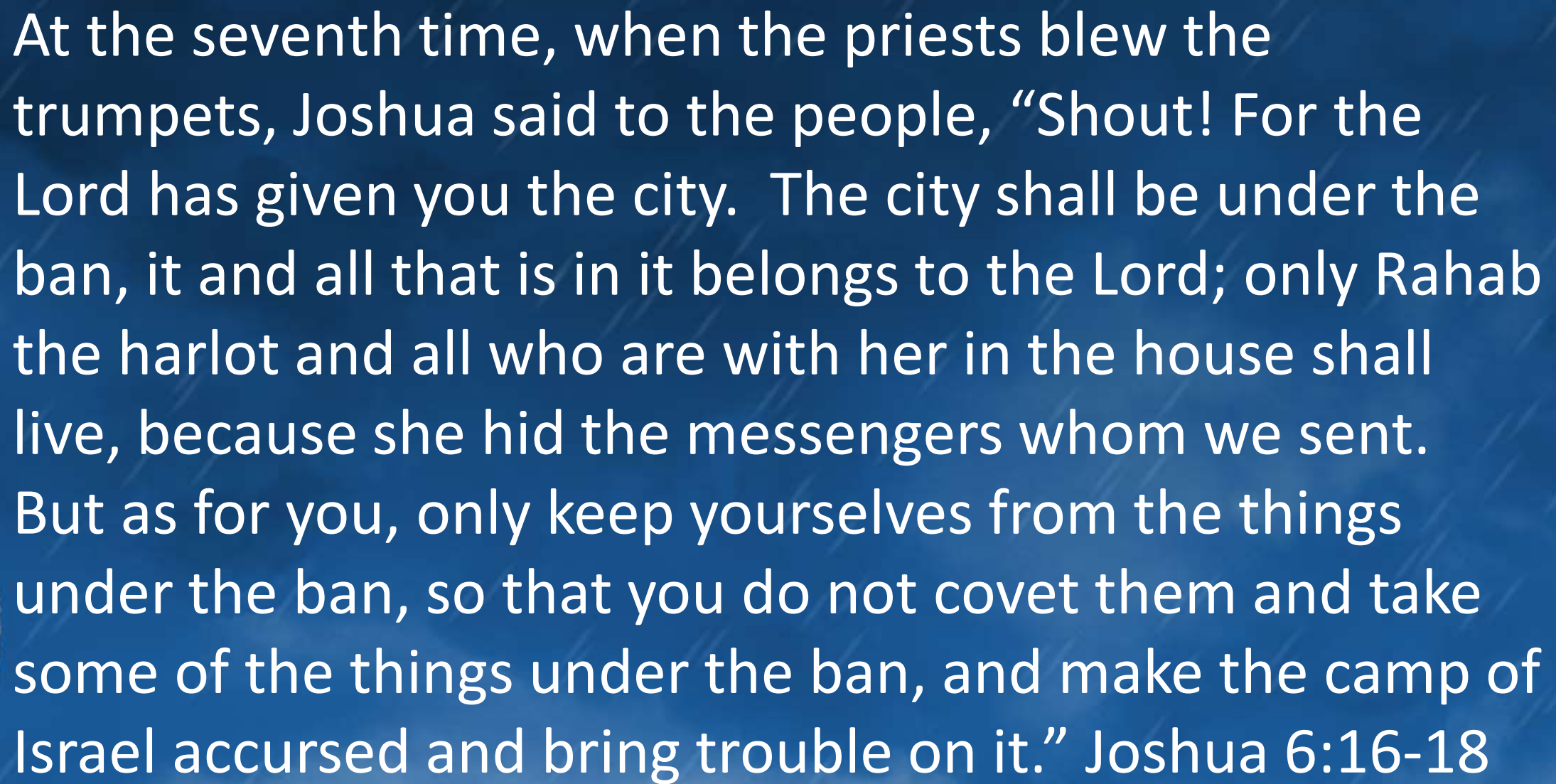
In this context a pilgrim is told to walk around Jerusalem to admire its gates and defences.

Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.” (2 Kings 6:14)

In this context the Arameans surround Dotham in order to capture Elisha.


Joshua's army then symbolically “surrounds” Jericho and on each circuit inspect the gates to see whether the inhabitants have relented and will open their gates to the army. On each of the 7 days they are prepared to enter if allowed. The sevenfold refusal brings things to completion. Seven remember is the number of perfection or completion. The inhabitants had opportunities to surrender and did not. Now that the period of preparation is complete God will act.

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a blue sky and sea. The whale's tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the base where it meets the water. The background is a deep blue sky with some light clouds, and the ocean below is a darker blue with white-capped waves.

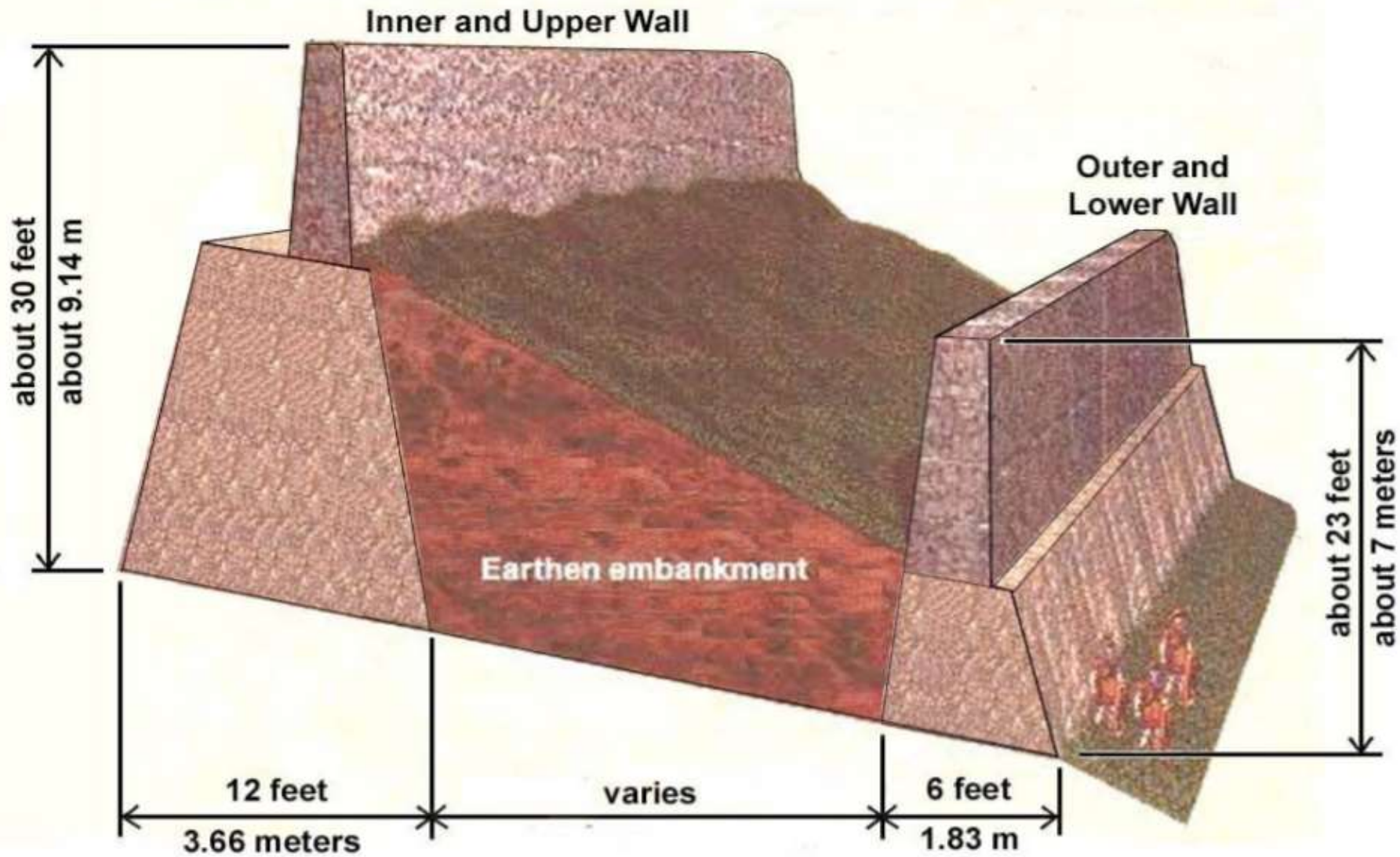
At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the Lord; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet them and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it.” Joshua 6:16-18

EPIC TALES

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a deep blue sky with a subtle pattern of light rays.

“But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.” So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city. They utterly destroyed everything in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. Joshua 6:19-21

EPIC TALES



DOUBLE REDOUBTABLE WALL FOR THE ANCIENT CITY OF JERICHO

EPIC TALES



TALES

After years of doubt among archeologists, a new analysis of excavations has yielded a wide range of evidence supporting the biblical account about the fall of Jericho. It may well be true that, in the words of the old spiritual, "Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls come tumbling down." A study of ceramic remnants, royal scarabs, carbon-14 dating, seismic activity in the region and even some ruins of tumbled walls produced what is being called impressive evidence that the fortified city was destroyed in the Late Bronze Age, about 1400 B.C. ...

"When we compare the archeological evidence at Jericho with the biblical narrative describing the Israelite destruction of Jericho, we find a quite

remarkable agreement," Dr. Bryant G. Wood, an archeologist at the University of Toronto, wrote in the March-April issue of Biblical Archeology Review.

The New York Times

Believers Score in Battle Over the Battle of Jericho

By John Noble Wilford

Feb. 22, 1990



EPIC TALES

Why did the walls of Jericho fall when the people shouted?

1. An earthquake caused the destruction.
2. Israelite soldiers undermined the walls while the others marched.
3. Vibrations set up by the trumpet blasts and soldiers' shouts caused the collapse.
4. Shock waves caused by the marching feet of the Israelites were responsible.

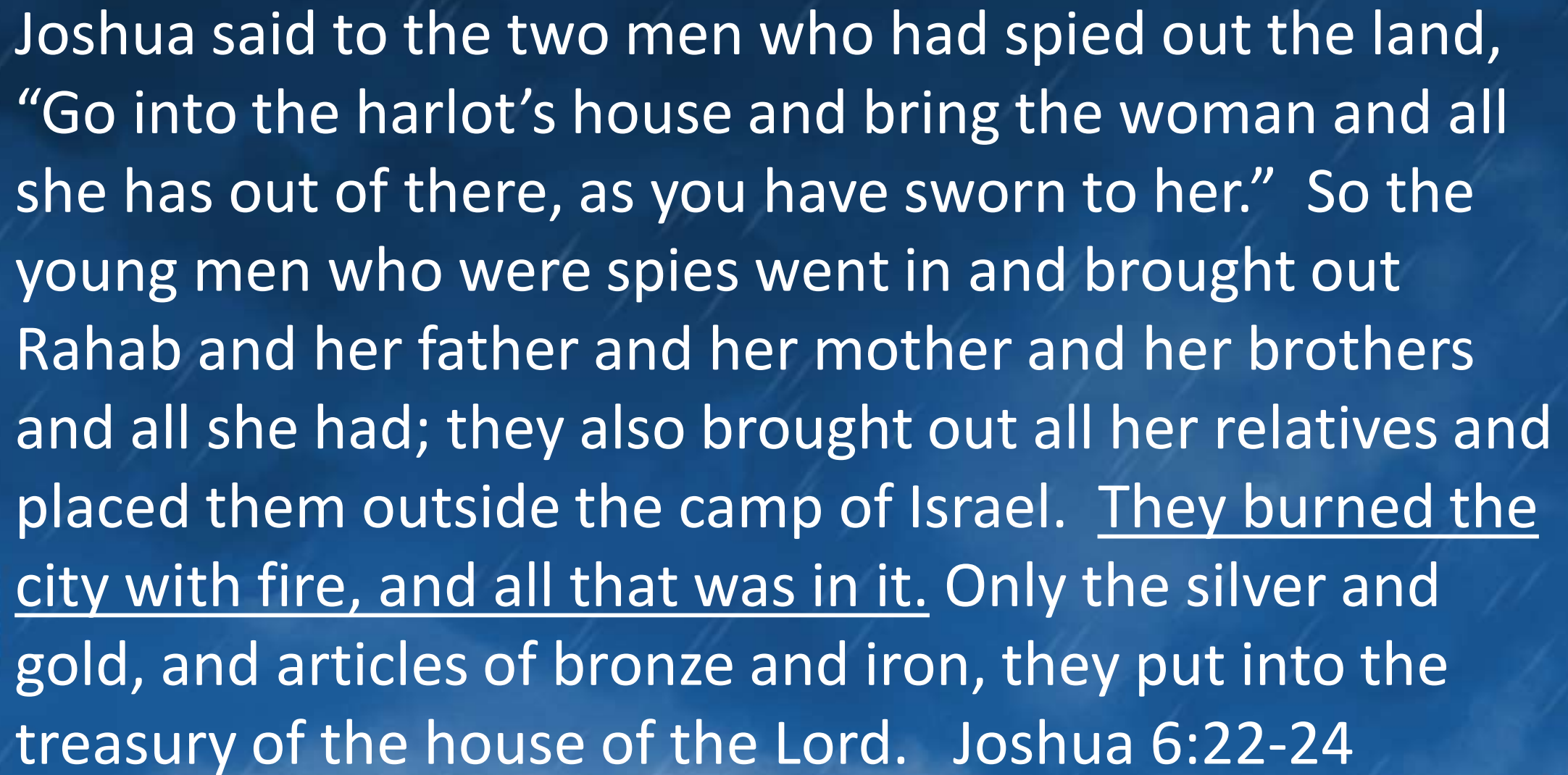
“By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days”

Hebrews 11:30

Source: Bible Knowledge Commentary

EPIC TALES



A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the harlot’s house and bring the woman and all she has out of there, as you have sworn to her.” So the young men who were spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and her mother and her brothers and all she had; they also brought out all her relatives and placed them outside the camp of Israel. They burned the city with fire, and all that was in it. Only the silver and gold, and articles of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. Joshua 6:22-24

EPIC TALES

A three-foot layer of ash, containing many pottery fragments and mud bricks from a wall, was found at the site, well preserved because it was sealed by sediments that accumulated over the years the destroyed city lay unoccupied. The charred fragments have been dated at 1410 B.C., plus or minus 40 years. Finally, several Egyptian scarabs, or amulets, found in tombs at Jericho had inscriptions placing them in the same period.

The New York Times

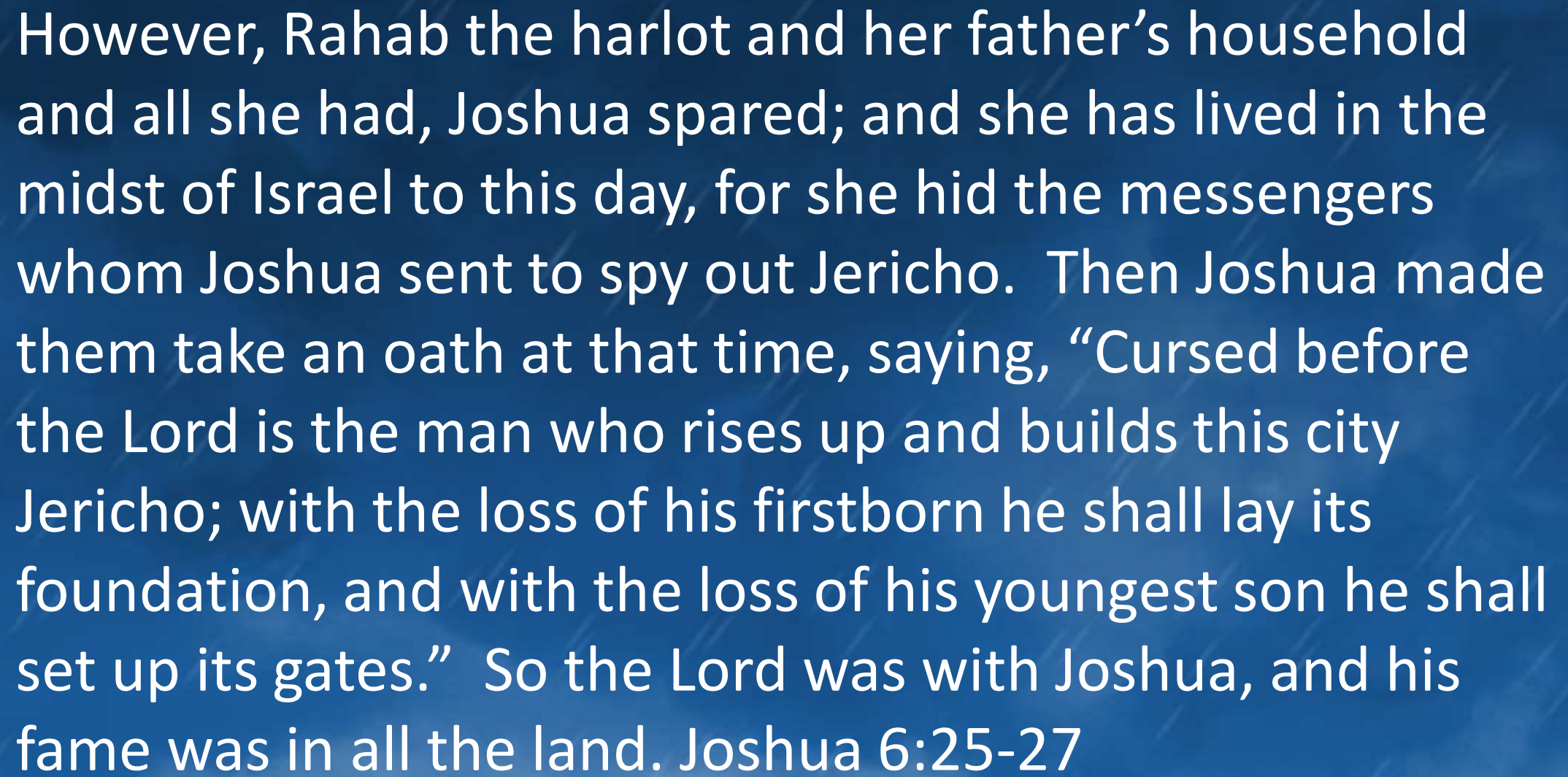
Believers Score in Battle Over the Battle of Jericho

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Feb. 22, 1990



EPIC TALES


A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

However, Rahab the harlot and her father's household and all she had, Joshua spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, for she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, "Cursed before the Lord is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with the loss of his firstborn he shall lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he shall set up its gates." So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land. Joshua 6:25-27

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Lessons from this story

1. The vast difference between God's way and the way of man.
2. The power of God is supernatural, beyond our comprehension.
3. There is an uncompromising relationship between the grace of God and our faith and obedience to Him. Although their faith had frequently failed in the past, in this instance the children of Israel believed and trusted God and His promises. As they were saved by faith, so we are today saved by faith.
4. God keeps His promises. The walls of Jericho fell because God said they would. God's promises to us today are just as certain.

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a deep blue sky and sea. The whale's tail is dark and curved, with white markings on its underside. The water is a vibrant blue with white foam from the waves.

Obedience, even when God's commands seem foolish, brings victory. When we are faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, we must learn that our victories are won only when our faithful obedience to God is complete.

<https://anyangsungkulglobalchurch.yolasite.com/resources/Fall%20of%20Jericho%20-%20Bible%20study%20-%20complete%20notes.pdf>

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God's Grace

“The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David the king.”

Matthew 1:1-6

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**And
today?**

- God has a specific calling for each of us (like Joshua)
- God's plans are mysterious and sovereign
- God offers sinners like Rahab (and us) the chance for repentance and a new life
- God rewarded Rahab's present faithfulness in spite of her past unfaithfulness
- Unbelievers like Rahab can see God at work in the lives of faithful believers like Joshua
- God wants to break down the walls in your life and call you to a relationship with Messiah Jesus

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