

JERICO HAS FALLEN

HEROES: JOSHUA

Here's some background, and what we need to know:

- Historical book (1400 to 1375 BC) - Written about 1375 BC by Joshua and Israelite scribes
- This book begins the story of Israel as a nation and contains the first events to take place upon entering the promise land.
- Moses has led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, Joshua was Moses' assistant (Numbers 11:28) and Moses appoints Joshua the leader who takes Israel into the promised land.

Numbers 13:16 These are the names of the men Moses sent out to explore the land. (Moses called Hoshea son of Nun by the name Joshua.) *(NLT)*

- The name Hoshea (or Hosea) means "salvation," or "deliverer," while Joshua or Jehoshua means "Jehovah (Yahweh) is salvation."
- Jewish tradition says that he was born in 1355 BC and died in 1245 BC. (42 years old when he spied on the promised land, 82 years old when Israel took Jericho)
- Joshua's childhood isn't mentioned in the Bible. He was probably between 30 and 40 years old when he first spied on the promise land (Numbers 13-14), only he and Caleb wanted to take the land, the other 10 were afraid, and because everyone agreed with the 10, the nation had to wander in the wilderness for 40 more years. Everyone 20 and older will die and not enter the land, except Joshua and Caleb.
- We see him in Exodus; Numbers; Deuteronomy - but primarily his story plays out in the book of Joshua.

- Joshua 11 covers his conquests to the north after the army finished in the south. Mapping is extremely difficult, not only because many exact locations aren't known, but because Joshua 10 lists primarily by cities and regions (south), and Joshua 11 lists by kingdoms (north).
- The book of Joshua consists of 5 segments:
 1. Jericho - Rahab, Spies, Walls falling down, Joshua about 80 years old (1-5)
 2. Conquering the land - 7 years of battle, 31 kingdoms (6-9)
 3. Sun stands still (10-12)
 4. Distribution of the land - wars are over, Joshua is about 87-89 years old (13-21)
 5. Final orders and death at age 110 (22-24)

Key Moments:

Exodus 33:12 When the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, they would stand and bow down in front of their own tents. **11** Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting. *(NLT)*

Joshua 1:9 "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." *(NLT)*

Joshua 24:14 "So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. **15** But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." *(NLT)*

Lesson #1

Jericho: _____

Jericho is one of the earliest continuous settlements in the world.

- Dating perhaps from about 9000 BCE.
- Archaeological excavations have demonstrated Jericho's lengthy history.
- The city's site is of great archaeological importance; it provides evidence of the first development of permanent settlements and thus of the first steps toward civilization.
- The development of agriculture probably began in Jericho, and grains of cultivated types of wheat and barley have been found.
- Jericho is thus one of the places providing evidence of very early agriculture.
- It is highly probable that, to provide enough land for cultivation, irrigation had been invented.
- Jericho was a heavily fortified settlement that gradually witnessed the birth of agriculture and animal husbandry (farming: raising animals for meat, milk, or other products), the first use of modular mud-brick architecture, and the invention of pottery.

Jericho is mentioned more than one hundred times in the Bible, often as a symbol of peace and wealth.

- Jericho's location was key to its significance.
- The city was situated in the lower Jordan Valley, just west of the Jordan River and about ten miles northwest of the Dead Sea.
- It sat in the broadest part of the Jordan plain more than 800 feet below sea level and nearly 3,500 feet below Jerusalem, which was only 17 miles away.

Deuteronomy 9:1 "Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. They live in cities with walls that reach to the sky!" (NLT)

Lesson #2

Jericho: _____

Joshua 6:17 Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed as an offering to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, for she protected our spies. **18** "Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. **19** Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury." (NLT)

Jericho was to be a "_____."

- As the first city to fall in the conquest of Canaan, the whole of it was devoted to the Lord.
- The people of Israel were to take no spoils of war; Joshua gave a clear command that "all the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury".
- In this way, Jericho was a "tithe" to the Lord who gave them the victory.
- God's people were to honor Him with the firstfruits of the conquest.
- Jericho remained unoccupied until the time of the prophets Elijah and Elisha, about 500 years later.
- Herod the Great (Jesus was born, fled to Egypt) established a winter residence at Jericho, and he died there in 4 BCE.
- Joshua's word was fulfilled when Hiel of Bethel rebuilt the city, at the cost of the lives of two of his sons (1 Kings 16:34).

1 Kings 16:34 It was during his reign that Hiel, a man from Bethel, rebuilt Jericho. When he laid its foundations, it cost him the life of his oldest son, Abiram. And when he completed it and set up its gates, it cost him the life of his youngest son, Segub. This all happened according to the message from the Lord concerning Jericho spoken by Joshua son of Nun. *(NLT)*

Lesson #3

Jericho: _____

Joshua 6:1 Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. *(NLT)*

Walls of Jericho

- The mound, or “tell” of Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base.
- The retaining wall was some four to five meters (12–15 feet) high.
- On top of that was a mudbrick wall two meters (six feet) thick and about six to eight meters (20–26 feet) high.
- At the crest of the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground level outside the retaining wall.
- This is what loomed high above the Israelites as they marched around the city each day for seven days.
- Humanly speaking, it was impossible for the Israelites to penetrate the impregnable bastion of Jericho.
- It’s estimated that the population of the upper city would have been about 1,200-1,500.
- However, from excavations carried out by a German team in the first decade of this century, we know that people were also living on the embankment between the upper and lower city walls.

- In addition, those Canaanites living in surrounding villages would have fled to Jericho for safety. Thus, we can assume that there were several thousand people inside the walls when the Israelites came against the city.

Laying siege to the city?

Joshua 3:15 It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river’s edge, *(NLT)*

Joshua 6:20 When the people heard the sound of the rams’ horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. *(NLT)*

Walls fell down

- After the seventh trip around the city on the seventh day, Scripture tells us that the wall “fell down flat” (Joshua 6:20).
- The Hebrew here carries the suggestion that it “fell beneath itself”
- After the city walls fell, how did the Israelites surmount the four to five meter (12–15 foot) high retaining wall at the base of the tell?
- Excavations have shown that the bricks from the collapsed walls formed a ramp against the retaining wall so that the Israelites could merely climb up over the top.
- The Bible is very precise in its description of how the Israelites entered the city: “the people went up into the city, every man straight before him [i.e., straight up and over],”

Joshua 6:22 Meanwhile, Joshua said to the two spies, “Keep your promise. Go to the prostitute’s house and bring her out, along with all her family.” **23** The men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all the other relatives who were with her. They moved her whole family to a safe place near the camp of Israel. *(NLT)*

Walls left standing

- The German excavation of 1907–1909 found that on the north a short stretch of the lower city wall did not fall as everywhere else. A portion of that mudbrick wall was still standing to a height of over two meters (eight feet). What is more, there were houses built against the wall! It is quite possible that this is where Rahab's house was.

Lesson #4

Jericho: _____

Joshua 6:1 Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. **2** But the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. **3** You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. **4** Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. **5** When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town." **6** So Joshua called together the priests and said, "Take up the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, and assign seven priests to walk in front of it, each carrying a ram's horn." **7** Then he gave orders to the people: "March around the town, and the armed men will lead the way in front of the Ark of the Lord." **8** After Joshua spoke to the people, the seven priests with the rams' horns started marching in the presence of the Lord, blowing the horns as they marched. And the Ark of the Lord's Covenant followed behind them. **9** Some of the armed men marched in front of the priests with the horns and some behind the Ark, with the priests continually blowing the horns. **10** "Do not shout; do not even talk," Joshua commanded. "Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. Then shout!"

More

11 So the Ark of the Lord was carried around the town once that day, and then everyone returned to spend the night in the camp. **12** Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests again carried the Ark of the Lord. **13** The seven priests with the rams' horns marched in front of the Ark of the Lord, blowing their horns. Again the armed men marched both in front of the priests with the horns and behind the Ark of the Lord. All this time the priests were blowing their horns. **14** On the second day they again marched around the town once and returned to the camp. They followed this pattern for six days.

Follow The _____

15 On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. But this time they went around the town seven times. **16** The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the town! **17** Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed as an offering to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, for she protected our spies. **18** "Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. **19** Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury." **20** When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. **21** They completely destroyed everything in it with their swords—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys.

With God In First Place

22 Meanwhile, Joshua said to the two spies, "Keep your promise. Go to the prostitute's house and bring her out, along with all her family." **23** The men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all the other relatives who were with her. They moved her whole family to a safe place near the camp of Israel. **24** Then the Israelites burned the town and everything in it. Only the things made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron were kept for the treasury of the Lord's house. **25** So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute and her relatives who were with her in the house, because she had hidden the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. And she lives among the Israelites to this day. **26** At that time Joshua invoked this curse: "May the curse of the Lord fall on anyone who tries to rebuild the town of Jericho. At the cost of his firstborn son, he will lay its foundation. At the cost of his youngest son, he will set up its gates." **27** So the Lord was with Joshua, and his reputation spread throughout the land. (NLT)

From Others

YOU _____ OR _____
BY THE WAY YOU _____