



**THE FALL OF JERICO -
DID IT HAPPEN? DOES IT MATTER?**

**FIGHT VALIANTLY!
... VICTORY, FAITH & PATIENCE**

**SOME DISTURBING BIBLE PASSAGES -
HOW SHALL WE READ THEM?**

JOSHUA 6; MATTHEW 5 : 43 - 45

SERMON OUTLINE

Scan the code or raise your hand for a physical copy of it

Canaan, the Promised Land

encompasses the
modern-day states of
Israel, the West Bank /
Gaza Strip, Jordan,
Lebanon and
southern Syria.

Jericho, the first city
captured by the
Israelites upon entering
the Promised Land
(1407 BC; Joshua 6).



Jericho, the City of Palms

Ancient Jericho

Toward the end of the Bronze Age

Rampart

Lower wall

Upper wall

Ditch

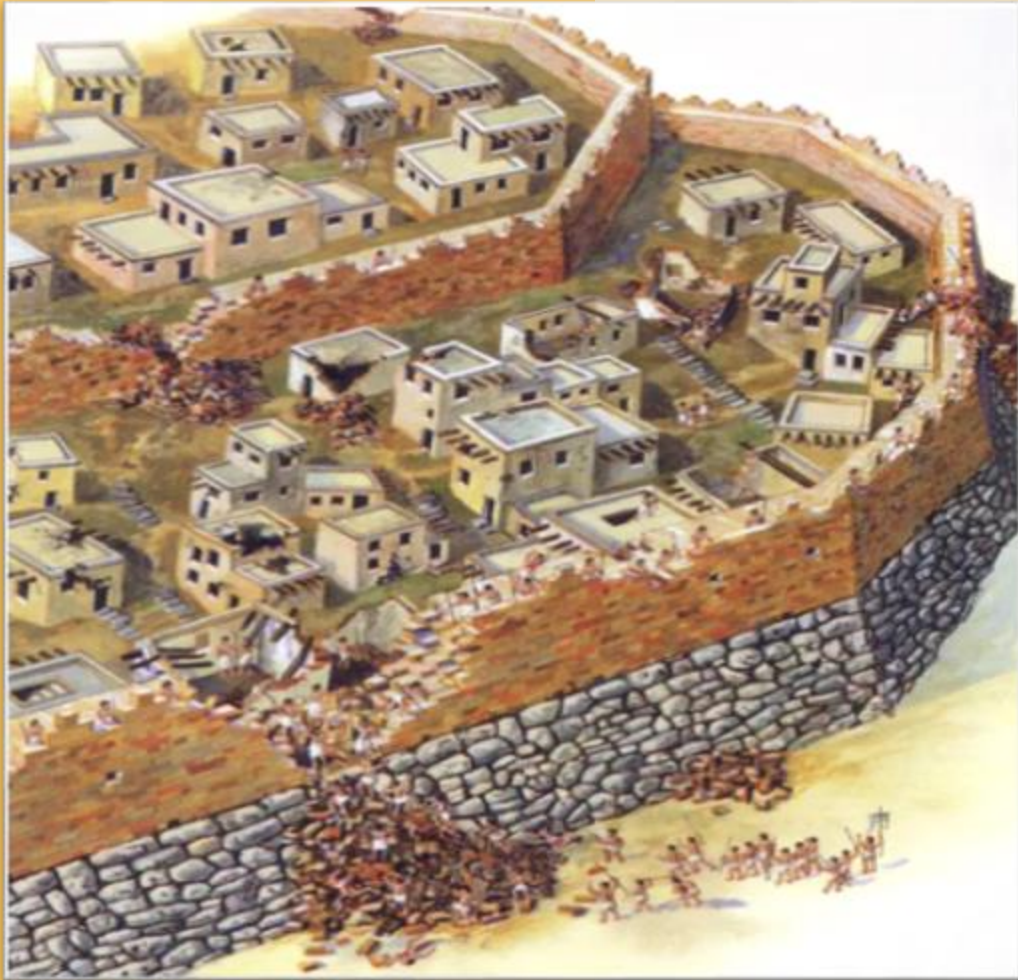
Revetment wall

Area : 8 acres

Population > 12,000

**Protected by 2 high
and parallel walls, 15 feet apart**

The Fall of Jericho



Did it really happen? Does it matter?

Previously, many thought that Jericho City was not there by the time the Israelites entered Canaan.

Recent re-examinations of earlier archaeological findings prove that there was a city that fits the biblical account of the destruction of the walled fortress of Jericho.

<https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/the-walls-of-jericho/>

Exodus from Egypt & Crossing the Red Sea



Crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land



**For whatever was written in former days was written
for our instruction, that through endurance
and through the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope.**

Romans 15:4

Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ!

Minister : I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

All : Do not be ashamed to confess
the faith of Christ crucified.
Fight valiantly
under the banner of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and continue his faithful soldier
and servant to the end of your life.



Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ ...from victory



Through his death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has defeated every spiritual enemy, including death.

And the Lord said to Joshua,
“See, I have given Jericho into your hand,
with its king and mighty men of valour.
Joshua 6: 2

I will send my terror before you
and will throw into confusion all the
people against whom you shall come,
and I will make all your enemies turn
their backs to you.
Exodus 23:27



But Joshua commanded the people, “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.” Joshua 6:10



7

speaks of God's faithfulness in completing the work He starts

7 priests, 7 trumpets, 7 days of marching, 7 circuits on the 7th day

**And I am sure of this,
that he who began a good work in you
will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus
Christ. Philippians 1:6**

The silver trumpet
was used to alert people to
something important
(Numbers 10)



The ram's horn (*shofar*)
was used in the celebration of
the Year of Jubilee, to proclaim
liberty throughout the land.
(Leviticus 25)

God delights in using (seeming) foolishness to defeat the enemy and to bring glory to His name



For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

Ephesians 6: 10-20 : Put on the whole armour of God

**Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ
... with faith and patience**

**Imitate those
who inherit the
promises of
God through
faith and
patience
(Hebrews 6:12)**

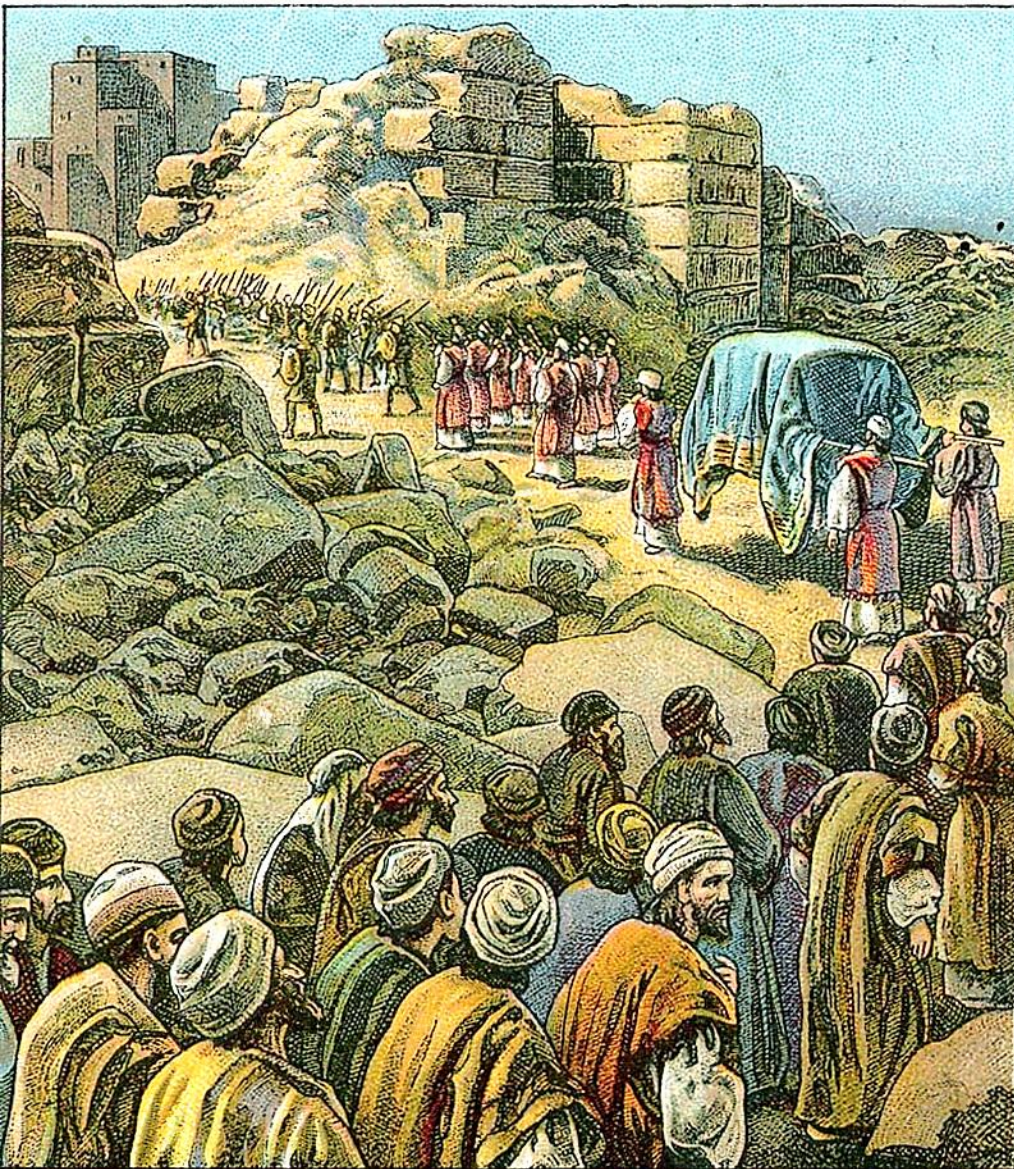


Isaiah 14:3

When the Lord has given you rest
from your pain and turmoil and the hard service
with which you were made to serve ...

Isaiah 54:14

In righteousness you shall be established;
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.



COPYRIGHTED 1907 BY PROVIDENCE LITHOGRAPH CO.

THE CAPTURE OF JERICO

Josh. 6:8-20.

GOLDEN TEXT:—By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.
Heb. 11:30.

Which will you choose?

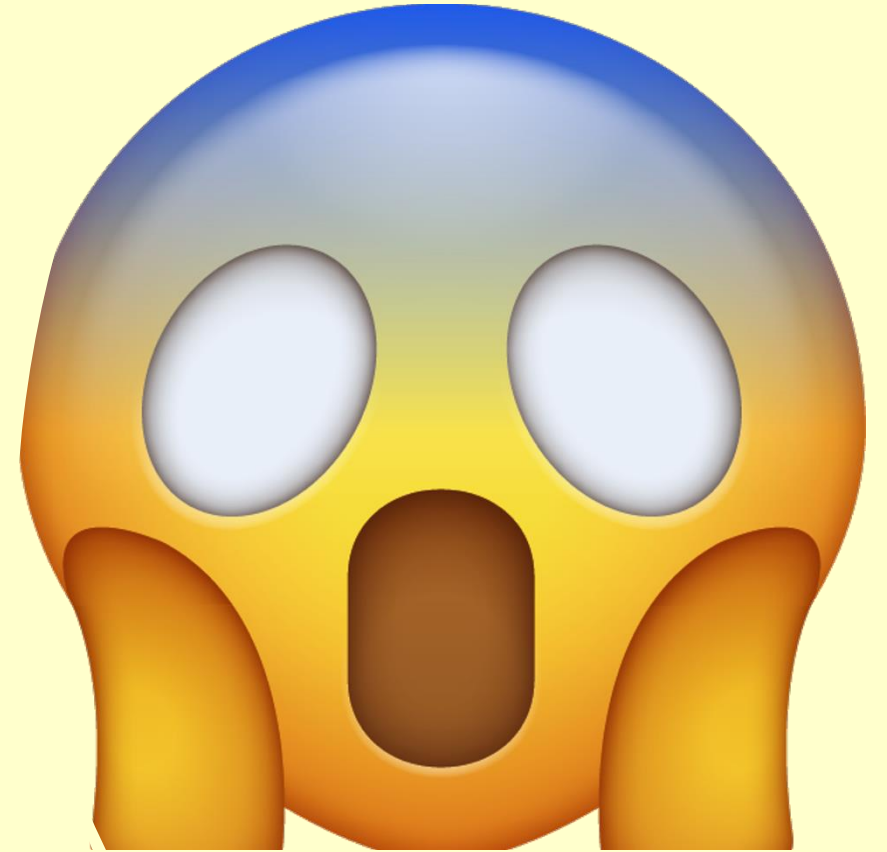
- 1) make the best plan
and hope for the best
- 2) make the best plan
and ask God to bless it
- 3) ask God for His plan
and follow it



Disturbing words ...

How do they square with a God who is good and loving?

- 6:21 : ... they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.
- 6:24 : ... they burned the city with fire, and everything in it.



A distinction and limits in the instructions on warfare

Deuteronomy 20

10 “When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it.

11 And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labour for you and shall serve you.

12 But if it makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it. 13 And when the Lord your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword, 14 but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the Lord your God has given you. 15 Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not cities of the nations here.

16 But in the cities of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes,

17 but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the Lord your God has commanded, 18 that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the Lord your God.

“When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than yourselves, 2 and when the Lord your God gives them over to

you, and you defeat them, **then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.**

³ You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, ⁴ for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. ⁵ But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

6 “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. Deuteronomy 7



Canaanite Abominations

The preservation of Israel through which God would bring salvation to the world

... I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6

Israel was chosen to be a blessing to the world;

Holy scripture, the Law and the Messiah came through the Jews.

The command for annihilation is not universal;

it is covenantal and time-bound.

Jesus Christ did not come into the world with a sword;

He came to be the sacrifice for all peoples.

We are called to proclaim the gospel of peace to all nations.


God's judgment is based on his holiness; it is not ethno-centric; it is a consequence of sin

**When Israel
sinned against
God, the
Israelites
faced the
same
judgments as
the other
peoples**

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the

Ashtaroht. **14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. 15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.**

Judges 2:11-23



**God had been patient
with the Canaanite
people**

**He endured their evil ways
from the time of Abraham
to the time of Moses,
for over 400 years**

The Canaanites

were not a people who did not know about God



“For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you ...

And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, **for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.**” 2: 9-11



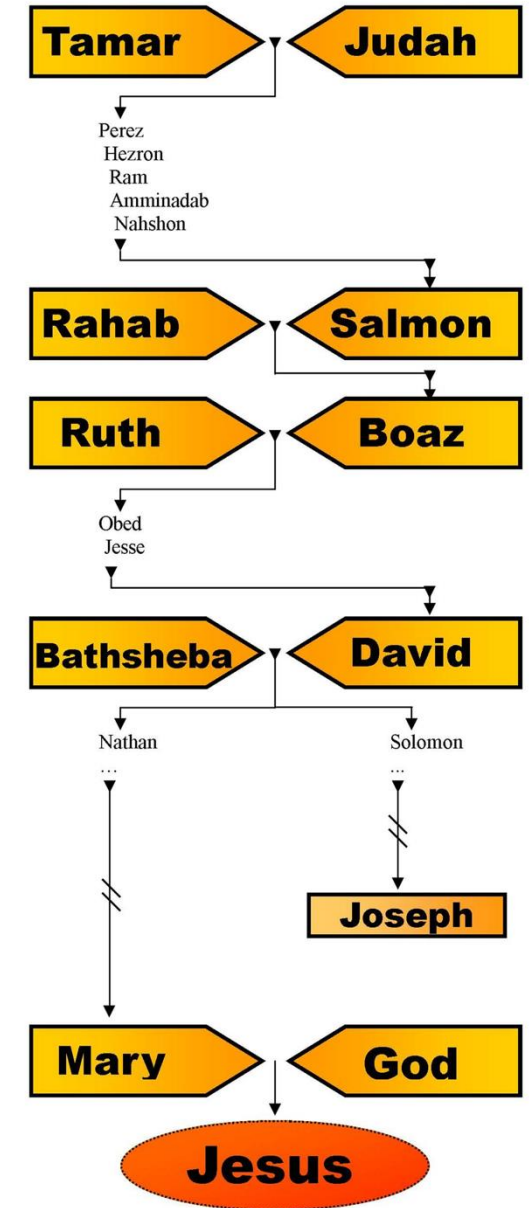
The wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, but Nineveh which repented of its evil ways, was saved when its people turned to God.

God's desire is for none to perish!

The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

In the grace of God,
Rahab was saved because of her faith.
In the abundant grace of God,
she joined the family line of Jesus Christ!
Matthew 1: 1-5



The Fall of Jericho

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15 : 4

What might this hope be for you today?

