





Ancient Jericho

Toward the end of the Bronze Age

Archaeological excavations reveal that Jericho was violently destroyed sometime toward the end of the Bronze Age. The walls seem to have been thrown down by sudden force, as if by an earthquake. Charred wood shows that what was left of the city was burned. Excavators have also found food supplies buried in the destroyed city, which shows it was not captured by siege.





A Closed City

- Jericho seems to have been the principal stronghold of the Canaanites.
 - So this city is the first “Giant” to be faced by God’s People.
- God’s People are now ready for warfare – just as Christians who have been Baptised and Confirmed become **Soldiers for Christ** (2 Tim 2:3) serving under the banner of the Cross and fighting for the salvation of souls.
- Jericho was a frontier town... a powerful fortress... it was the **KEY** to opening the door and conquering this land.
- The inhabitants of Jericho considered their town impregnable... they were certain that Israel did not have the weaponry to put it under siege...

But It was essential for Israel to conquer Jericho – as this would give a major message to all the other fortified towns (cf Num 14)

- In the overthrow of Jericho God demonstrated that His ways are very different to ours: Is 55:8-9.
 - God will accomplish this with ease!
 - We will also see how **futile** it is to oppose God and there is **no place** we can hide from Him: Lk 23:30 Rev 6:16 Hosea 10:8 cf Psalm 139
- In Joshua 5:13-15 the “Captain of the Army of the Lord” introduced Himself to Joshua, because **He** was going to lead this campaign. Joshua, his men and the Priests only had to **OBEY**. Obedience would bring victory. God’s People needed Faith, obedience, courage and patience to **LET GOD ACT**.

Note In this event God’s People are **NOT** on the defensive, trying to protect themselves from others.

No! They assume the initiative and go actively into spiritual warfare.

- What happens at Jericho introduces us to the **NEXT 6 CHAPTERS** and gives us the right way to interpret them.

Before That:

We have to connect the incident at the Burning Bush in Ex 3 with Joshua’s meeting with the Captain of God’s Army’:

- (i) The Burning Bush experience told Moses that God **was WITH** His **suffering People**
 - The BB represented **the iron furnace** (Deut 4:20) of Egypt.
- (ii) Now the Lord is no longer suffering with His People. He is their Leader/Captain
 - He was going to lead them in **the Wars of the Lord: Num 21:15**.
- (iii) This was God’s war because **the cup of the Amorites was overflowing**:
 - Gen 15:16
 - Lev 18:25and God was using Israel as His hand of Judgement on the **unrepentant** natives.

Background Information:

- Ⓝ From eternity God had chosen Israel as the people He wanted to work with in order to establish **GOD’S REIGN** on the Earth.
- Satan and the rebellious Angels knew this. They came to the Earth (Gen 6) to destroy as many souls as possible... they got the people to worship **FALSE GODS** who were made in the image of demons, and they enticed the people to immorality **EVEN AS PART OF WORSHIP** – so that the people would become **BLIND** and **DEAF** spiritually...
- This is why God had to work mighty miracles throughout the Exodus so that **ALL** the Nations would **SEE** and **HEAR**... and **come to honour** the One True God.

Warning: If we interpret these texts on a purely HUMAN level you will miss the REASON WHY they were written!

- We have to see these events from God's point of view in order to understand why we would HAVE 'wars of the Lord' at all.
- This is a spiritual battle between God and Satan and between those whom God has chosen and those whom Satan had seduced and deceived.

cf Eph 6:10-17

vs12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against THE RULERS of the darkness OF THIS AGE, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

vs13 Therefore, take up the whole armour of God...

Remember the Exodus!

Ex 12:12-13 God went to war with the gods of Egypt. God was NOT against Egypt. Any Egyptian citizen was welcome to join the Lord's Redeemed ones – after all ALL HEBREWS were Egyptian at that stage, after 400 years in that country.

- In fact we should look at the Exodus and Egypt from God's perspective. Egypt was the FIRST COUNTRY to be evangelised. God chose a very special prophet and holy man – Moses – to work with them. He was ONE OF THEM! He understood them and their culture. He spoke their language.
- It is much harder for Joshua – who is a stranger and foreigner to Canaan.
 - he does NOT understand them, nor does he speak their language
 - this is why THE LORD came to him as COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF to lead the campaign.

Deut 18:9-14 tells us why the Canaanites were ripe for Judgement (2022 Western World take note!) Notice vs12 **For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. It is BECAUSE of these abominations that the Lord your God DRIVES THEM OUT before you.**

1 Cor 10:20 **The sacrifices that they offer, they sacrifice TO DEMONS...**

So, the campaign in Canaan is God's War:

against: (i) Satan and the powers of evil

against: (ii) Filthy practices in worship to Satan and demonic power

against: (iii) The SACRIFICING OF INFANTS – abortion, etc. Satan always demands the sacrifice of THE MOST PURE in Humanity – to be offered to himself THE MOST IMPURE being.

(NB) Abortion is the surest sign that Satan rules Nations.
Abortion makes those Nations ripe for Judgement.

- NT**
- **Yeshua: Jesus and Redemption:** When Man apostatized from God he became Satan's slave.
 - Christ came to set the enslaved people free from all Nations.
 - **But** to do so Jesus had to conquer Satan! Lk 11:22: Satan is the Strong Man safely ruling the world until the conqueror, Jesus, came and dealt with him on Calvary.
 - Satan brought death into the world: Wisdom 2:24
 - Satan works to bring us to spiritual death: **the wages of sin is death**: Rom 6:23
 - spiritual death leads to Hell – **the Second Death**: Rev 20:6
 - therefore Satan traps his victims in immorality, unbelief, false religion, etc. so that he can HARVEST them for Hell – thus robbing Jesus of His Harvest of Souls in Redemption.

- To conquer the strong man (Satan) Jesus invaded his Fortress which was now **PLANET EARTH**: Gen 6
 - He absorbed all the sins of Mankind in Himself **God made the Sinless One into sin** for our **FREEDOM**: **2 Cor 5:21** so that He could take on the **Powers** of **Death & Hell** and conquer them **that through death He might destroy him that had power over death**: Heb 7:14 **triumphing over Principalities & Powers** Col 2:14
 - As **His** soldiers we must wear **the armour of God**.

6:1 Jericho was a fortress – all its citizens barricaded because of Israel.
Notice that they are **AFRAID** of God's People. They refuse to confront them in battle.
Why? The miracle of the Jordan crossing terrified them.

See ch 5:1: They were afraid of the **GOD OF ISRAEL**... not those desert dwellers.

Notice That the people of Jericho put their Hope in the strength **OF THE WALLS** of the city!

- their spies have seen no great armaments with Israel
- yet they are uneasy at the **quiet confidence** of Joshua and his men
- **they** don't know about the Captain of God's Army who leads Israel into battle.

Will thick walls keep **THE CREATOR** out?! (cf Psalm 139)

- a) **Remember** Peter in chains in Acts 12:10. The Angel found no problem either with his chains or the iron gates leading to the city.
 - b) **Remember** Paul & Silas in prison in Acts 16:25-40: God sent an earth tremor which released them.
 - c) **Remember** Ps 127:1-2 **Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it. Unless the Lord watches over the city...**
- The people of Jericho were pagan idolaters who **could** not appreciate that the **LIVING GOD** who created the Universe was about to visit them in Judgement!
 - modern pagan idolaters who live in immorality have the same problem.
 - d) Remember Numbers 13:28 **Its inhabitants are a powerful people; THE TOWNS are fortified and very big.**
 - e) Remember Deut 1:28: the spies considered these cities **UNASSAILABLE**.
 - Just as the Jordan was **UNFORDABLE**.
 - God showed them how easy they could cross the Jordan with **Him** in charge.
 - He will now show them how easy it is to conquer the Enemy when **HE IS IN CHARGE**.