

JESUS, JERICHO AND RAHAB. Heb.11v24-31. Rev.19v15. "Sharp sword." Josh.5v13-15.

a. Jesus is Faithful and True, and True and Righteous in Judgement. Rev.19v11-21. Is.13v9-13. Mt.25v31f. Zech.13v8,9. Rev.16v5,6. 19v2. Jesus cleans up the world at His return.

b. The ancient city of Jericho. Ancient Jericho is now an ovoid (egg-shaped) mound, called "Tell es-Sultan," on the North West outskirts of the modern city of Jericho. The Tell is about 400 yards long from North to South and covers about ten acres. Just across the road from the Tell is the copious spring of "Ain es-Sultan," which waters the modern oasis, and was probably why Jericho was built there. Jericho is called "The City of Palms," because of the many palm trees. The ruins of New Testament Jericho are found one mile to the West of the modern city, on both banks of the Wadi Qelt.

Jericho is about 10 miles North West of the mouth of the Dead Sea, and 17 miles East North East of Jerusalem. Jericho is 900 feet below the Red Sea, and Mount Olivet at 2700 feet is 3624 feet higher than Jericho, Jerusalem is about 3500 feet higher.

JERUSALEM is 32 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, 18 miles from Jordan, 20 miles from Hebron, and 36 miles from Samaria. Jerusalem is on a rocky plateau, and the North West part of the city is 2581 feet above sea level, and 3700 feet above the Dead Sea. The hills of Bethlehem at 2704 feet are about 5 miles to the South East of Jerusalem. Bethel is 11 miles to the North of Jerusalem and 419 feet lower.

N.B. The Jebusite city of Jerusalem was only held by Judah for a short time after the start of the conquest of Canaan in 1400 B.C., it was captured by David in the seventh year of his forty year reign, when he was 37, in 1048 B.C., at the start of his rule over all Israel. **It took 350 years to possess Jerusalem,** which was only seventeen miles from Jericho. Josh.10v1-5,23-27. 15v63. Judges.1v8. 2Sam.5v4-10.

c. The strategic position of Jericho.

Jericho was 6 miles from where Israel crossed the Jordan, it was strategically placed at the entrance of two passes through the hills, one leading to Jerusalem, the other to Ai and Bethel.

1. THE 450 YEARS OF MERCY AND DELAYED JUDGEMENT ON THE CANAANITES.

a. About 500 years of delayed execution. In Gen.15v7-21., God promised Canaan to Abraham's seed, but said they would not possess it for almost 500 years, because "the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full." Gen.15v13-16. God gave them a further 400 plus years to repent, from the time of Abraham .

b. The seven nations to be utterly destroyed.

The Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, were to be utterly destroyed, Israel were to "save nothing alive that breathes." This was done because they would corrupt Israel with their idolatry, and without doubt, with their diseases. Deut.2v30-37. Sihon. Note v24,35. 7v1-6,20. 20v16-18.

Other cities in Canaan had only the inhabitants killed, and the cattle and other booty were given to the children of Israel, but Jericho was to be utterly destroyed, even its animals. Jericho was "accursed, devoted to destruction," "cherem," Jericho had to be burnt with fire, and the gold and silver had to be brought into the treasury of the Lord, for the needy of the land. Josh.6v17-19. Mal.3v10. "Food." Any city who did not belong to the seven evil nations, had the opportunity to make peace. Deut.20v10-15. If they did not fight Israel, they remained under tribute to Israel and served Israel. But if they fought Israel, every male was to be killed, and the women and children and their were to be taken as spoil.

2. THE HARDNESS OF HEART AND UNRESTRAINED WICKEDNESS OF THE CANAANITES.

a. The total abandonment to the evil occult. Like Jannes and Jambres, the Egyptian occultists who withstood Moses..

b. The total abandonment to immorality and sex perversion. Dreadful immorality of the worst kind was associated with the worship of Ashteroth and Baal worship. The homosexual sins of Sodom were also rife throughout Canaan.

c. The total abandonment to the slaughter of the innocents. The babies born in their idolatrous orgies was given as sacrificial offerings to their gods, the babies were thrown into the flames. Every house was founded on a human sacrifice.

3. THE INCURABLE DISEASES OF THE CANAANITES.

"Full iniquity" led to full disease, which was a danger to all the land, it had to be purged with fire. Achan was contaminated as well as disobedient, his disobedience destroyed his protection, and brought Divine judgement.

4. THE HARDENED RESISTANCE TO THE WORKS AND SPIRIT OF GOD. Rom.2v1-4. Heb.6v1-5.

Rahab said that Jericho and all the surrounding nations were terrified, because of the drying up of the Red Sea, and the victories on the East bank of Jordan over the Amorite kings Sihon and Og. The people of Jericho knew that God had given them into the hand of the Israelites. Yet they fought God and the people of God.

5. THE STRATEGY OF THE DIVINE JUDGEMENT AND VICTORY.

a. The problem of the 33 feet thick walls of Jericho.

Garstang said that the outer wall of Jericho was six feet thick, the inner wall was twelve feet thick, and the fifteen feet between these walls was filled with rubble. According to Garstang, then, the walls were 33 feet thick, and which explains how the house of Rahab was on the wall. Kathleen Kenyon found the foundations of both the inner and outer wall, but wrongly explained this as an expansion of the town to give more room, her date for the fall at 1350 to 1325 B.C., is also incorrect.

b. Jesus visits Joshua, and stands with drawn sword against Jericho. Josh.5v13-15.

What and amazing sight, the Lord of love, with a sword of judgement in His hand!!! God's promise to be with, and not fail or forsake Joshua, was fulfilled. Josh.1v5-8.

Holy ground. Christ is as holy and dedicated in love, when He is acting in His judgements, as in His acts of mercy.

Divine judgements make nations learn righteousness. Is.26v9. 60v20. Ps.2v9. Rev.2v27. 12v5. 19v15. A rod of iron brings peace in the Millennium. Is.32v1,17,18.

N.B. THE SEVEN DAY WALK. WHY DID OUR LORD CHOOSE THIS STRATEGY?

a. It was to make Israel pray and praise for seven days. A marching prayer meeting.

b. It was to demonstrate and build total reliance upon Divine revelation.

c. It was to demonstrate and build total reliance upon Divine power.

d. It was to demonstrate that Israel's victory came through their covenant with God.

The city was ovoid, say 500 yards in diameter. Allow 500 yards clearance to get the people out of arrow range, this makes a circle 1,000 yards in diameter. Once round is $2(\pi)r$, 1000 times 22 over 7 = 3,143 yards. Seven times is 22,001 yards 12.5 miles. Seven priests in front of THE ARK OF THE COVENANT and the people; to march six days once round the city, on the seventh day, seven times round the city. On the 7th day the priests were to sound their horns and everybody was to shout with a great shout. The ark of the covenant, was the symbol of God's covenant with Israel. Immoral Hophni and Phineas tried to imitate this march, with the Philistines and died for it. The covenant sealed with blood on the mercy seat. Rev.12v10-12. Achan died too.

THE MEANS AND NATURE OF THIS VICTORY.

The Divine principles that brought victory over Jericho, brought victory in the Early Church.

a. The wilderness testing before power. Those with evil hearts of unbelief were all dead. Ps.95.all. Heb.3v12,19. See all Heb.3 and 4. Numb.13 end to 14v25.

b. The Revelation of God the Father and Jesus.

c. The Obedience of Faith. Rom.1v5. Subordination to the Divine orders.

d. The Unity of Action and Prayer. Of one accord. Faith is an act, and unity of the Body of Christ, is an act of real faith.

e. The Shout of Faith and Praise. Heb.11v30. Raised voices, hands, hearts and eyes.

6. RAHAB.

a. Rahab's fear of God and faith in God. "The Lord your God, He is God in Heaven above and in earth below." Josh.2v11. Rahab was justified by faith. Heb.11v31.

b. Rahab proved her faith by works. She hid the spies at risk to her life under the flax on the house, and helped them escape through her window on the city wall. James tells us these works proved her faith and justified her. James.2v25. Josh.2v6. The same principle applies when our Lord returns. Mt.25v30ff.

c. She pleaded for and saved her relatives. Josh.2v12,13. with 6v17,23.

d. Rahab was healed by Divine grace and power. In a city filled with disease, Rahab was at the receiving end of disease because she was a prostitute, God healed her.

e. Rahab married Salmon, then a youth, perhaps one of the spies. She was the mother of Boaz, Ruth.4v12., the grandfather of Jesse. Rahab broke the Scriptures, for God commanded them to kill all Canaanites, but Rahab was one of four foreign ladies who are mentioned in Christ's genealogy, Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Rahab.

7. THE FORTRESSES OF SATAN. 2Cor.10v4,5. Rom.15v18-21.

a. The failure of carnal weapons. Oratory, elocution, and human wisdom.

b. The need for spiritual weapons, mighty through God. Acts.10v38. 2Cor.10v1-5.

c. The tearing down of strongholds. Compare Athens and Corinth. 1Cor.2v1-5.

d. The casting down of imaginations.

e. The bringing of every thought into captivity to Christ. Compare. Lk.4v18. Preach deliverance to the captives. Israel was bound by lies even more than the Gentiles.

8. CHRIST'S DESTRUCTION OF THE DESTROYER SATAN, AND HIS FORTRESSES. Heb2v14,15.

Fear of death. Job.10v20-22. Gen.37v35. 42v38. 44v29. Is.38v1-3. Phil.1v19-21. Our Lord's victory over sin and Satan. Lk.9v31. Eph.4v8. Heb.2v14,15. "Katargeo."

NOTE:

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