

# Jericho

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- Jericho is the oldest walled city known to us. Oldest city in the world to be discovered thus far.
- It was the major city at the southern end of the Jordan valley located at the western end of the plain.
- “City of Palms.” 825 feet below sea level. From Jerusalem to Jericho and the Dead Sea area, it is a drop of 3,600 feet in 20 miles.
- Location:
  - West of the Jordan River and just north of the Dead Sea.
  - About ten miles from the point where the Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea.
  - About seventeen miles northeast of Jerusalem.
- Jericho sits on a ten acre mound that is four hundred yards (1200’) long from north to south.
  - The mound is 50’ high.
  - The mound is uneven on top with four smaller mounds on it.
  - The highest mound is 90’ which is 40’ above the level of the lower mound.
- Jericho is mentioned some sixty-three times in the Bible.
- New Testament Jericho is located about one mile west of the modern city.

## Jericho in the Old Testament

- It is first noted when Israel camped on the other side of the Jordan River. **Numbers 22:1; 26:3**
- The two spies sent out by Joshua from Shittim lodged with Rahab, the harlot, in Jericho. **Joshua 2:1-24**

- As Joshua stood by Jericho, the commander of the army of the Lord appeared to him. Joshua was told to take off his shoes because he stood on holy ground. He removed his shoes, bowed down, and worshipped. **Joshua 5:13-15**
- After Joshua led the people over the Jordan River, they pitched their camp near the city. By the command of God, the armed men of the Israelites destroyed Jericho. They marched around the city once a day for six days with the Ark of the Covenant accompanied by seven priest blowing trumpets. On the seventh day they compassed the city seven times. When the signal was given by a loud blast on the trumpets, the people shouted and the walls Jericho fell down. The Israelites went in and slew all the people, with the exception of Rahab and her family. They destroyed everything except silver, gold, and other valuables that were taken for the treasury of the Lord (Joshua 6). Achan coveted and took some money (200 shekels of silver and a gold bar weighing 50 shekels) and a Babylonian garment from Jericho for himself, thus transgressing God's command, for which he and his entire family were put to death. **Joshua 7:18-26**
- After the construction of Jericho, Joshua said in **Joshua 6:26** — "Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying,"Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."
- Years later during the reign of Ahab (874-853 B.C.) Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. The curse was fulfilled in **1 Kings 16:34** — "In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun."
- From Jericho Joshua sent spies to Ai. They returned and reported that 2,000 or 3,000 men could take Ai. **Joshua 7:1-7**
  - 3,000 men were sent.
  - Initially were defeated because of the sin of Achan. **Joshua 7:11-12; 19-26**
  - Thirty-six Israelites were killed. Joshua 7:5
  - After Achan's punishment, Ai was taken.. The whole army of Israel went. **Joshua 8:1-29**
- Jericho was assigned to the tribe of Benjamin. Joshua 18:21
- Jericho was not mentioned again for some time, but apparently it was rebuilt and established as a prominent place. David's servants were embarrassed because Hanun had shaved off their beards and cut their

garments in the middle. They went to Jericho until their beards grew again.

**2 Samuel 10:4-5**

- During Elijah's time, there was a community of the prophets at Jericho. It was at Jericho that Elijah went up to Heaven in a whirlwind. **2 Kings 2:1-5**

## **Jericho in the New Testament**

- Herod the Great expanded the new Jericho into winter capital. He later died there.
- Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River approximately 5 miles east of Jericho near where Joshua and the Israelites crossed.
- As Jesus was leaving Jericho, He restored sight to blind Bartemaeus. **Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43**
- Zacchaeus, the head tax-collector in Jericho, climbed up in the Sycamore tree in order to see Jesus pass by. **Luke 19: 1-10**
- Jericho is mentioned in the story of the Good Samaritan. **Luke 10:30-37**

