

The Lord Won the Battle of Jericho



Joshua 6

World's perspective on battle of Jericho

“The trumpets are pure fantasy to be sure because we don't see any signs of a battle. We know that the Israelites didn't fight any great battles. How could they seeing that they were struggling just to survive? They were a penniless people. The capture of Jericho as the Bible describes it, was certainly, just a legend”

(Encyclopedia Britannica)

World's perspective on battle of Jericho

“This part of the story is purely a literary invention”

(Professor Jan Assman, University of Hiedelberg)

“At this point, Israel was NOT a single unified nation marching forward in battle. They were rather simply separate settler groups that banded together seeking refuge in the already abandoned civic structures”

(Walter Diedrich, University of Bern)

World's perspective on battle of Jericho

“It is a sad fact that of the town walls of the Late Bronze Age, within which period the attack by the Israelites must fall by any dating, not a trace remains The excavation of Jericho, therefore, has thrown no light on the walls of Jericho of which the destruction is so vividly described in the Book of Joshua.”

(Kathleen Kenyon)

World's perspective on battle of Jericho

“Kenyon concluded, with reference to the military conquest theory and the LB [Late Bronze Age] walls, that there was no archaeological data to support the thesis that the town had been surrounded by a wall at the end of LB I [ca. 1400 B.C.].”

(Thomas A. Holland)

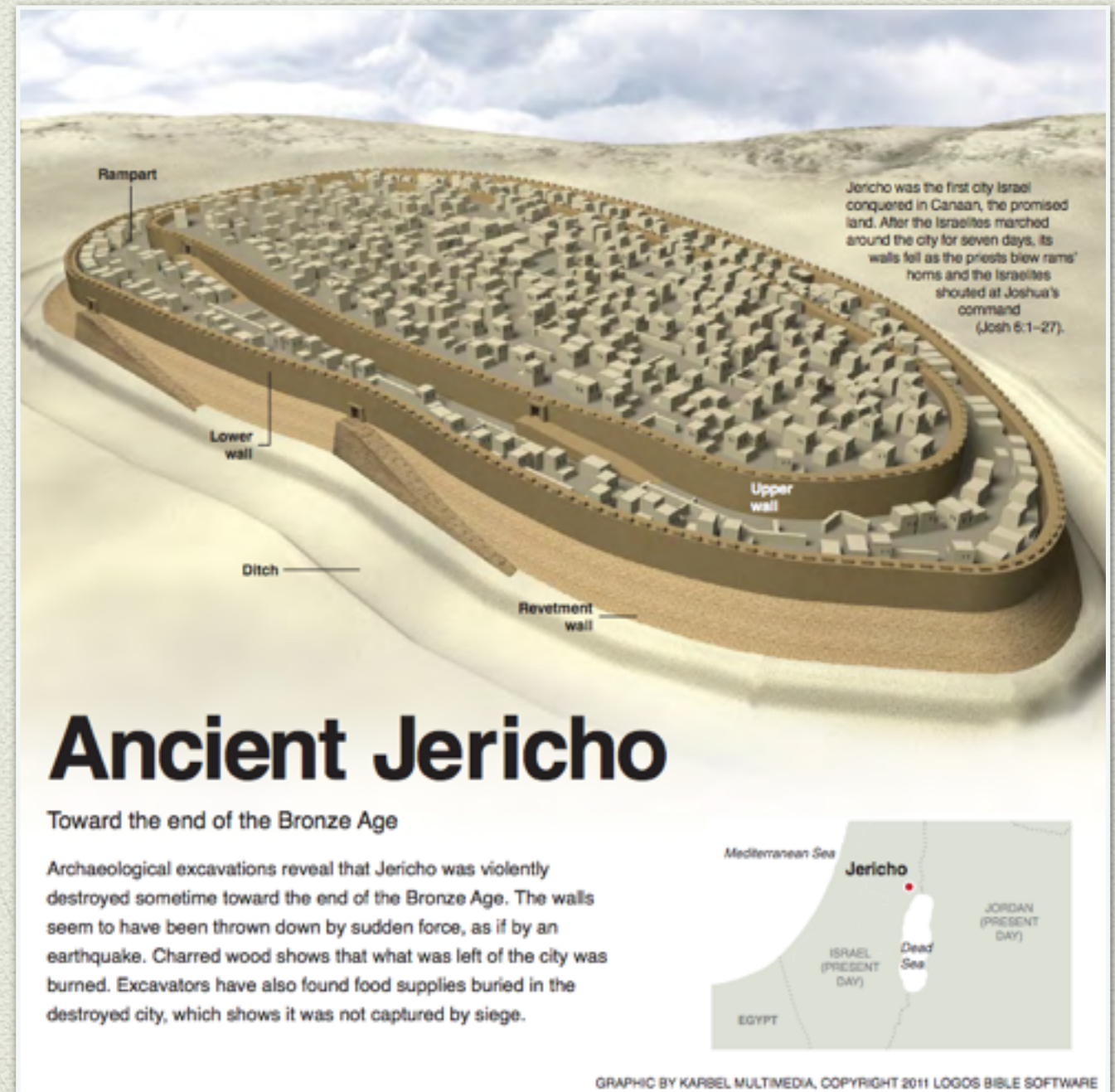
World's perspective on battle of Jericho

“It never happened!”

The Lord's perspective on Jericho (1-2)

Jericho

- One of the oldest inhabited cities in the world
- City itself sat at the top of a mount
- Abundant springs in and around the city
- Described as the "City of Palm Trees"
- Hebrew word "Yeriho"..derived from Canaanite word "Reah" (fragrant)
- Could have come from Canaanite word for "moon" (*Yareah*) or the name of the lunar deity Yarikh for whom the city was an early center of worship

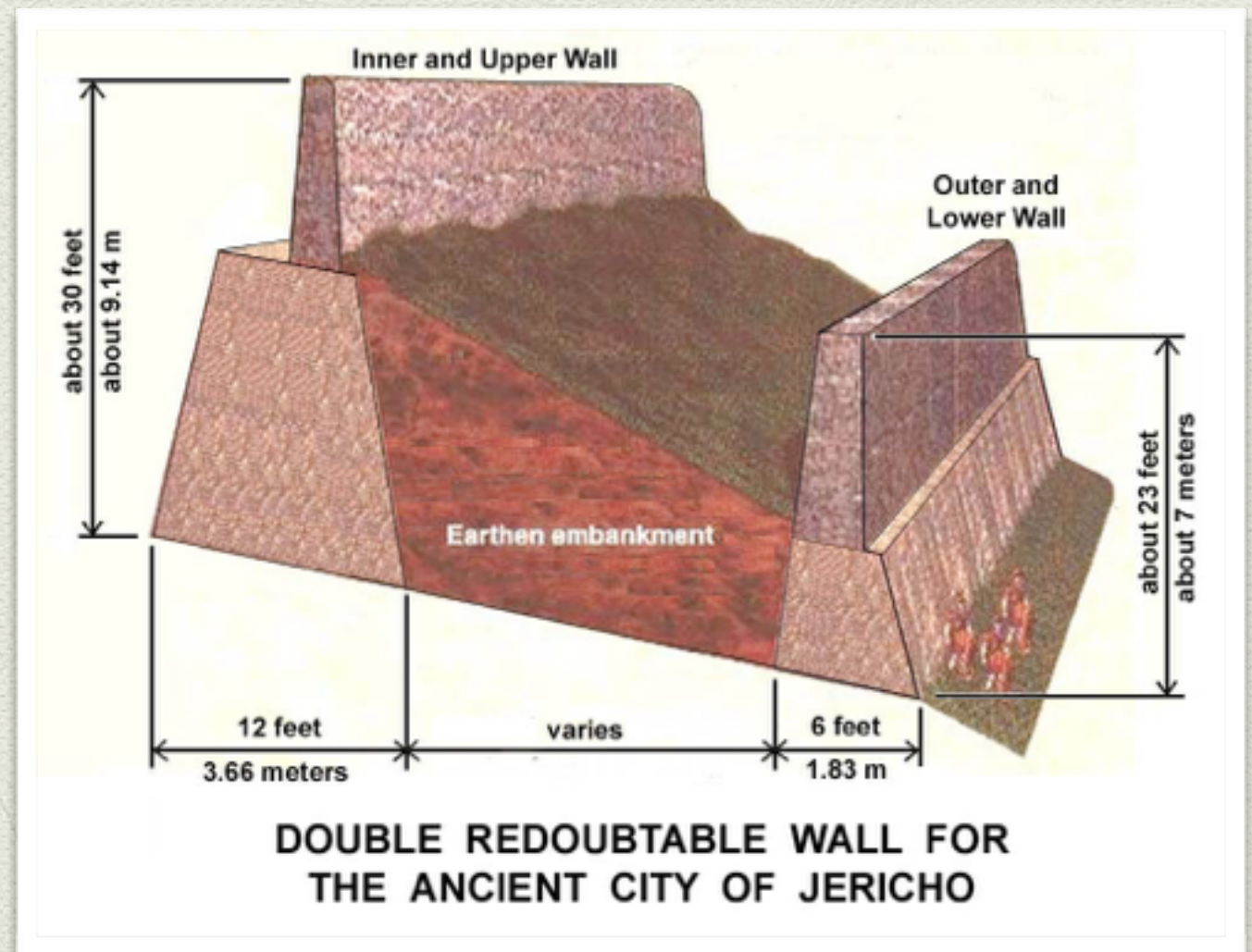


The Lord's perspective on Jericho (1-2)

The Walls of Jericho

Deuteronomy 9:1 (NASB95) — 1 “Hear, O Israel! You are crossing over the Jordan today to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, great cities fortified to heaven,

- The wall itself was a double wall
- First wall height=7 meters (23 ft) high (base to top)
- Width of wall=2 meters (6 feet) thick
- This was followed by a sloping embankment
- There were buildings built in the upper area but also there were many buildings built on the embankment between the first and second walls
- Rahab's home was built as part of the lower wall
- The outside brick of her home being the outer wall
- Behind this stood another wall like the first that was 9 meters (30 ft) base to top



The Lord's perspective on Jericho (1-2)

Who feared who?

	Jericho	Rahab
Feared who?	"people of Israel"	"The Lord"
Focus on	Physcial Death	Eternal Judgment

Joshua 2:10–11 (NASB95) — 10 "For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 "When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

How the Lord would take Jericho (3-14)

1) Miraculously (3-5)

“How passing strange those instructions must have appeared! How utterly inadequate such means for such an enterprise! How futile would such a procedure seem unto carnal reason! "No trenches were to be opened. no batteries erected, no battering-rams drawn up, nor any military preparations made" (Matthew Henry).”

3 purposes the Ark represented:

- A) To show YHWH was the source of the victory**
- B) To be the confidence of His people**
- C) To Pronounce Judgment on Jericho**

2) By Faith (6-14)

God was about to speak loudly to the Canaanites in judgment, and it was therefore fitting that every human voice should be stilled. (AW PINK)

The Fall of Jericho (15-25)

Trumpets sounded forth ...

- Trumpets- were made of rams' horns
- commoners trumpet (the shophar)
- Word for Ram's Horns is "yobel"
- "yobel" = "jubilee"
- Lit: trumpets of Jubilee

A Shout was to be raised ...

- "shout" -a signal ... VICTORY!!!

"The loud shout in unison expressed an expectation of God's action to fulfill His guaranteed promise" (MacArthur)

The Fall of Jericho (15-25)

Instructions were given ...

1) Don't take anything, it is consecrated to the Lord

"God had promised them land flowing with milk and honey, not a land abounding with silver and gold" (Scott)

"Both Garstang and Kenyon found many storage jars full of grain that had been caught in the fiery destruction. This is a unique find in the annals of archaeology. Grain was valuable, not only as a source of food, but also as a commodity which could be bartered. Under normal circumstances, valuables such as grain would have been plundered by the conquerors. Why was the grain left at Jericho? The Bible provides the answer. Joshua commanded the Israelites that the city and all that is in it were to be dedicated to the Lord. The grain left at Jericho and found by archaeologists in modern times gives graphic testimony to the obedience of the Israelites nearly three-and-a-half millennia ago. Only Achan disobeyed, leading to the debacle at Ai described in Joshua 7. Such a large quantity of grain left untouched gives silent testimony to the truth of yet another aspect of the biblical account. A heavily fortified city with an abundant supply of food and water would normally take many months, even years, to subdue. The Bible says that Jericho fell after only seven days. The jars found in the ruins of Jericho were full, showing that the siege was short since the people inside the walls consumed very little of the grain. (Bryant Wood)

2) Spare Rahab and her family

The Fall of Jericho (15-25)

Jericho Falls...

- “fell down flat”: lit: “fell beneath itself”
- How did the people go “up” in to the city?

“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 6:20). The Israelites had to go up, and that is what archaeology has revealed. They had to go from ground level at the base of the tell to the top of the rampart in order to enter the city.” (Woods)

The Fall of Jericho (15-25)

Jericho Falls...

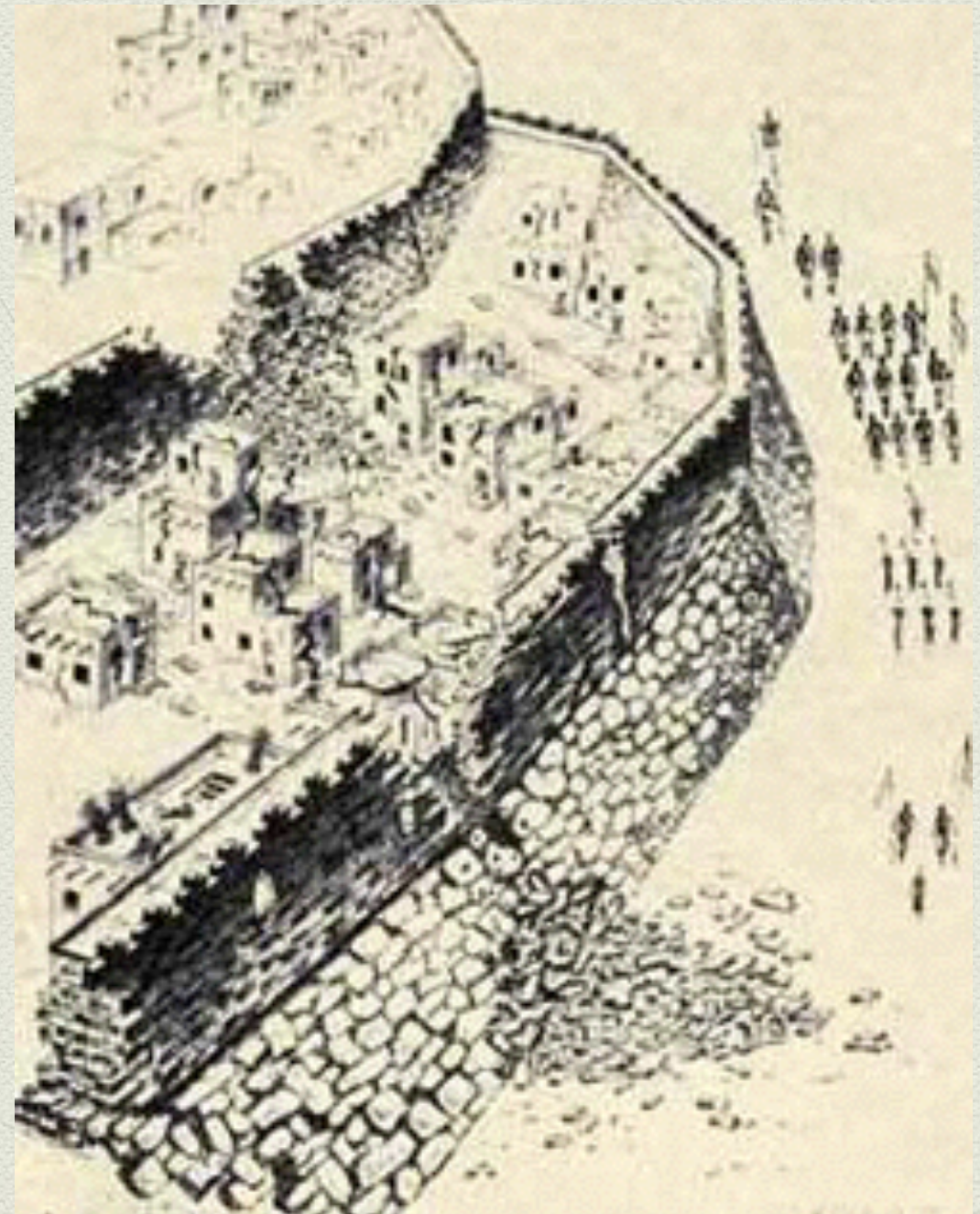
“utterly destroyed” - ban or devote as spoil to a deity (MacArthur)

“In short, every man who by reading the account of these awful judgments, in any age or place, has been led to a deeper sense of the evil of sin, and warned to repent and seek mercy from the Lord, will to eternal ages glorify the Divine wisdom and goodness, in the very dispensations which embolden the blasphemies of the impenitent and unbelieving” (Thomas Scott).

The Lord's perspective on Jericho (1-2)

Rahab's Wall

“At the north end of the tell of Jericho, archaeologists made some astounding discoveries that seem to relate to Rahab. 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).⁷ What is more, there were houses built against the wall! It is quite possible that this is where Rahab's house was.⁸ Since the city wall formed the back wall of the houses, the spies could have readily escaped. From this location on the north side of the city it was only a short distance to the hills of the Judean wilderness where the spies hid for three days ([Joshua 2:16, 22](#)). Real estate values must have been low here, since the houses were positioned on the embankment between the upper and lower city walls. Not the best place to live in time of war! This area was no doubt the overflow from the upper city and the poor part of town, perhaps even a slum district.” (Wood)



The Curse against Jericho (26-27)

- During the reign of Ahab, Hiel rebuilt Jericho
- The Lord took his eldest and youngest sons

1 Kings 16:34 (NASB95) — 34 In his days Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho; he laid its foundations with the loss of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.

Conclusion

- Man will go to great lengths to explain away God.
- The Lord uses the foolish to shame the wise.
- God will judge the wicked.
- Repent and believe the Gospel.