

Bible Geography

The City of Jericho

- I. The City of Jericho
 - A. Jericho has been called the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.
 - 1. It is also the earliest known walled city.
 - 2. It is 846 feet below sea level, making it the lowest city on Earth.
 - 3. It was an oasis in desert lands, with many freshwater springs.
 - 4. Today, it has a population of around 20,000.
 - B. Jericho is first mentioned in Numbers 22:1 as a point of reference for Israel's location.
 - 1. Israel was across the Jordan River from Jericho.
 - 2. Here, Balak hired Balaam to curse the children of Israel.
 - 3. Balaam travelled about 400 miles from Pethor on the Euphrates River to Moab (cf. Deut. 23:4).
 - 4. In 1967, among ancient ruins in Succoth, an inscription was discovered describing "Balaam, the son of Beor" as a "divine seer."
 - C. Jericho is called the "city of palm trees" (Deut. 34:3; cf. Jud. 1:16; 3:13).
 - D. The most well-known event relating to Jericho is its miraculous defeat by Israel.
 - 1. Jericho is where Israel's spies hid in Rahab's house (Josh. 2:1).
 - 2. After obeying God's instructions to march around the city, the walls of Jericho fell, allowing Israel to defeat the city (Joshua 6).
 - 3. According to God's promise, Rahab was delivered even though her house joined to the wall of the city (Josh. 2:15; 6:23, 25).
 - 4. Archaeological finds have verified many of the details of the Bible record.
 - E. Joshua pronounced a curse upon anyone who would rebuild Jericho, which came to pass during the reign of Ahab in Israel (Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34).
 - F. It was at Jericho that the sons of the prophets witnessed the passing of power from Elijah to Elisha (2 Kings 2:1-22).
 - G. Zedekiah was captured by the Babylonians in the plains of Jericho (2 Kin. 25:5-7).
 - H. The men of Jericho helped to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:2).
 - I. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is featured in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).
 - J. Near Jericho, Jesus healed two blind men, one of who was Bartimaeus (Matt. 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43).
 - K. Finally, it was at Jericho that Jesus dined with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).

