



# Jericho Fact Sheet

**Location:** In Jordan River Valley, about 22 mi east-northeast of Jerusalem in Samaria (presently West Bank). It is situated 5 mi west of the Jordan River and 7 mi north of the Dead Sea.



**Meaning of Name:** “his moon”; “place of his fragrance”

**Bible References:** 64x

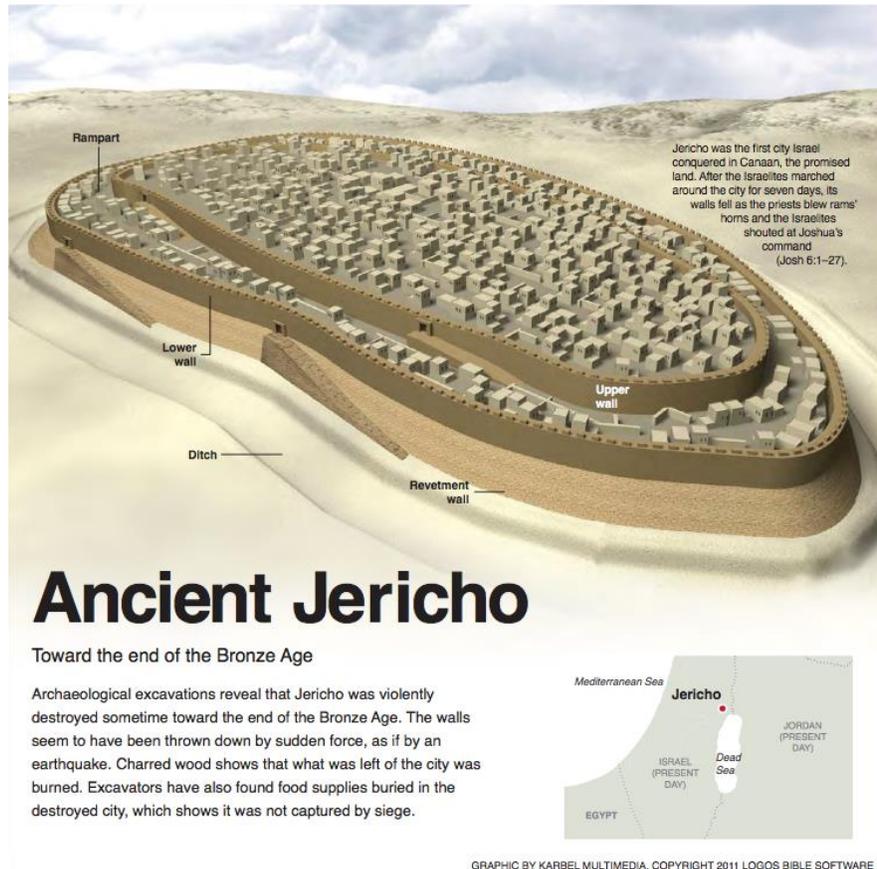
- *Deut 34:3* – called “the city of palm trees”
- *Josh 2* – Spies sent to Jericho
- *Josh 6:1-25* – Joshua leads Israel to destroy Jericho
- *Josh 6:26* – Jericho cursed by Joshua
- *2 Sam 10:5* – David’s servants shamed by king of Ammon & told to wait at Jericho
- *1 Kings 16:34* – Jericho rebuilt according to the curse of Josh 6:26
- *2 Kings 2* – Elijah taken from Elisha while sons of prophets watch from Jericho
- *Neh 3:2* – Men of Jericho help to rebuild Jerusalem
- *Jer 39:5* – Zedekiah overtaken in plains of Jericho by Nebuchadnezzar’s army
- *Luke 10:30-36* – Parable of Good Samaritan on road from Jerusalem to Jericho
- *Luke 18:35* – Jesus restores sight of Bartimaeus outside of Jericho
- *Luke 19:1-27* – Jesus visits Zacchaeus in Jericho

**Past:** Jericho’s position in a major pass leading from the Jordan River Valley to the Judean hills surrounding Jerusalem made it a point of significant strategic importance. Its proximity to the



fertile banks of the Jordan as well as the presence of springs also made it a prosperous city. Control of the city changed hands from the Babylonians to the Egyptians to the Canaanites prior to the entry of the Israelites into their Promised Land.

Aside from a few events that took place there prior to the ministry of Jesus Christ, it appears that Jericho was nothing more than a stop on the road from Jerusalem to Amman. Herod the Great rebuilt Jericho as the winter capitol of his kingdom. After the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 AD, Jericho ceased to be of any significance.



**Present:** The modern city of Jericho is located about 1 mi southeast of the ancient location, today known as Tel es-Sultan. Nearby, there are several noteworthy sites. The Mount of Temptation, the traditional site of the temptation of Christ recording in Matt 4, is located in the hills west of Jericho and can be accessed via cable car. Also, the site more likely to be the location of the baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist is just east of the city along the banks of the Jordan river; a major project removing landmines in this area is currently underway. The Spring of Elisha (Ein es-Sultan), where Elisha healed the waters in 2 Kings 2:19-22, is also nearby.



*Sycamore Tree of Zacchaeus in Jericho*

**Future:** As Jericho was clearly cursed by Joshua after it was conquered, it does not appear to play any future role in God's plan.

*Consider This:*

- Jericho is considered to be one of the oldest (if not the oldest) known city on Earth, as well as the lowest (almost 850ft below sea level).
- Jericho was the first city conquered by Israel in the Promised Land, and the first city given to the Palestinians following the Oslo Accord in 1994.
- Note Jericho's association with the moon & the people who worship the moon God.
- Note also that despite the history & negative associations with Jericho, there is always a righteous remnant that God commends (Rahab, sons of prophets, Zacchaeus, Good Samaritan).