



He was leaving Jericho, Jesus healed a man named Bartimaeus and his friend of their blindness because of their faith in Him.

The message of Jericho is the same message in the Old Testament as it is in the New Testament: “Obey God.” The only difference is in the point of

view from which that message was presented. In the Old Testament, the message of Jericho was “Look at the power of God! Do not disobey Him!” It was used as an example to the children of Israel of what happens to the wicked. In the New Testament, Jericho is used as an example of hopeful and over-coming faith. The Hebrew writer tells his audience that the faith we need to have in order to be pleasing to God is the same kind of faith that brought down the walls of Jericho (Hebrews 11:30). It is a place where the small and the blind are accepted and made whole by Jesus, the triumphant Savior. May we always keep the message of Jericho in our hearts and may we always obey the Almighty and All-Loving God of Mercy.

\*All information from the first paragraph came from *Baker's Bible Atlas, Great Events of Bible Times, Archaeology in Bible Lands*, and wikipedia's entry on Jericho.



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## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

11.36

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

September 6  
2009

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

## Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Rusty Scott

## Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Curtis Carwile



## Jericho Throughout the Bible

by Curtis Carwile

The Palestinian town of Tel es-Sultan is modern-day site of the ancient city of Jericho.

Jericho is surrounded by the Central Range to the West and the Trans-Jordan Plateau, it is situated in the Jordan Valley. The city is surrounded by cool springs which provide lush vegetation. Even today, large Palm and Sycamore trees surround the site. Jericho is the lowest permanent settlement on the earth at 825ft below sea level. It is also considered the oldest continuously-inhabited city of the world due to the

discovery of what is called the Neolithic Tower. (Neolithic refers to the time period between 4000BC and 2200BC, during which tools and weapons were made mostly from stone). Archaeologists have concluded that several people



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Ruins of Jericho

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groups have inhabited Jericho. Originally, Jericho was nothing more than a round of mud-brick huts on top of a hill, surrounded by a stone wall encompassing roughly eight acres. By the time of the Israelite invasion, Jericho (well into the Bronze Age by then) was a large city surrounded by a retaining wall at the bottom of the hill and another much larger

wall surrounding the city proper. After the city was destroyed in the Conquest, it remained uninhabited until the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC. Despite facing depopulation several times by the Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus the Great of Persia refounded the city one mile southeast of the original site in 539BC. By the time of Christ, it was a thriving trade center again, situated along three major trade routes. Since then, it has been occupied and destroyed by the Romans, the Arabs, and the Ottoman Empire. Since World War II, the area of Tell es-Sultan has been in constant conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.\*

Jericho is mentioned over 70 times in the Bible. Jericho is a site of great importance in the Old Testament. It is first mentioned in Numbers 20:1 in reference to where Moses and the children of Israel were encamped before the Conquest. The children of Israel were staying in the plains of Moab which was almost directly across the Jordan River from Jericho. Also, this is where the people waited for Moses to die (Deuteronomy 34). In Joshua 2, Joshua sent two spies into Jericho where Rahab the Harlot hid them in exchange for God sparing her life and the lives of her family. In Joshua 6, the Israelites conquered the city by marching around it in silence for six days and on the seventh day marching around it seven times while shouting and blowing the trumpets the last time. After the city was taken, it was consecrated to God and simultaneously

cursed so that whoever tried to rebuild it would lose their firstborn and youngest (Joshua 6:26). The city remained uninhabited until the 9<sup>th</sup> Century BC when Hiel of Bethel rebuilt it at the cost of Abiram and Segub, his oldest and youngest sons (1 Kings 16:34). In 2 Samuel 10:5, Jericho was where King David sent his dishonored servants to wait in order that they might re-grow their beards (the Ammonites had shaved off half of their beards to spite King David). In 2 Kings 2, Jericho is where Elijah tried to leave Elisha before he was taken up into Heaven by the chariot of fire because a number of the “sons of the prophets” lived there. In 2 Kings 25 and Jeremiah 39, Jericho was where King Zedekiah was captured by the Babylonians after he and his children escaped Jerusalem. It was right outside the city that Zedekiah was forced to watch his sons be killed before having his eyes plucked out and taken to Babylon as a captive. Seventy years later, the people of Jericho were allowed to return to their city (Ezra 2:34). They helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 3:2) and it is assumed that they aided in rebuilding the Temple. Jericho is only mentioned a few times in the New Testament and plays a much less significant role. While Jesus used Jericho in one of His most famous parables (Luke 10:25-37), we only know of one occasion of Jesus actually



Aerial View of Tel es-Sultan

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being in Jericho and that is right before His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 20; Mark 10; Luke 19). As He was entering Jericho, He met a tax-collector by the name of Zacchaeus who had climbed into one of the large Sycamore trees in order to get a better view of Jesus. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, He commanded that he come down for He was going to stay at his house. In the house, Jesus told the parable of the minas. While



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