

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

RLJ-1675

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### PART 10: VICTORY AND DEFEAT

#### THE FALL OF JERICHO

The king of Jericho and his people had been judged by God and turned over for extermination. This will seem harsh to some people, but it is necessary to remember that God is love but He is also a God of judgment. Jesus told Abraham that He would give the people in Canaan some 430 years to repent. **Joshua 6:1-2; Genesis 15:16; Exodus 12:41**

The people living in Canaan were more wicked than the surrounding nations. They swapped wives, sacrificed their children on the heated images of their demon gods like Molech, homosexuality was rampant and women practiced bestiality. Their legendary wickedness was described by Moses. **Leviticus 18:20-30**

In addition to these sins, they also practiced prostitution, incest, murder, and gang rape like in Sodom.

The army of Israel was not going to storm Jericho; instead, the attack would be carried out supernaturally. **Joshua 6:3-5**

#### ARCHEOLOGY VERIFIES THE BIBLE ACCOUNT OF JERICHO

During the years 1907-1909, German archeologists sought to find out what had happened at Jericho. Additional excavations were carried out by a British team of archeologists led by Kathleen Kenyon in 1950. In 1997 an Italian-Palestinian archeology team did further excavations and found at the north end of the city, a portion of the wall did not sink, but remained standing, while the rest of the wall sections around the city had all sunk into the ground, corroborating the biblical account. Since Rahab and her family survived within her house located on top of the wall, it is logical to assume this was the section left standing, while the rest of the walls fell down.

#### TRUST AND OBEY

There was no hesitation from Joshua; Jesus had spoken and the only thing to do was carry out His instructions. **Joshua 6:6-14**

#### THE SEVENTH DAY

During six days which the priests and army of Israel marched one lap around the city, the soldiers and people living in Jericho stood on the wall and watched the events. They must have discussed why the Israelites kept behaving in such a weird manner. I am sure their pagan priests were busy sacrificing to their demons gods and asking for help to no avail. **1 Kings 18:26-29**

But the pattern changed on the seventh day as Israel marched seven times around the city. This event must have taken at least half of the day. **verse 15**



When the seventh lap was finished and the priest blew their trumpets, Joshua gave the order for the people to shout at the top of their lungs. **verse 16**

Joshua had ordered Rahab and her family to be saved and carried to safety. **verses 17**

There were to be no looting to take place. Only the silver and gold was to be saved and it was to be brought into the treasury of the Lord. My thinking was that the city was filled with demons, who clung to the people and their possessions, and God did not want the people of Israel to become cursed and demonized. **verse 18-19**

## **THE WALLS**

When the people shouted, Jesus moved and gave the order for angels to sink the walls into the ground and open the city wide open. **verse 20**

Rahab and her family were secured, but the other men, women, children and animals were all killed and what remained of the city was burned. **verses 21-25**

Joshua cursed the city and the old city location was never rebuilt; it is still a heap of ruins today. **verse 26-27; Acts 16:26**

## **FROM VICTORY TO DEFEAT**

It is easy to be spiritual and strong when things go well, but it is difficult when things fall apart in your life. Joshua fulfilled the operation to take Jericho flawlessly, but one of his men in the army of Israel disobeyed God and took loot from Jericho before the city was burnt. **Joshua 7:1**

Jesus did not notify Joshua about Achan's trespass; He judged all the Israelites and they suffered an unexpected and shocking defeat at the city of Ai. **verses 2-5**

Joshua could not believe that his detachment of 3,000 men had been routed by a second class fighting force from the small town of Ai. He was blindsided and totally devastated and could not understand what had gone wrong. Joshua knew there was only one thing to do and that was repent as a nation and seek the Lord. **verses 6-9**

## **JESUS RESPONDED TO JOSHUA**

When Jesus responded to the prayers and fasting, He did not comfort Joshua, but harshly told him there was sin in the camp and needed to be dealt with. Achan's sin was severe and would not be forgiven by God. **verses 10-15**

It must have been with fear and trembling that the 12 tribes came before the Lord and waited for the Holy Spirit to point out the problem lay with the tribe of Judah. Then each family had to pass by Joshua and the elders until the family of Zabdi was taken.

As the family of Zabdi passed by Joshua and the elders, the Holy Spirit pointed out Achan was the man responsible. **verses 16-21**

Joshua sent men to find what had been looted and brought back to him and the elders. **verses 22-23**

The entire family was punished with death. Jesus found them all guilty because the Achan's wife and children knew what he had done and had become accomplices instead of informing Joshua. There was no mercy for this man and his family as all that

he had, including animals, was burnt with fire. This was done in order to instill fear into the people of Israel not to sin and lie about it. **verses 23-26**

## **SUMMARY**

What can we learn from this account?

1. Scholars scoffed at the biblical account of the destruction of Jericho for some 1,900 years but now they have been silenced by the archeological evidence that the city was destroyed just as described in the biblical account. **Revelation 22:18**
2. Every Christian should make the decision to believe the Bible and doubt the theological leadership who is trying to destroy the Bible. **2 Peter 2:1-13**
3. You can never get away with sin. Your sins will find you out and there will be consequences. **Galatians 6:7-9**
4. Begin to live in faith and proclaim the greatness of God and His Word. **Mark 11:22-23; 16:15-18**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***