

# Jericho

Jericho is the lowest city on earth at 846 feet below sea level and the oldest whose occupation began in 10,000 BC. It is built around a powerful spring of water producing 1,000 gallons/ minute. This spring has always caused an oasis to grow in this desert/wilderness and the water still flows today being used to irrigate Jericho. Occupation ended in 586 BC.



Jericho became a private estate of the reigning ruler in Alexander's day (336 BC). With no real city growth, the Syrians built it up as a defensive fort in 100's BC. Herod leased it from Cleopatra who received it from Mark Antony. Octavian (Caesar Augustus) gave it to Herod the Great who built a palace, hippodrome/ theatre. Herod Archelaus built a village for his date plantation workers. Vespasian moved siege equipment up roads that Rome built to attack Jerusalem from Jericho. Byzantines settled Jericho. Muslims of the Umayyad dynasty built a luxury hunting palace there in 700 w/ mosaics still visible. Crusaders took Jericho but when they were defeated by Saladin in 1187 AD Jericho was abandoned and overrun by Bedouin raiders which left it a miserable village overrun by the desert. After WWI order was restored.

**In the Bible:** Nu.22:1;26:3;26:63;31:12,etc.Deut.32:49;34:1;34:3; Jericho used to locate Israel's position; Jos.2:1,2,3;3:16;4:13,19;5:10,13, Joshua approaches Jericho; 6:1,2,25, Joshua destroys Jericho; Jos.6:26, curses the man who rebuilds Jericho; 7:2, 8:2, Ai; 9:3, Gibeonites; 10:1,28,30, example; 2 Sam.10:5, David's men wait here until beards grow; 1 Kg.16:34, Hiel build Jericho; 2 Kg. 2:4-5, Elisha told to stay; 2Kg.25:5;Jr.39:5;52:8, Zedekiah captured; Ezr.2:34, 345 men of Jericho return; Neh.3:2, build wall; Mt.20:29; Mk.10:46; Lk.18:35;19:1, Jesus walks through on way to Jerusalem. heals blind. eats with Zacchaeus: Lk.10:30. Good Samaritan.



The retaining wall (revetment wall) that supported a taller mud brick wall that collapsed when Joshua arrived. To the left are walls of homes (such as Rahab's) built against this city wall



Tower from 8,000 BC; 28 ft. dia; 25 ft. high; There is an interior staircase in center under square grid. Excavated by Kathleen Kenyon.