

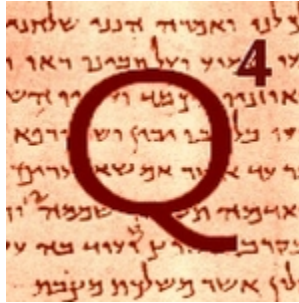
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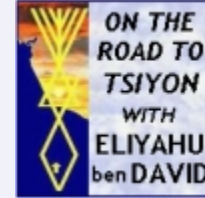
Tsiyon Messianic Radio Newsletter - Vol 7.16 - 01/28/6012 TAM - 04/20/12 AD

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Who has Torah Authority in Messiah's Israel?



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*"Out of Tsiyon,
the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth" Psalm 50:2*

Tsiyon News



Prayer request from Tsiyon volunteer, Greg: "I have been on a medication known as Zocor / Simvastatin. This drug is used by many to lower cholesterol levels. In most cases the drug works but there is a slight percent in which there are side effects some of which can be permanent. I have been one of those people in which the side effects have happened. My muscles have rapidly deteriorated within a 30 day period and I am not able to function at normal capacity any longer. I have been taken off the drug and am hoping for a fast recovery. At this time to help with the speed of the recovery I am asking for all the prayer I can get from Israel. I am committed to doing YHWH's work and need to recover fast so the work can continue." [Greg is working with Tsiyon helping us with our website. We are praying for Greg's health and thought you might want to as well.]

Crossword Contest

Announcing the first EBD Crossword Contest! You can find this Isaiah-based crossword on my blog at elijahubendavid.com. Do it for fun or do it to win a prize. Either way, I hope you will enjoy it.

Listener Question - Jericho Facts

I enjoyed your teaching on the overlooked feast of unleavened bread. Could you provide with the sages into Joshua 6:2-5?



Tsiyon Answer - Jericho Facts

Perhaps you are aware that the events outlined in the verses you mention occurred during the seven days following the feast of unleavened bread, immediately after Israel entered into the Promised Land. Here are the verses you are asking about:

1 Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the children of Israel. No one went out, and no one came in. 2 YHWH said to Joshua, "Behold, I have given

Jericho into your hand, with its king and the mighty men of valor. 3 All your men of war shall march around the city, going around the city once. You shall do this six days. 4 Seven priests shall bear seven shofars of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day, you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the shofars. 5 It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the shofar, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall go up every man straight before him." Joshua 6:1-5 HNV

Something I can add to the sages regarding the story of Jericho is observation of the actual site and modern archaeological information confirming the details of the Biblical account.

In 1984 I personally inspected the ancient city of Jericho and even took samples of pottery from the ancient city. At the time I was greatly impressed with, what to me, was obvious confirmation of the Bible record. At that time the "experts" disagreed with what was so obvious to me. They said the timing was all wrong for the Biblical account and that Jericho had been destroyed by the Egyptians! This skepticism against the Biblical story was based on conclusions offered by British archaeologist, Kathleen Kenyon, in the 1950s. Before Kenyon, in the early 1900s, excavations by John Garstang in the ancient city of Jericho essentially confirmed the entire Biblical account.

Today experts criticize Kenyon's methods. For example, one well informed writer states:

[Kenyon's] insistence that excavation proceed in narrow trenches denies us, when we use the Jericho reports, the confidence that her loci, and the pottery assemblages that go with them, represent understandable human activity patterns over coherently connected living areas. The individual layers, insufficiently exposed horizontally, simply cannot be interpreted credibly in terms of function. (Herr, Larry G. (2002), W.F. Albright and the History of Pottery in Palestine, Near Eastern Archaeology 65.1 (2002), 53.)

This says to me: Kenyon's methods deliberately dumbed down the evidence so that she could arrive at her own biased pre-determined conclusion discrediting the Scriptural account. Her "expert" conclusions continued to hold sway until about 1990, when Dr. Bryant Wood began publishing a fuller account of the evidence at Jericho. Not surprisingly, his evidence and conclusions agree with those of Garstang, while exposing the skewed conclusions of Kenyon.

The truth is easily observed at Jericho, as I saw for myself in 1984.

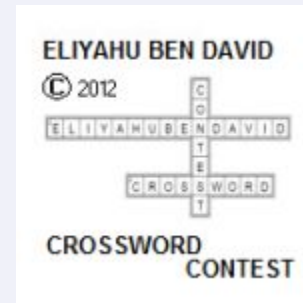
Here are a few salient facts gleaned from an article on the subject: (<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2008/06/The-Walls-of-Jericho.aspx#Article>)

1. Pottery shards at the site decorated with red and black patterns, such as those I personally collected, were only in use during the 15th century BC. This is exactly the time Bible chronology tells us that Israel went into the Land.

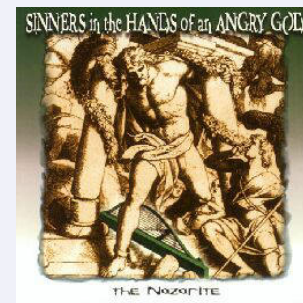
2. The mound, or "tell," of Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base. The retaining wall was some 12–15 ft high. On top of that was a mudbrick wall 6 ft thick and about

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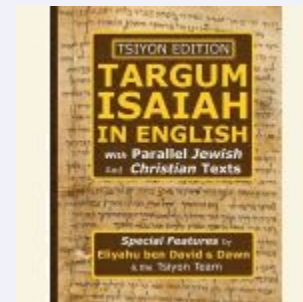
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2. The mound, or "tell," of Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base. The retaining wall was some 12–15 ft high. On top of that was a mudbrick wall 6 ft thick and about

20–26 ft high (Sellin and Watzinger 1973: 58). At the crest of the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly 46 ft above the ground level outside the retaining wall. This is what loomed high above the Israelites as they marched around the city.

3. A copious spring which provided water for ancient, as well as modern, Jericho lay inside the city walls. At the time of the attack, the harvest had just been taken in (Jos 3:15), so the citizens had an abundant supply of food. This has been borne out by many large jars full of grain found in the Canaanite homes by John Garstang in his excavation in the 1930s and also by Kenyon. With a plentiful food supply and ample water, the inhabitants of Jericho could have held out for several years.

4. Excavations have shown that the bricks from the collapsed walls fell in such a way as to form a ramp against the retaining wall. The Israelites could merely climb up over the pile of rubble, up the embankment, and enter the city. The Bible is very precise in its description of how the Israelites entered the city: "The people went up into the city, every man straight before him" (Jos 6:20, KJV). The Israelites had to go up, and that is what archaeology has revealed.

5. The German excavation of 1907-1909 found that on the north a short stretch of the lower city wall did not fall as everywhere else. A portion of that mudbrick wall was still standing to a height of 8 ft (Sellin and Watzinger 1973: 58). What is more, there were houses built against the wall! It is quite possible that this is where Rahab's house was located.

6. The Israelites "burned the whole city and everything in it" (Jos 6: 24). "The destruction was complete. Walls and floors were blackened or reddened by fire, and every room was filled with fallen bricks, timbers, and household utensils; in most rooms the fallen debris was heavily burnt, but the collapse of the walls of the eastern rooms seems to have taken place before they were affected by the fire" (Kenyon 1981: 370).

7. Both Garstang and Kenyon found many storage jars full of grain that had been caught in the fiery destruction. This is a unique find in the annals of archaeology. Grain was valuable, not only as a source of food, but also as a commodity which could be bartered. Under normal circumstances, valuables such as grain would have been plundered by the conquerors. Why was the grain left to be burned at Jericho? The Bible provides the answer. Joshua commanded the Israelites: "The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent" (Joshua 6).

All of these discoveries at Jericho, and more, confirm the Biblical record as completely historical. YHWH Himself fought for Israel that day. This is exciting, because it is this same ALMIGHTY One who will be fighting for the remnant of Israel, as He leads us back to our Land, in the Second Exodus.

From Eliyahu

With the return to Hebrew Roots, some people feel a return to the traditions and authority of the Pharisees is also in order. In this week's program we will consider how the prophet, Isaiah, settled that question, hundreds of years before the coming of Messiah. Vital information!

Shalom,

Eliyahu ben David

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