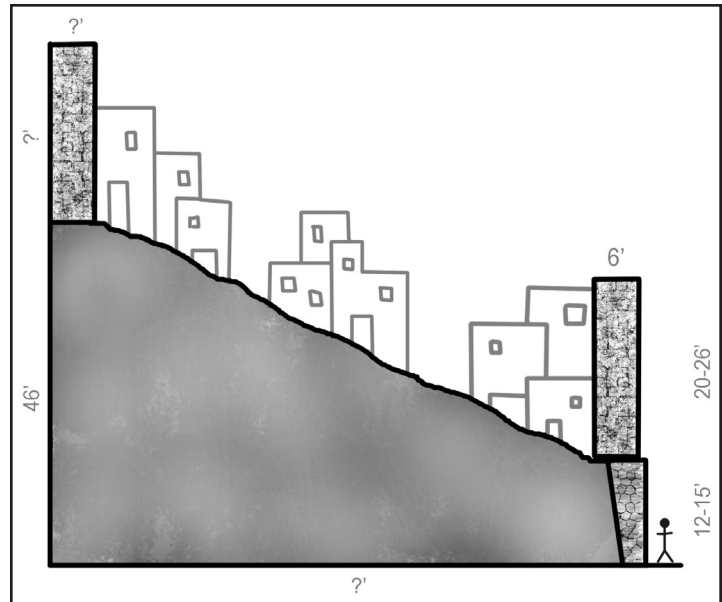


Jericho Archeology

Dr. Bryant Wood is an archaeologist and director of *Associates for Biblical Research*. He has made a career of the study of Jericho and is an internationally recognized authority on the subject. In his article titled, “The Walls of Jericho,” first published in *Creation Ex Nihilo* (March–May 1999), Dr. Wood relays the following intriguing discoveries regarding Jericho:

- Jericho was built on a hill and surrounded by two high walls. The outside (or lower) wall included a mudbrick wall (20 to 26 feet high and about 6 feet thick) built on top of a stone retaining wall (12 to 15 feet high) at the base of the hill. Inside the mudbrick wall was an embankment ascending to about 46 feet above the ground level of the surrounding countryside. On the top of this embankment was the inside (or upper) wall, also made of mudbrick.
[In meters respectively: 6 to 8 and 2; 4 to 5; 14.]
- The upper city (inside the upper wall) included about nine acres and was home to about 1,200 people by archeological estimates. Houses were also built on the embankment between the upper and lower mudbrick walls—likely a poor district, as this area was significantly less secure in war. Residents of the surrounding countryside probably fled to Jericho in wartime as well.
- Jericho had adequate food and water to survive a lengthy siege: a spring inside the city provided an abundant water supply and excavations have uncovered large jars *full* of grain (indicating the siege had been short and the conquerors had not looted the commodity as was normally the case).
- Various excavations (at different sides of the city) have found that the mudbrick walls collapsed and fell with gravity, forming a ramp against the (still-standing) stone retaining wall.

“So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”
(Joshua 6:20)



- A German excavation in 1907–1909 found a short section of the outside city wall and the houses built against it still intact. The section was located on the north of the city and the houses (built between the two city walls) were in the poor area.

“Then she [Rahab the harlot] let them [two spies] down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain [probably the wilderness just north of the city], lest the pursuers meet you.” (Joshua 2:15-16)

- Archeologists have found a layer of ash and debris (about three feet thick) and their studies indicate the city was burned *after* the collapse of the walls.

“And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein.” (Joshua 6:24)

Dr. Wood concludes that the findings of archeologists at Jericho prove the biblical account in Joshua. It is important to realize, however, that many archeologists—even those who carried out the excavations Dr. Wood references—conclude that the biblical account is merely a folk tale explaining the city ruins. Most of these Bible-skeptic views are based on unproven and incorrect assumptions of the archeologists—such as a world that is billions of years old—and the dating of archeological findings—methods of which are debatable in themselves. (Visit www.answersingenesis.org for more information.)

