#### Hebrews 11:30-31

#### -Jericho Happened...by Faith

-"The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."—Richard Dawkins The God Delusion p 31

#### -Did Jericho happen according to the Bible? -Why did it happen? -What's the relevance to us today?

### -Did Jericho happen according to the Bible?

-[1Ki 6:1 ESV] 1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD.

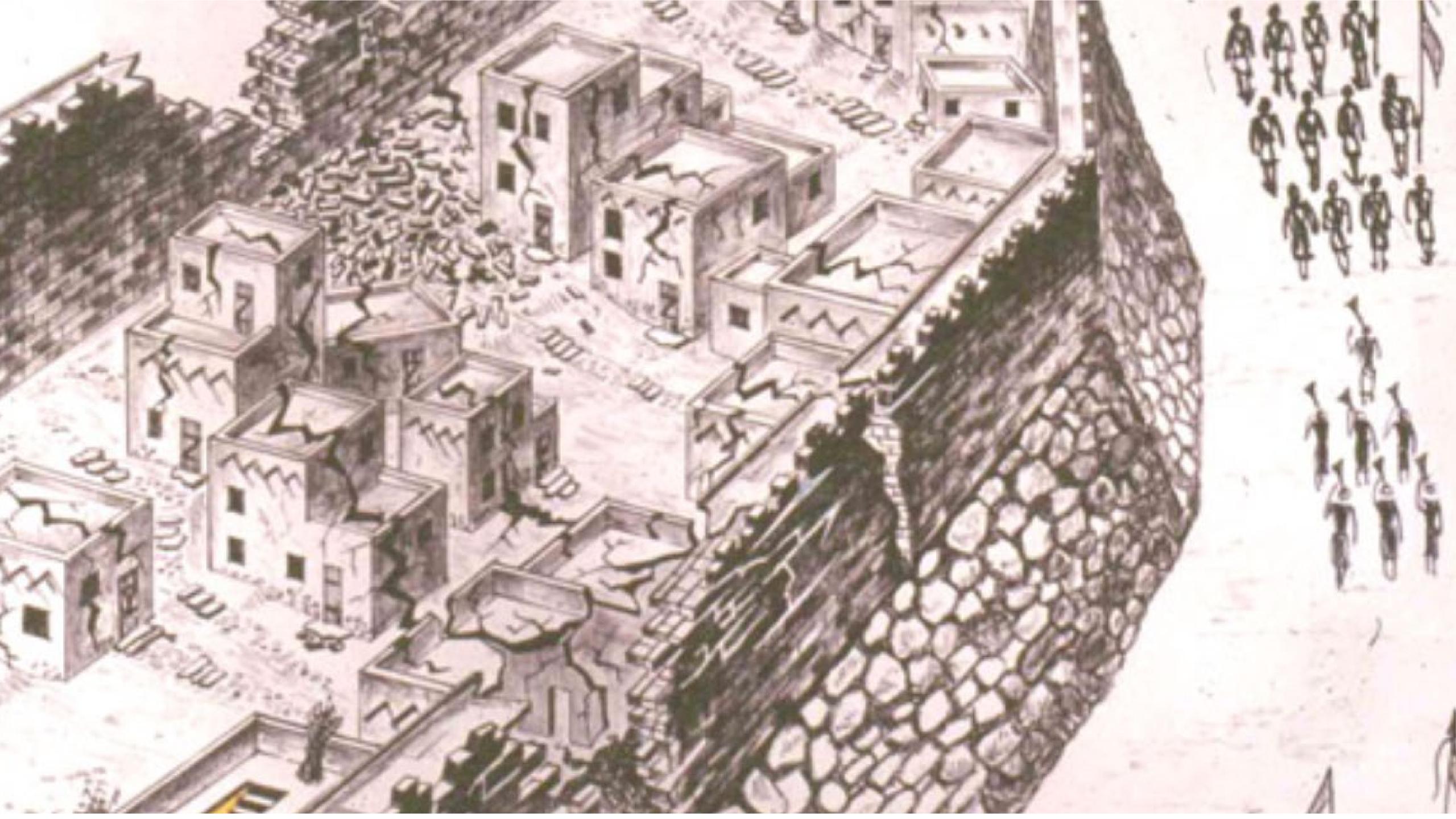
-[Jdg 11:12-13, 26 ESV] 12 Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites and said, "What do you have against me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?" 13 And the king of the Ammonites answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel on coming up from Egypt took away my land, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and to the Jordan; now therefore restore it peaceably." ... 26 While Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, 300 years, why did you not deliver them within that time?

### -"unencumbered by any biblical baggage."

### -Hatshepsut, Tutmosis III, and Amenhotep III

### -Randall Price: The Stones Cry Out

## -The city was strongly fortified (Joshua 2:5,7,15, 6:5,20).





# -The attack occurred just after harvest time in the spring (Joshua 2:6, 3:15, 5:10).

#### -Joshua 2:6 (ESV) But she had brought thèm up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.

-Joshua 3:15 (ESV) and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest),

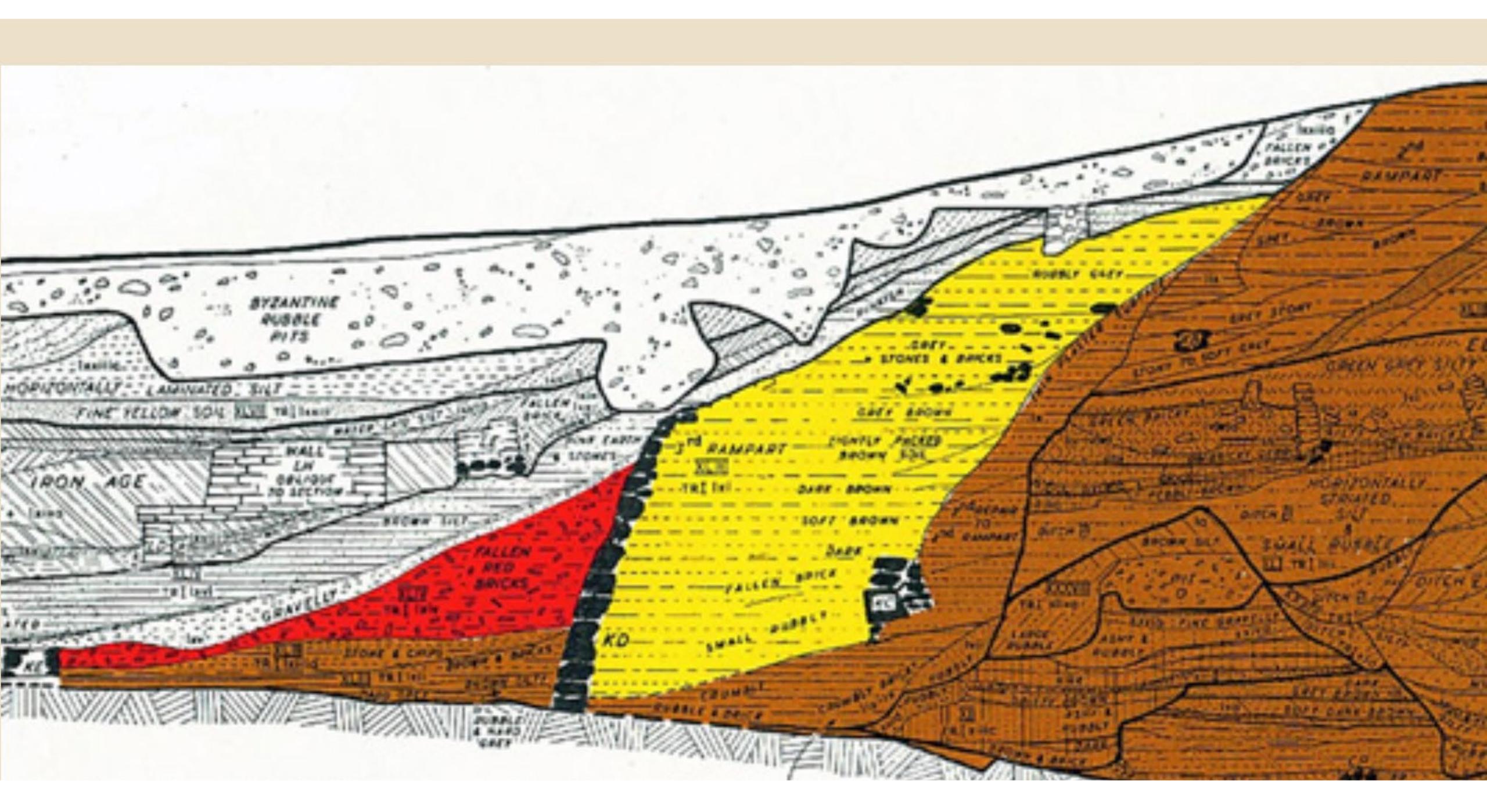
# -The inhabitants had no opportunity to flee with their foodstuffs (Joshua 6:1).

-Joshua 6:1 (ESV) Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came

### -The siege was short (Joshua 6:15).

### -The walls were leveled. (Joshua 6:20).

-Joshua 6:20 (ESV) ...and the wall fell down flat (upon itself), so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.



## -The city was not plundered (Joshua 6:17-18).

-Joshua 6:17-18 (ESV) 17 And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. 18 But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it.

### -The city was burned (Joshua 6:20).

-"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."

-Joshua 2:15-16 (ESV) 15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. 16 And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way."

#### -Why did it happen?

-Genesis 15:13-16 (ESV) 13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 <u>And they shall</u> come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

-Deuteronomy 7:1-2 (ESV) 1 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, 2 and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.

-Joshua 6:21 (ESV) Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

### -What's the relevance to us today?

-Joshua 2:8-12 (ESV) 8 Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof 9 and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

#### -Mark 8:35 (ESV) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.