

## Jericho, the City of Palm Trees

Luke registered that seven days before His death, or His last Passover on earth, YAHSHUA went to Jericho, the first city destroyed by Israel in 1599 B.C. when they entered Canaan. At that time, the Lord had appeared to Jericho for the first time as the Prince of the Lord's host (Joshua 5:15) to destroy it, but this second time He entered Jericho, as the Savior of the world.

Jericho is one of the oldest cities in the world; the Bible describes it as the city of palm trees (Deut. 34:3). Ironically, it was also the first city to be given away to the Palestinians in the Oslo Peace Agreement in 1994. Because of its association with its location relative to the Jordan River, where John the Baptist baptized the Lord YAHSHUA, it became of importance to the Christian world. At its first destruction, Joshua laid this oath: Curse is the man before the Lord, who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. With the loss of his first-born shall he lay its foundation and with the loss of his youngest son shall he set up its gates (Joshua 6:26). Many years later this curse was fulfilled in the life of Hiel the Bethelite who built Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of the Abiram his first-born, and set up its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke through Joshua son of Nun (I Kings 16:34).

Jericho got into the spot light again when YAHSHUA entered it for a purpose to bring salvation to a man called Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, therefore despised by many, for he was considered "preeminently a sinner". But Zacchaeus had a change of heart; and he settled in his heart that nothing was going to be in the way of him getting to see YAHSHUA, his Messiah. However because he was very short and the multitude that followed YAHSHUA, was great, he ran ahead of everyone and climbed up in a sycamore tree in order to see YAHSHUA, when he passed by (Luke 19:4). No man in his position would have thought of behaving like this without a change of heart. When YAHSHUA saw him He said, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today. In excitement, he hurried and welcomed YAHSHUA to his house. Not only had Zacchaeus received YAHSHUA in his heart, but now he receives Him in His house, declaring publicly his change of heart. As someone has said, "The Lord had already entered his heart; now He claims the right to enter his house". Zacchaeus showed repentance and a change of heart when he volunteered to clean up his house of all that was taken from the people. He said to the Lord, See, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I cheated anyone out of anything, I restore four times as much; YAHSHUA said to him, today salvation come to this household, since Zacchaeus too is son of Abraham; for the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:8-9). "Zacchaeus and his house form a type of the repentant nation of Israel in the kingdom" (The Restored Vision). The Jewish law of restoring four-fold was applied when someone had stolen an ox or a sheep and killed it (Exodus 22: 1). In seven days YAHSHUA, the Lamb of YAHWEH was going to be killed by His own people, in the frame of time found in the prophecy of Daniel 9:24-26.

In the year of 1599 B.C. when Israel was conquering Jericho, they saved Rahab who protected the messengers sent to spy out the land. As they agreed, she bound the scarlet cord in the window, by which they were saved, for her own salvation when they came to destroy Jericho,

as the Word of YAHWEH says, So Joshua saved Rahab the harlot, with her father's household and all that she had; and she lives in Israel even to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho (Josh. 6: 25). Rahab was rewarded not only by her salvation, by giving a home among Israel, but most importantly by being the Lord YAHSHUA'S ancestor. She was the mother of Boaz from whom Obed has come, whose mother was Ruth; Ruth, the Moabite who had forsaken all to follow her Jewish mother-in-law, being in custom and faith, became the mother of Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David, from whom YAHSHUA came. These two distinct women were gentiles and they represent the Gentile bride of Christ.

According to the book the Restored Vision, the Lord visited Jericho on a Sabbath, in the solar year of April 25 A.D. 33. But in the Jewish's calendar it was on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Nisan the first month. Jericho represents in a type the Gentile world; and Zacchaeus and his family form a type of the repentant nation of Israel in the future to come. When at Zacchaeus' house, YAHSHUA said, Salvation comes to this house, forasmuch as he (Zacchaeus) is a son of Abraham. The Gentile bride of Christ is made up of many members from all the entire world. They are people who have been crafted into the family of YAHWEH by means of accepting salvation through His Son; John 1:12 says, But to as many as did receive and welcome Him (YAHSHUA), He gave the authority to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in His name. We are considered the spiritual children of Abraham, for it is in him through YAHSHUA that all nations are blessed. When YAHSHUA told Zacchaeus, "I will stay in your house today", that typified the future coming of His Holy Spirit into the lives of the believers; our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; therefore He has the right to take control of our life, because we are no longer of ourselves, for we have been bought with the blood of YAHSHUA, and sealed with His Holy Spirit, guaranteeing us our future salvation.

After His experience at Zacchaeus's house, YAHSHUA left to go to Jerusalem, (17 miles from Jericho), where He was to be crucified. This must have happened after the resurrection of Lazarus, whose resurrection happened two weeks before YAHSHUA'S death. We read in Luke 19:41-42 that as He approached the city, (where He was going to be tried and killed) He saw it and wept [audibly] over it, exclaiming, Would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes! Israel had missed her opportunity to recognize her Messiah, now she was under judgment. The seven years ministries between John the Baptist and YAHSHUA had come to a close without bringing the establishment of His kingdom, due to the rejection of the people of Israel. Reason why the seven years left of Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks of years is still to be fulfilled. We read in the book of Daniel nine that seventy weeks [of years, or 490 years] are decreed upon Daniel's people and his holy city- Jerusalem to finish and put an end to transgression, to seal up and make full the measure of sin, to purge away and make expiation and reconciliation for sin, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and prophet and to anoint a Holy of Holies; the time frame took place from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem until [the coming of] the Anointed One, the Prince, shall be seven weeks [of years= 49] and sixty-two weeks [of years= 434 plus 49 = 483]. YAHSHUA was

killed after the sixty-two weeks [of years]. One more week [of years] is left for this prophecy to be completed in the lives of Israel in the time of the tribulation.

Today's Jericho is the disputed area, called the West Bank; Jericho was one time a city of walls, where it found its protection from other nations, but not from the Almighty YAHWEH, Who came with power and destroyed it. Jericho has a history of being destroyed and rebuilt several times, including an earthquake that destroyed the whole city; it has been conquered and captured by the Crusaders, but also deserted centuries after it. This city needs more Zacchaeuses with change of hearts to receive YAHSHUA, the Messiah and be transformed from ashes to glory.