

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:16,614

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:16,614 --> 00:00:21,143

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily

3

00:00:21,143 --> 00:00:32,967

the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

4

00:00:32,967 --> 00:00:38,257

According to the Bible, Joshua said unto the people, Shout, for the Lord hath given you

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00:00:38,257 --> 00:00:39,259

the city.

6

00:00:39,259 --> 00:00:51,163

So far as we know that Joshua is a historical figure, his role was that of a military leader.

7

00:00:51,844 --> 00:00:54,169

He becomes a second Moses.

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00:00:54,169 --> 00:00:59,179

In the book of Joshua, when he crosses the Jordan River, he separates the waters the

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00:00:59,179 --> 00:01:02,706

way Moses separated the waters in the Red Sea.

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00:01:02,706 --> 00:01:04,911

But he becomes more than Moses.

11

00:01:04,911 --> 00:01:10,241

He is a military conqueror, and he becomes the agent of God in the minds of the Hebrew

12

00:01:10,241 --> 00:01:11,243

writers.

13

00:01:11,243 --> 00:01:26,353

The priests blew with the trumpets and the walls fell down flat.

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00:01:26,353 --> 00:01:32,005

Was it an ancient biblical story embellished from generation to generation, or did the

15

00:01:32,005 --> 00:01:47,716

sensational events recorded in the Old Testament actually occur?

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00:01:47,716 --> 00:01:54,209

The Bible relates that the Israelites were led out of Egypt by Moses in the Great Exodus.

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00:01:54,209 --> 00:01:58,658

The Hebrews were inspired by their belief in the one and only God because they considered

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00:01:58,658 --> 00:02:02,346

themselves his chosen people.

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00:02:02,346 --> 00:02:06,554

But once they had escaped from Egypt, they were forced to wander the desert for over

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00:02:06,554 --> 00:02:09,680

40 years.

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00:02:09,680 --> 00:02:13,929

It was prophesied that Moses would remain in the desert that he would never reach the

22

00:02:13,929 --> 00:02:20,943

promised land.

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00:02:20,943 --> 00:02:24,991

According to the Old Testament, Moses died on Mount Nebo.

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00:02:24,991 --> 00:02:29,680

He was 120 years old.

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00:02:29,680 --> 00:02:35,452

The leadership passed to Joshua, Moses' minister.

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00:02:35,452 --> 00:02:41,424

The Old Testament records that the Lord spoke unto Joshua saying, Moses, my servant, is

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00:02:41,424 --> 00:02:42,426

dead.

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00:02:42,426 --> 00:02:44,871

Now therefore arise.

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00:02:44,871 --> 00:02:50,642

Go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, into the land I promise to give to the children

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00:02:50,642 --> 00:02:51,644

of Israel.

31

00:02:51,644 --> 00:03:00,302

Joshua, his army, priests and fellow Israelites eventually arrived at the east bank of the

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00:03:00,302 --> 00:03:03,468

Jordan.

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00:03:03,468 --> 00:03:12,486

Across the river lies Jericho, one of the oldest cities in the world.

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00:03:12,486 --> 00:03:16,695

From the beginning, the people of Jericho built their homes in the traditional desert

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00:03:16,695 --> 00:03:21,384

manner.

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00:03:21,384 --> 00:03:23,869

Bricks are made of earth, straw and water.

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00:03:23,869 --> 00:03:27,837

It was understood that nature would wear away the material, but no matter.

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00:03:27,837 --> 00:03:32,606

It was simple to rebuild their village.

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00:03:32,606 --> 00:03:38,979

Beneath the dry sand of Jericho lies its most precious resource, water, a seemingly endless

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00:03:38,979 --> 00:03:39,981

supply.

41

00:03:40,342 --> 00:03:48,639

For more than 90 centuries, tribes, bands of desert wanderers took sanctuary here.

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00:03:48,639 --> 00:03:54,530

They constructed their homes atop the mudbrick ruins of their predecessors.

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00:03:54,530 --> 00:04:00,863

By 8,000 BC, it had grown into a town of 2,000 people.

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00:04:00,863 --> 00:04:09,601

Layer upon layer, they created a record of their time on earth, one city atop another.

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00:04:09,601 --> 00:04:16,575

But we have left our abandoned ruins as the markers of their passing.

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00:04:16,575 --> 00:04:22,226

It is possible to find in the rubble the pieces of pottery and charred remains of fireplaces

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00:04:22,226 --> 00:04:26,114

that tell us the way of life of those who lived here.

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00:04:26,114 --> 00:04:31,484

Today, this is all that remains of the walled city of Jericho.

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00:04:31,484 --> 00:04:37,015

Yet among the stones, there is clear evidence that here was one of the first advances of

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00:04:37,015 --> 00:04:38,017

civilization.

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00:04:39,019 --> 00:04:48,639

Here, it seems for the first time man learned how to domesticate animals and grow crops.

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00:04:48,639 --> 00:04:54,170

It was a major step forward in human development as a nomadic life of hunting and food gathering

53

00:04:54,170 --> 00:04:59,941

gave way to a settled life of farming.

54

00:04:59,941 --> 00:05:05,032

What was most significant about Jericho, however, was its important defense position as the guardian

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00:05:05,032 --> 00:05:09,561

bastion to the land of Canaan, the Promised Land.

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00:05:09,561 --> 00:05:15,813

Dr. Gerald LaRue, biblical scholar and lecturer.

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00:05:15,813 --> 00:05:22,226

Jericho as the gateway to the Promised Land is the first city that a group of people, nomads

58

00:05:22,226 --> 00:05:27,196

or enemies would encounter when they crossed the Jordan at that particular spot.

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00:05:27,196 --> 00:05:29,521

And therefore it was a defense city.

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00:05:29,521 --> 00:05:34,651

To get into the holy land or the Promised Land or to Israel or Palestine, you would

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00:05:34,651 --> 00:05:38,779

have to knock off this city, otherwise you would have enemies on your flank and behind

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00:05:38,779 --> 00:05:40,623

you once you passed it by.

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00:05:40,623 --> 00:05:46,394

So it was a very, very important center as a defense.

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00:05:46,394 --> 00:05:51,485

According to the Bible, the people of Jericho were so wicked in their ways that God decided

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00:05:51,485 --> 00:05:57,056

to evict them and to give the Israelites who fled out of Egypt a place to dwell.

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00:05:57,056 --> 00:06:00,904

Joshua would lead the assault.

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00:06:00,904 --> 00:06:04,751

Before him lay the problem of conquering the walled city.

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00:06:04,751 --> 00:06:08,719

This account has been recreated based on the Old Testament.

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00:06:08,719 --> 00:06:14,170

From his camp on the arid east bank, Joshua sent two men across the river Jordan to spy

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00:06:14,170 --> 00:06:19,060

on the city's defenses.

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00:06:19,060 --> 00:06:23,228

It would take them all night to cross the river and reach Jericho by morning when the

72

00:06:23,228 --> 00:06:27,757

gates opened.

73

00:06:27,757 --> 00:06:32,447

Using their best to remain unobtrusive, the spies made their way to the marketplace where

74

00:06:32,447 --> 00:06:36,695

they could mingle with the crowd.

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00:06:36,695 --> 00:06:41,906

But to really get the information Joshua wanted about the inner city and its defenses, they

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00:06:41,906 --> 00:06:51,525

needed an accomplice, somebody who wouldn't be worried about being seen with strangers.

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00:06:51,525 --> 00:06:57,136

They went to the house of a harlot named Rahab.

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00:06:57,136 --> 00:07:02,587

Joshua made welcome in a manner customary to Rahab.

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00:07:02,587 --> 00:07:07,838

Along the way the spies had been recognized as Israelites.

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00:07:07,838 --> 00:07:10,924

Within a few minutes, the authorities would be alerted.

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00:07:10,924 --> 00:07:19,421

A remarkable series of events now takes place.

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00:07:19,421 --> 00:07:23,429

Rahab realizes that her guests are Israelite spies.

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00:07:23,429 --> 00:07:30,363

She does not turn them in.

84

00:07:30,363 --> 00:07:33,810

She says that she knew the Lord had promised the land.

85

00:07:33,810 --> 00:07:39,742

All of Jericho, she tells them, is filled with terror because of Joshua and the armed Israelites.

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00:07:39,742 --> 00:07:47,557

The men behind the city walls had lost their courage.

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00:07:47,557 --> 00:08:03,910

Rahab's little brother spots the authorities and runs ahead to warn his sister.

88

00:08:03,910 --> 00:08:08,399

She quickly takes the Israelites to the flat roof.

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00:08:08,399 --> 00:08:12,768

She asks the Hebrews to swear by the Lord that since she has not betrayed them, they

90

00:08:12,768 --> 00:08:17,537

will spare her father's house and allow her family to live.

91

00:08:17,537 --> 00:08:34,211

The men answer, Rahab, our life for yours if you don't reveal our business.

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00:08:34,211 --> 00:08:38,940

Rahab explains that the strangers had been with her, but that she had no idea who they

93

00:08:38,940 --> 00:08:42,026

were or where they had come from.

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00:08:42,026 --> 00:08:50,123

They seemed anxious to get out of the city before the gates shut.

95

00:08:50,123 --> 00:08:54,852

If the authorities moved quickly, they might catch the men before they crossed the Jordan.

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00:08:54,852 --> 00:09:01,746

They would have to hurry.

97

00:09:01,746 --> 00:09:06,836

As the day comes to a close and the city gates are shut for the night, Rahab keeps her bargain

98

00:09:06,836 --> 00:09:14,171

and brings the spies out of hiding.

99

00:09:14,171 --> 00:09:19,461

She lowers the cord through one of her windows.

100

00:09:19,461 --> 00:09:24,231

Rahab urges them to hide in the mountains for three days until the authorities returned

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00:09:24,231 --> 00:09:30,844

to Jericho.

102

00:09:30,844 --> 00:09:35,574

They could then safely return to the Israelite camp across the water.

103

00:09:35,574 --> 00:09:51,285

Joshua awaits news of Jericho's defenses.

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00:09:51,285 --> 00:09:56,215

By the 20th century, Jericho was reduced to mounds of dirt.

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00:09:56,215 --> 00:10:00,824

For over 3,000 years, the evidence of its secrets had laid buried.

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00:10:00,824 --> 00:10:07,037

The thing about ancient cities is that they were located always where there were a number

107

00:10:07,037 --> 00:10:08,961

of favorable factors.

108

00:10:08,961 --> 00:10:13,810

First there had to be enough natural water to sustain life, either by wells or running

109

00:10:13,810 --> 00:10:16,856

streams or springs of water.

110

00:10:16,856 --> 00:10:20,864

It had to be in a position where it could be defended.

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00:10:20,864 --> 00:10:26,075

There had to be arable land where they could grow things to sustain life or to nurture their

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00:10:26,075 --> 00:10:27,718

flocks and their herds.

113

00:10:27,718 --> 00:10:30,884

And Jericho has all of these factors.

114

00:10:30,884 --> 00:10:36,676

In the 1930s, an Englishman, Professor John Garstang, carried out an excavation which

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00:10:36,676 --> 00:10:43,470

unearthed walls rising to nearly 16 feet, the defenses of a great city.

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00:10:43,470 --> 00:10:48,760

He found that the city was destroyed by a fire which he estimated occurred around 1400

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00:10:48,760 --> 00:10:51,426

BC.

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00:10:51,426 --> 00:10:56,255

This fits very well with the biblical dating of Joshua and seemed positive archaeological

119

00:10:56,255 --> 00:10:59,341

confirmation of the Bible's story.

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00:10:59,341 --> 00:11:04,953

In the 1950s, a second excavation produced contradictory evidence.

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00:11:04,953 --> 00:11:06,596

Archaeologist Alexandra Wilkinson.

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00:11:06,596 --> 00:11:12,167

A bit of circumstantial evidence that was found was a snail shell.

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00:11:12,167 --> 00:11:18,820

And that has been identified as the intermediate carrier of Bilharzia, which is a water-borne

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00:11:18,820 --> 00:11:27,438

disease that gets in through the skin and ancient people would not have been able to

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00:11:27,438 --> 00:11:29,362

get rid of it.

126

00:11:29,362 --> 00:11:33,209

And this has a gradual debilitating effect.

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00:11:33,209 --> 00:11:37,378

And the theory is that when the enemy came and blew their trumpets, they couldn't do

128

00:11:37,378 --> 00:11:38,380

anything about it.

129

00:11:38,380 --> 00:11:42,829

They were just too exhausted.

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00:11:42,829 --> 00:11:48,841

Was it disease or was it trumpets that opened the way for the conquest of Jericho?

131

00:11:48,841 --> 00:11:53,009

Did Joshua fight the battle of Jericho at all?

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00:11:53,009 --> 00:11:57,538

So far as the biblical literature is concerned, it becomes symbolic.

133

00:11:57,538 --> 00:12:03,109

The story of Joshua, the book of Joshua indicates that the Hebrews came in and in a massive

134

00:12:03,109 --> 00:12:08,761

wave swept across the whole of Palestine and practically killed everyone or enslaved everyone.

135

00:12:08,761 --> 00:12:13,330

But when you move into the book of Judges, you find that they did not conquer this place,

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00:12:13,330 --> 00:12:18,099

that place, there's a whole listing of places that stood out against them or were not simply

137

00:12:18,099 --> 00:12:19,582

not touched.

138

00:12:19,582 --> 00:12:25,995

So the book of Joshua becomes an idealized history, an idealized sweeping across the land,

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00:12:25,995 --> 00:12:27,999

which never really happened.

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00:12:27,999 --> 00:12:34,412

This idealized history was formed, we believe now, in the late 7th century, possibly the

141

00:12:34,412 --> 00:12:36,055

early 6th century.

142

00:12:36,055 --> 00:12:40,344

And this would be the time when the Hebrew people were taken into exile in Babylon.

143

00:12:40,344 --> 00:12:45,153

And they're looking back over their history and they're rewriting it in the context of

144

00:12:45,153 --> 00:12:50,163

their new experiences.

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00:12:50,163 --> 00:12:55,815

Jericho lies in an earthquake zone which is never free from tremors.

146

00:12:55,815 --> 00:13:02,067

The remains of the walls contain evidence of repeated collapse.

147

00:13:02,067 --> 00:13:06,917

The stories from the Old Testament and the theories of archaeologists vary as to dates

148

00:13:06,917 --> 00:13:09,202

and type of calamity.

149

00:13:09,202 --> 00:13:15,053

This is a very recent point, an excavation of the 1950s led by another British archaeologist,

150

00:13:15,053 --> 00:13:18,140

Dame Kathleen Kenyon.

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00:13:18,140 --> 00:13:23,951

Employing an army of Palestinian workers, she dug deeper than Garstang, uncovering layer

152

00:13:23,951 --> 00:13:26,476

after layer of cities.

153

00:13:26,476 --> 00:13:32,328

One was built on top of the other, spanning a period of nearly 9,000 years, back to the

154

00:13:32,328 --> 00:13:35,093

beginning of civilization itself.

155

00:13:35,214 --> 00:13:41,146

At the bottom of her excavations, Kathleen Kenyon found military defenses that are remarkable

156

00:13:41,146 --> 00:13:43,190

for their period.

157

00:13:43,190 --> 00:13:50,444

A five foot thick wall rose to 15 feet in stone before being topped by mud bricks.

158

00:13:50,444 --> 00:13:54,573

A great circular tower still stands 21 feet high.

159

00:13:54,573 --> 00:14:00,023

Curiously, it was built inside the city wall.

160

00:14:00,023 --> 00:14:05,595

Was this a lookout post against attack or flash flood?

161

00:14:05,595 --> 00:14:14,011

Dr. Kenyon realized that a great fire destroyed the city and the site lay abandoned until

162

00:14:14,011 --> 00:14:20,024

sometime later when a new people moved in from the north.

163

00:14:20,024 --> 00:14:24,192

Various tribes inhabited Jericho for nearly 1,500 years.

164

00:14:24,192 --> 00:14:31,807

In places, no less than 26 plaster floors were found, one on top of the other.

165

00:14:31,807 --> 00:14:34,693

As the city grew, the defenses were extended.

166

00:14:34,693 --> 00:14:39,503

A slope was built along the base of the city walls and coated with a smooth plaster to

167

00:14:39,503 --> 00:14:42,709

make it slippery against attack.

168

00:14:42,709 --> 00:14:50,084

This was the city whose destruction Garstang attributed to Joshua in about 1400 BC.

169

00:14:50,084 --> 00:14:57,659

Kathleen Kenyon, however, was using a technique unknown in Garstang's day, radiocarbon dating.

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00:14:57,659 --> 00:15:02,909

By using radiocarbon methods, Kathleen Kenyon found that these early walls were destroyed

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00:15:02,909 --> 00:15:09,723

around 2100 BC, nearly 700 years too early for Joshua.

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00:15:09,723 --> 00:15:16,697

And the second city was destroyed in about 1600 BC, still too early for Joshua.

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00:15:17,699 --> 00:15:25,875

The biblical account of the fall of Jericho was probably written some 600 years after

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00:15:25,875 --> 00:15:30,565

Joshua at a time when the Israelites were threatened with slavery.

175

00:15:30,565 --> 00:15:36,256

Was it just history or did it have some meaningful symbolic purpose?

176

00:15:36,256 --> 00:15:42,869

It looks in a way like a rallying call at the last ditch to say, look, if you do what

177

00:15:42,869 --> 00:15:47,839

God tells you, nothing is impossible.

178

00:15:47,839 --> 00:15:56,216

And in fact, in the Joshua story, we're told what the purpose of it is so that all the

179

00:15:56,216 --> 00:16:01,667

earth's people might discover how strong the hand of God is.

180

00:16:01,667 --> 00:16:06,517

This is a story of God interacting with his people.

181

00:16:06,517 --> 00:16:08,521

And it's not history.

182

00:16:08,521 --> 00:16:11,687

It's not Joshua's diary.

183

00:16:11,687 --> 00:16:18,942

The Bible looks like history, but it's more history-like.

184

00:16:18,942 --> 00:16:26,076

In 1956, the last year of her dig, Kathleen Kenyon uncovered a most significant find,

185

00:16:26,076 --> 00:16:31,286

one square meter at the very top of the hill.

186

00:16:31,286 --> 00:16:35,896

Here she found a section of floor with a small clay oven.

187

00:16:36,056 --> 00:16:41,427

Inside the oven lay a small jug, apparently dropped and left where it lay.

188

00:16:41,427 --> 00:16:44,753

Confirmed by carbon dating, the date fits.

189

00:16:44,753 --> 00:16:50,044

There was a settlement here in the 13th century BC.

190

00:16:50,044 --> 00:16:53,892

Joshua's story might be history.

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00:16:53,892 --> 00:16:58,942

Imagine what it was like on the day Joshua rallied his people outside the fabled walls

192

00:16:58,942 --> 00:17:01,106

of Jericho.

193

00:17:01,106 --> 00:17:05,916

Joshua set about rousing his people, reminding them of God's promise not to fail them.

194

00:17:06,918 --> 00:17:12,689

The Ark of the Covenant, their sacred symbol of God, would be born before them and would

195

00:17:12,689 --> 00:17:15,335

guarantee their victory.

196

00:17:15,335 --> 00:17:19,142

After three days, Joshua gave the order to advance to the river.

197

00:17:19,142 --> 00:17:25,635

They that bore the ark would come unto Jordan and the feet of the priests that bore the ark

198

00:17:25,635 --> 00:17:29,323

would dip in the brim of the water.

199

00:17:29,323 --> 00:17:34,533

With Joshua's forces approaching, people within the city were filled with fear.

200

00:17:42,549 --> 00:17:47,359

Joshua ordered the Israelites to march around the walls for six days silent, except for

201

00:17:47,359 --> 00:17:52,569

the priests blowing Ram's horns trumpets in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

202

00:17:52,770 --> 00:17:59,784

At dawn on the seventh day, the climax came.

203

00:17:59,784 --> 00:18:04,794

Seven times the Israelites marched with trumpets blaring.

204

00:18:22,630 --> 00:18:29,844

On the seventh circuit, he ordered his people, shout, for the Lord have given you the city.

205

00:19:22,950 --> 00:19:29,964

The first day of the day, the Israelites were gathered in the city of Jerusalem.

206

00:19:29,964 --> 00:19:34,975

The Israelites were gathered in the city of Jerusalem.

207

00:19:34,975 --> 00:19:39,985

The Israelites were gathered in the city of Jerusalem.

208

00:19:39,985 --> 00:19:44,995

The Israelites were gathered in the city of Jerusalem.

209

00:19:44,995 --> 00:19:50,005

The Israelites were gathered in the city of Jerusalem.

210

00:19:50,005 --> 00:19:57,019

According to the Old Testament, so the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat.

211

00:20:05,035 --> 00:20:12,049

So that the people went up unto the city, every man straight before him and they took the city.

212

00:20:21,067 --> 00:20:28,081

Because of the cord identifying Rahab's house, she and her family were spared.

213

00:20:28,081 --> 00:20:35,095

The rest of the city was put to the torch.

214

00:20:40,105 --> 00:20:47,119

Whether legend or history or a combination of both, it should be known that the story of the walls of Jericho

215

00:20:47,119 --> 00:20:54,133

is related in the book of Joshua and can be found nowhere else.

216

00:20:55,135 --> 00:21:01,147

Could the biblical account of the fall of Jericho be true?

217

00:21:01,147 --> 00:21:07,159

The fall of the walls of Jericho, if they actually fell, and if this is not simply a legend to explain how the Hebrew people got past this fortress,

218

00:21:07,159 --> 00:21:14,173

would be to a group of people struggling in from the desert, a miraculous event.

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00:21:14,173 --> 00:21:19,183

Miracles are simply those things that we can't explain by other means.

220

00:21:19,183 --> 00:21:26,197

And so people turn and say, well, God must have intervened to make this thing happen.

221

00:21:26,197 --> 00:21:33,211

In light of theological points of view and archaeological discoveries, there is considerable controversy to this day.

222

00:21:33,211 --> 00:21:41,227

A controversy of ancient beginnings that will perhaps continue until our sands of time run out.

223

00:21:45,235 --> 00:21:52,250

Coming up next, agents race against time to stop a rash of drug tampering on FBI The Untold Stories.

224

00:21:52,250 --> 00:21:59,264

Then histories, crimes and trials goes on a nationwide manhunt for child killer Wayne Williams.

225

00:22:14,294 --> 00:22:20,306

Thank you for watching.