







# Ancient Jericho

Towns became bigger as their populations increased. This made their architecture and urban planning more complex and they required more space to expand. The possibility of storing food surpluses meant that part of the population quit agricultural activities to devote their time to other things. Artisans, priests, traders... The wealth of flourishing cities attracted greed of the nomadic tribes and forced their inhabitants to build protective walls around their cities. This was the case of Jericho, in the West Bank, Palestine. With a history of more than 11,000 years, this was the first fortified city known ever and, up to the present day, it is considered the first city in history.

## Jericho, the first one

Natufian hunter groups settled in this spot in 12,000 BC before it became the city of Jericho. Towards 9,400 BC, the settlement had more than 70 houses with around a thousand inhabitants and something unprecedented; a 3.5m high and almost 2m thick wall and a stone tower that reached a height of 8.5 m.

**7000 BC**  
The round houses made with adobe, similar to igloos, were substituted by rectangular ones. Sanctuaries and ovens appeared.

**Houses**  
They had stone foundations, clay brick structure, 50 cm width walls and the roofs were covered with a mixture of reeds and clay.

**Courtyards**  
The buildings usually had a 7 metre square courtyard used to cook and preventing smoke from entering inside the house.

## Glory and collapse

The apparition of the Canaanites implied changes in house planning. This people absorbed the original culture and took Jericho to its most glorious times. According to archeological records, the city was destroyed by 1500 BC to be re-founded in the 9th century BC.

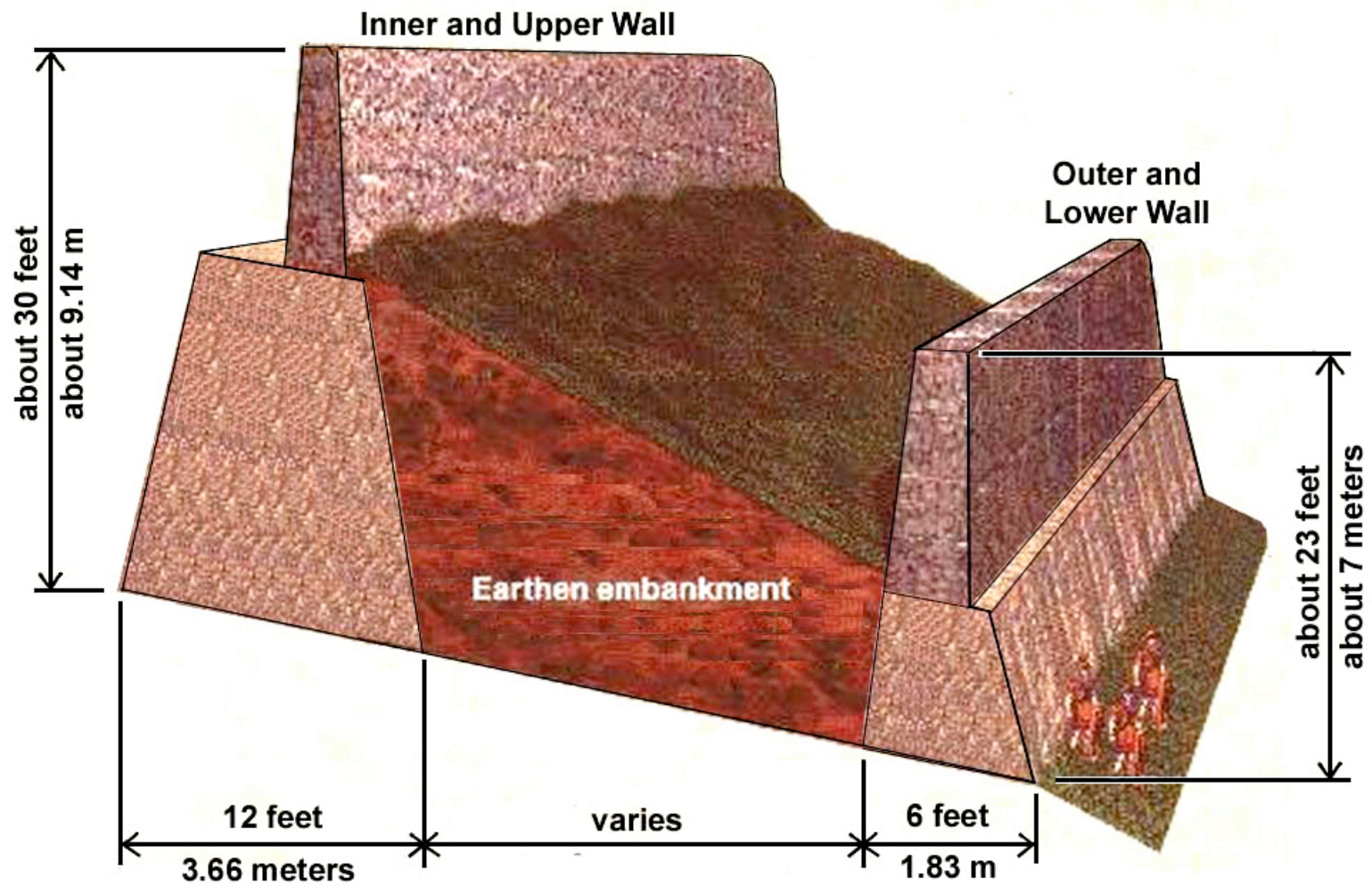
**Double fortification**  
Similar to medieval fortifications, these were 3 m wide and more than 4 m high by 1700 BC. They were reconstructed at least 15 times.

**Resources**  
There is evidence of cultivated plants and possible sheep breeding since 7220 BC. There was a water canal system.

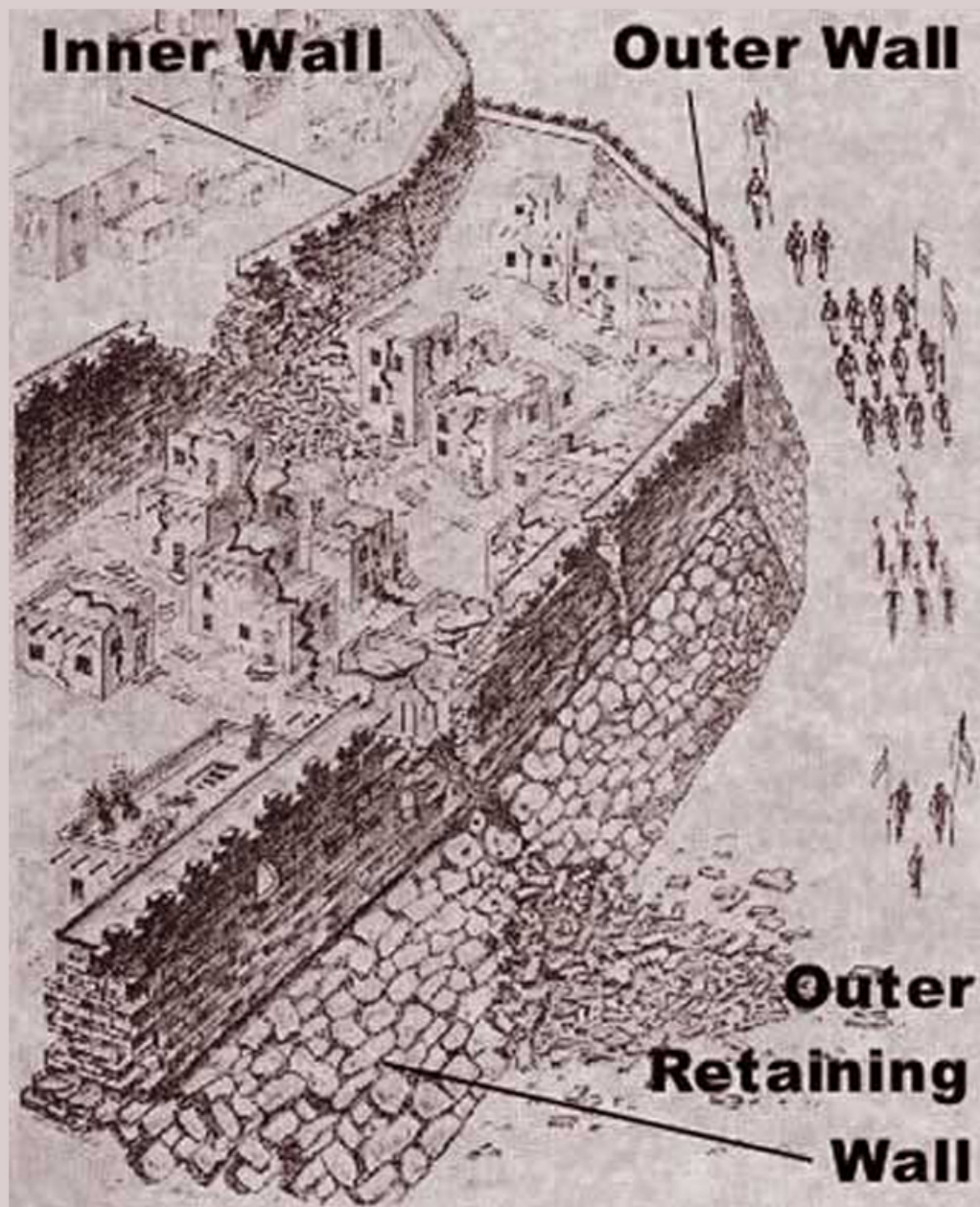
**The Jordan River**  
Jericho was favored by the river and trade. Its walls became thicker and were surrounded by a moat.

**Two storeys**  
Two storey houses had a working area in the first floor and the rooms on the second floor.





**DOUBLE REDOUBTABLE WALL FOR  
THE ANCIENT CITY OF JERICHO**







## **Archaeology gives evidence to the biblical account:**

- 1) The city was strongly fortified (Joshua 2:5,7,15, 6:5,20).**
- 2) The attack occurred just after harvest time in the Spring (Joshua 2:6, 3:15, 5:10).**
- 3) The inhabitants had no opportunity to flee with provisions (Joshua 6:1).**
- 4) The siege was short (Joshua 6:15).**
- 5) The walls fell (Joshua 6:20).**
- 6) The city was not plundered (Joshua 6:17-18).**
- 7) The city was burned (Joshua 6:20).**

