

Joshua of the O.T. was a type of the Savior Jesus Christ. He was chosen by God to succeed Moses to lead Israel into the Promised Land. Like Jesus' real name Yeshua a variant of Joshua, Joshua's name means; 'God is Salvation', he was one of the two spies who scouted the land of Canaan and gave a good report of the land. He and Caleb gave a good report because of their faith in the God of Israel; where the other ten spies gave unfavorable reports of the land and its inhabitants. They said that they were as 'grasshoppers in their sight' they were so small compared to them, they didn't have faith in the God of Israel. The sins of Canaan had finally reached maturity, and God gave the command for Israel to cross the Jordan river. Once on the soil of the Promised Land, God made covenant with them there and had Joshua circumcise the men because most of them were born in the wilderness and had not yet received the sign of the covenant. After they healed they celebrated their first Passover there. Jericho was chosen by God to be the first of the cities to be destroyed by Israel. Jericho was a microcosm of everything that was wrong with the inhabitants of the Promised Land. The sins of the people were so bad, like the wall around it, it separated them from the True and Living God of Heaven. Jericho was a mighty fortress whose walls were so thick and high, they seemed impenetrable; so Joshua relied upon God to conquer this foe. Joshua followed God's instructions on how to bring the walls of Jericho down.

They were commanded to devote the inhabitants and every living creature to destruction. Joshua 6:25-26 reads, "But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho--and she lives among the Israelites to this day. At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates." Joshua, filled with the Holy Spirit uttered this oath and curse. This was God's way of saying that if Israel ever goes the way of the people of Jericho, full of idolatry and sin, and forsakes God and not heeding his warnings, they would be cursed and accursed. It took five-hundred years for this to happen, and the word of God stands forever. We see in 1 Kings 16:30-31, "Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him." So because of evil kings, the people turned their backs on God and forgot his word. As the head goes, so goes the body, we read in 1 Kings 16:34, "In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken by Joshua son of Nun." The people no longer feared God and didn't take him at his word. This man Hiel rebuilt Jericho in spite of the well known curse of Joshua to the peril of his oldest and youngest sons. It is possible to get to the point where sin blinds you from the truth of God's word. God is patient with us, but if we are no longer walking with

him and are unrepentant of sin, we too will be cursed. To God be true! -Jim