

# The Curse of Joshua

When Joshua destroyed the city of Jericho he pronounced a curse upon anyone who would ever dare to rebuild the conquered city:

**Joshua 6:26:** “And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, **Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho:** he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.”

At the time this seemed like an odd thing to say. These verses do not explain his curse or elaborate on it; instead Joshua simply pronounces the curse and then moves on to attack the next city. His curse is never mentioned again in the book of Joshua. It is a very small thing – just one verse – and it's easily forgotten about.

However, the curse *does* come up again. The Bible mentions it centuries later, in the book of 1 Kings. Joshua foretold that the man who rebuilt Jericho would sacrifice his oldest and youngest sons to do so, and that is exactly what happened:

**1 Kings 16:34:** “In his days did **Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho:** he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, **according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Joshua** the son of Nun.”

Since these two events occur in separate books of the Bible it is easy to miss the connection – but the connection *is*

there. Events took place exactly as Joshua had foretold all those centuries earlier. When Hiel rebuilt Jericho he sacrificed Abiram his firstborn and Sebug his youngest son (most likely as offerings to get false gods to bless his efforts). Jericho – the city that Joshua destroyed and turned into a heap – was rebuilt on the altar of human sacrifice.

One thing that I Kings makes clear is that Joshua's curse was actually the word of the Lord. God is the one who spoke through Joshua, and His prophesied curse came to pass. There was a long delay before fulfillment came, but fulfillment did come. The curse was fulfilled in a very graphic and literal manner.

The city of Jericho still stands today; it is now home to 18,000 people. You now know who rebuilt the city – and the terrible things he did to rebuild the city that God had cursed.