

WHEN JERICO IS DESTROYED, THE ISRAELITE WAR-LEADER JOSHUA TAKES THE TIME TO CURSE ITS RUINS:

JOSHUA THEN PRONOUNCED THIS OATH, SAYING...

CURSED BEFORE THE LORD BE ANYONE WHO TRIES TO BUILD THIS CITY, JERICO! AT THE COST OF HIS FIRSTBORN HE SHALL LAY ITS FOUNDATION, AND AT THE COST OF HIS YOUNGEST HE SHALL SET UP ITS GATES!

-JOSHUA 6:26

IF YOU REBUILD JERICO, IT WILL COST YOU BOTH YOUR OLDEST AND YOUNGEST CHILD. THAT'S THE CURSE JOSHUA SETS IN MOTION.

GENERATIONS LATER, IN A DIFFERENT BOOK OF THE BIBLE WE READ...

TOTALLY WORTH IT

IN HIS DAYS HIEL OF BETHEL BUILT JERICO; HE LAID ITS FOUNDATION AT THE COST OF ABIRAM HIS FIRSTBORN AND SET UP ITS GATES AT THE COST OF HIS YOUNGEST SON SEGUB, ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD THAT HE SPOKE BY JOSHUA SON OF NUN.

-1 KINGS 16:34

1 KINGS TELLS US THAT THIS GUY, HIEL OF BETHEL (WHOEVER HE WAS) SUFFERED JOSHUA'S ANCIENT CURSE DURING THE REBUILDING OF JERICO. OR, MORE ACCURATELY, HIEL'S KIDS NAMED ABIRAM AND SEGUB SUFFERED THE CURSE. WE'RE NOT GIVEN DETAILS, BUT A CREEPY STORY OF SUPERNATURAL DEATH SEEMS TO BE IMPLIED.



THE CURSE OF JERICO IS SHORT AND SUBTLE ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN MISS IT IF YOU'RE NOT READING CAREFULLY. OTHER CURSE STORIES ARE MUCH MORE IN YOUR FACE. SUCH AS...

BEARING THE CURSE

IN 2 KINGS WE FIND THIS CURSE STORY. THE PROPHET ELISHA IS ON A JOURNEY WHEN...



HE WENT UP FROM THERE TO BETHEL, AND WHILE HE WAS GOING UP ON THE WAY, SOME SMALL BOYS CAME OUT OF THE CITY AND JEERED AT HIM, SAYING, "GO AWAY, BALDHEAD! GO AWAY, BALDHEAD!" WHEN HE TURNED AROUND AND SAW THEM, HE CURSED THEM IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. THEN TWO SHE-BEARS CAME OUT OF THE WOODS AND MAULED FORTY-TWO OF THE BOYS. FROM THERE HE WENT ON TO MOUNT CARMEL AND THEN RETURNED TO SAMARIA.

-2 KINGS 2:23-25