

Questions raised by David's "taking" of the "stronghold of Zion" (2 Samuel 5.6-9)

1. Why are the Jebusites called "the inhabitants of the land" (5.6, Hebrew, *yoshev ha'aretz*), a term found only here in 1-2 Samuel, but many times in Exodus and Joshua?
2. What was Jerusalem like during the Jebusite inhabitation? How long had they been there? (cf. Joshua 10; Judges 1)
3. Why is the focus on "the blind and the lame" (5.6, 8)?
4. Why is David said to take "the stronghold of Zion" rather than "Jerusalem" or "the city"?
5. Why is the name "Zion" used here, but never in the torah or Joshua-Judges, and only here in 1-2 Samuel?
6. How did David "take" the city? Did the Jebusites resist?
7. Why the detail in 5.8 about going up "to touch" the "water shaft" (or "tunnel," Hebrew *betsinnor*) in order to strike down the Jebusites?
8. What happened to the Jebusites after David took the city (see 1 Kings 9.20-21; Ezra 9.1-2)?
9. Why is the story's timeline convoluted (e.g., 5.8-9a takes place before 5.7)?
10. Why would David "hate" the lame and blind?
11. Who is speaking the line in 5.8, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house"?