

Lesson 2—Joshua 2

Jericho was filled with fear (2:8-10)

—God had put fear into their hearts.

"This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you."
(Dt 2:25)

—They had heard the stories of God's mighty deeds.

"...how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?" (Rom. 10:14)

Rahab's astonishing statement of faith (2:11)

"...the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."

—LORD (in all caps)—God's personal, covenant name

"I AM WHO I AM. . . This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations." (Exodus 3:14-15)

Lev. 24:16—The penalty for blaspheming THE NAME was death, so the Jews refused to say the name at all.

In public reading of the Scriptures they began to substitute the word "*Adonai*" meaning "Lord" in the sense of Master when they came to THE NAME.

English translations of the Old Testament kept the convention of using the word LORD for Yahweh or Jehovah, the "I AM" name of God, but put it in all caps to distinguish it from the title "Lord" or "Master."

—The LORD is God over all of heaven and earth.

Rahab may not yet have recognized the LORD as the only God, but at the very least she recognized Him as the supreme God over all other gods.

Rahab proves her faith by her actions.

—She protects the spies at the risk of her own life. (James 2:14-26)

The spies leave Jericho encouraged (2:24).

—They return to Joshua with a much different message than the spies had brought 40 years earlier!

—They have faith that God has given them the land. It is as good as done!

Devoted to Destruction

Sin is serious. It ultimately brings death and destruction.

God is holy and He calls His people to be holy, set apart to Him alone.

What does it mean for something or someone to be devoted to destruction?

Definition: (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

Devoted to destruction is one word in the Hebrew, "hāram" (Strong's number H2763).

"A verb meaning to destroy, to doom, to devote. . . It indicates complete and utter destruction; the severe judgment of God. . . being 'accursed' or set apart for destruction."

Why would God tell Israel to utterly destroy some people?

God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He has the right to do with it as He pleases.

–Gen 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

–Jeremiah 27:5

"It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me."

Judgment on the descendants of Ham (Genesis 9:18-27)

After the flood Noah became drunk and was defiled by his son Ham, the father of Canaan. As a result of his sin, God cursed the descendants of Ham.

–At least six of the seven nations that God promised Joshua that He would drive out before him were descendants of Ham. (Genesis 10; Joshua 3:10)

By His sovereign choice God promised this land to Abraham and his descendants forever.

(Genesis 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:1-8)

The Israelites had to wait about 600 years for this promise to be fulfilled because the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet complete. (Genesis 15:16)

Some of their abominations are listed in Deuteronomy 18:9-14.

Other reasons God gave Israel for utterly destroying the people of the land:

–The people of the land would teach Israel to do according to all their abominable practices. (Deuteronomy 20:17-18)

–If the Israelites intermarried with the people of the land, they would quickly turn their sons from following the LORD to serve other gods. God's anger would be kindled, and He would destroy them quickly. (Deuteronomy 7:1-10)

–Israel was to be a people holy to the LORD. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth He had chosen them to be His treasured possession. (Deuteronomy 7:6)

God is holy and His people are to be holy, set apart to Him alone.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9