

## Lesson #9

**PREPARATION FOR LESSON:** read Joshua 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 24

## BACKGROUND

**Author and Date:** details written by Joshua, plus other sources, but compiled 50 years later by scribes c. 1325 BC happened over a period of 17-25 years, c. 1400-1375 BC

**Theme:** receiving the Promised Land (their inheritance)

**Purposes:** to continue Israel's historical record  
to prove that God keeps His promises. The people who became a great nation are now receiving the land He promised.

**Style of Writing:** repetition and circular writing  
Begins and ends with death and/or burials; begins and ends with focus on claiming or being buried on their inheritance

## OUTLINE

Conquering the Land 1 - 12  
Dividing the Land 13 - 22  
Enjoying the Land 23 - 24

## DEFINITIONS of words in chapter 1:8

**Do not let this book depart from your mouth** means, *Never stop reading this book of Deuteronomy* cf. Dt. 30:10  
Jews always read aloud, so the words of a book were in their mouth when they read.

**Meditate** for the Jews meant: to stop and think about a concept or idea; to fill their mind with everything they knew about it; to ask God for wisdom to see the meaning and how to apply it. After spending so much time thinking about it, they had automatically memorized it.

**Prosperous** meant *to accomplish what God gave him to do*

**Success** meant *insight, spiritual wisdom and common sense*

*Keep reading this book of Deuteronomy. Carefully think about God's commands and obey them. If you obey, you will accomplish what God has given you to do. You will have insight and wisdom to know what to do and when to do it.*

## EXPLANATIONS

### How the books of Old Testament history were written

Starting with the days of Joshua, Levite **historians** wrote events as they happened. Then at various times, Levite **scribes** would go thru the historical records. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they would take parts of it to form Jewish sacred writings, what we call the Old Testament books of history.

Joshua as military leader, also wrote down events in his day. When he died, his writings were given to the **historians**. Fifty years later the Holy Spirit led **scribes** to form the book of Joshua. From the **historians** they got details of Joshua's death and poetry about one of the wars. To this they added major parts of **Joshua's** writing. Whenever he mentioned a monument, they added, *which remains to this day*. They were saying the historical evidence was still there 50 years later in 1325 BC. Samuel was probably the final editor of this book.

### Why the 2 scouts go to the house of a prostitute to get information Joshua 2

Rahab's house is built into the 15-foot thick wall of the city. It includes a store that sells linen cloth.

This is deducted from the fact she could hide 2 men under the flax she was drying on the roof. Only people weaving linen cloth would use that much flax. Those who made the cloth also sold it.

The majority of Bible scholars believe her home included an inn or motel. The scouts go to the local inn to find out about conditions in Jericho and what people are thinking. They do **not** go to a brothel.

In addition, God directs them there because Rahab had heard about Israel's God. She has believed in Him and wants to identify herself with God's people. **God will always answer a seeking heart.**

### Rahab's lie

God considers her lie an act of faith

She risks her life to save the lives of the scouts and to identify with their God and their nation. She demonstrates her faith by her actions, including her lie. Because of her faith, God said she was righteous - she was right with Him. See James 2:25-26

God shows her even more grace later on

He makes her part of the Jewish nation; He provides her with a Jewish husband

He puts her into the bloodline of Jesus; she becomes David's great grandmother 5 generations removed

From a prostitute to an ancestor of Jesus! (8 generations and 320 years before king David)



**EXPLANATION** (continued)**Why God destroyed Jericho and killed the people**

- **Structures and things** were *dedicated to deity*, a concept practiced by all cultures of that day.
  - For the Jews, the first of everything was **given** to God to show they believed everything **came** from God.
  - If it was holy or neutral, it was given to God thru the priests and Levites.
  - If it was unholy, it was destroyed by fire.
  - Since Jericho was Israel's first battle and victory in the land, all of it belonged to God.
  - Because the structures and things were unholy, they were dedicated to God thru destruction by fire.
- **Society** was corrupt and evil in every way.
  - According to recent archeology, everything revolved around their religion that focused on fertility and sex.
  - Their worship required prostitution with male/female priests called *holy ones*.
  - Sexually transmitted diseases and defective genes were rampant.
  - Their religion required child sacrifice and sadistic torture of enemies.
  - The Canaanite society of that time was one of the weakest and most decadent in the civilized world.
  - According to Scripture God removed them...
    - ...for their wickedness Dt. 9:4-5
    - ...for using Satan's spirit world to get information and power Dt. 18:9-12
    - ...for their immorality Lev. 18:24-25
- The **people** rejected the knowledge of Yahweh God for 6-800 years.
  - God did not remove them at the time of Abraham because *their sin was not complete*. Gen. 15:16
  - God gave them knowledge and opportunity: thru Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
    - thru the Egyptian plagues and exodus
    - thru Jewish victories in the Trans-Jordan Josh. 2:9-11
    - during the 7-day march around the city
  - The children suffered from defective genes and sexually transmitted diseases due to sins of the parents.
  - God destroyed the people: to keep the corruption from spreading; to preserve the rest of the world.
    - cf. example of gangrene and amputation
  - Babies and children are always under God's grace; they have the most important - eternal life with Him.
  - Enemies had destroyed Jericho 50 years earlier so there were very few babies/children.

**Why the family of the soldier was killed along with him** Joshua 7:20-26

The soldier buried the stolen goods in the family tent; all the family knew about it.  
All the family knew the consequences of taking what belonged to God.  
The judgment meant for Jericho, would transfer to the army; the soldiers in battle would be killed.  
Yet just before the next battle, no family member told Joshua about the theft.  
Their silence made them partners in guilt and responsible for the death of other soldiers.

**APPLICATION**

In the Old Testament, Rahab wanted to know about God so God sent the scouts to give her that knowledge.  
In our day, the moment a person begins to seek the God of the Bible, it does not matter who they are, what they have done or where they are geographically. God will stop at nothing to see they get information and opportunity to believe. God always answers a seeking heart. He is responding in miraculous ways in these days.

The people in Joshua's day had to decide whether to follow the world around them or follow God.  
We live in a society that is evil and corrupt. The world says we should follow its values, style of life and ideas of right and wrong. In Scripture, God has shown us His values, what is right and wrong and the style of life He wants for us.

As members of God's family, we have to make a choice. In our words and actions, decisions, entertainment and friends - are we following the ways of God or the ways of society?

*But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you **will** serve.*

*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.* Joshua 24:15

