

Major Event: CONQUEST

Lesson 4: Victory at Jericho

Scriptures: Joshua Chapters 5 and 6

Central text: Joshua 5:2, 5:9, 5:15, 6:2, 6:17-19, 6:21, 6:25

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Circumcision as a sign of covenant, the identity of the “captain of the host of the LORD” (6:14), Holy War (and God’s right to judge)

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Justice (Gen. 15:16), Holiness, Veracity
2. Of Man: Total Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested reading for parents and child at home: Revelation 19:11-21 (Christ will command a great “host” at His second coming)

Notes: The captain of the LORD’s host (5:15) was worshipped by Joshua (5:14). His injunction to Joshua to remove his sandals is the same one that Yahweh gave Moses (EC 3:5). This “captain” is the pre-incarnate Christ, the Son of God appearing to remind Joshua that this was His war. He was reminding Joshua because God had already promised this day would come and given instructions for the people to obey once it did (Deut 7:1-11) Although the concept of “Holy War” or what is popularly called genocide is hard for us to reconcile with a loving God it is important to remember that God alone has the right to carry out Justice on people He made in His image (Gen 15:16 He is long suffering...over 400 years from His promise to Jericho.) That is to say that neither the United States nor any other contemporary nation is today acting under covenant relationship with God to fulfill this land promise of Gen 15:18-21. God certainly has the right to judge and unlike in the Noahic flood (Gen6,7,8) God chooses this time to incorporate human agency in accomplishing His will. Yet, even amidst this great and terrible judgment one can see God’s heart for salvation in the sparing of a pagan prostitute and her family, because she feared Yahweh and trusted Him for deliverance. (Joshua 6:25, cf. Heb 11:31)

*Note that Israel was successful at Jericho because Joshua and the people obeyed the LORD’s command (6:2-5 cf. 6:20)