

Joshua 6:18-27–Heaven’s Twin: Deliverance and Destruction

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Bezuyen, INT, JFB, Geneva, Poole, Delitzsch, Trapp, Gill, Henry, Calvin, Expositor?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Today you will see how God graciously delivered the godly Rahab and her family in the midst of the tumult 纷扰, even while he brought the severest destruction on the wicked rebels of Canaan. The fact is **deliverance and destruction are frequently and inextricably linked.** You will hear from God about these 2 things today.

Our headings are:

Deliverance of the Godly **Destruction of the Wicked**

Our goals are: That **seeing the great destruction that nations who reject Jesus Christ will face**, that you will then **see how precious your deliverance from sin is, that you will praise God for it, and that you will work for the deliverance of those who are still trapped in sin.**

Deliverance of the godly

17 "Now the **city shall be doomed** by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only **Rahab the harlot 妓女 shall live**, she and all who are with her in the house, **because she hid the messengers that we sent.**

1. God delivered the godly Rahab and her family. Imagine what it was like for Israel and Rahab to see the walls all around Jericho fall down and sink into the earth, except where Rahab’s house was. It does put special meaning to that song: “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.” What a beautiful picture of standing upon Christ in faith! God preserved all Rahab had and all who had faith to join her and receive his covenant blessings. Later, God provided fields and food for her through Joshua, according to historians.

2. But don’t the mistake of thinking that Rahab and her family were delivered by doing good works (hiding the spies). Her work wasn’t good enough to save her! The Bible was pointing to the **fruits of Rahab’s faith in order to express her faith.** None is saved by good works 好行为. For by grace you have been saved through faith, not of works...

James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I **will show you my faith by my works.** 25

Likewise, was not **Rahab the harlot also justified by works** when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works** is dead also.

Hebrews 11:31 **By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish** with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace

因着信，妓女喇合和和平接待了侦察的人，就没有和那些不顺从的人一起灭亡

She was saved by faith in Christ’s works - his life and death. This doctrine is made clear in **covenant theology.**

18 "And you, by all means **abstain from the accursed things**, lest you become accursed when **you take of the accursed things**, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD 归耶和華為聖, they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

3. The continuation of God's great deliverance of Israel was contingent upon them keeping faith in the Lord, a faith that was expressed in **righteous living** and a **rejection of the accursed things** 被诅咒 of the land. Their first act of faith was to refrain from touching the precious metals of Canaan-precious metals in the form of utensils and idols that were used in pagan worship. These things were to be smelted and used to make equipment for worship in the temple that Israel would build to worship him. The precious metals themselves were not evil, but God knew that if Israel kept those things pagan ensigns, they would have been tempted to restart idolatrous worship 偶像崇拜. God knew that worshiping idols was easy!

Deuteronomy 7:25 "You shall **burn the carved images of their gods with fire**; you shall not covet the silver or gold *that is on them*, nor take *it* for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it *is* an abomination 厌恶 to the LORD your God.

On the other hand, God wanted covenant faithfulness that was most clearly seen in clean worship. Righteousness exalts a nation. God wanted Israel to enjoy the Land of Milk and Honey, but not the land of silver and gold. Silver and gold could be hoarded 囤积. Food could be enjoyed. **Get the lesson!**

4. If Israel, this wonderful and blessed mixed multitude of believers, abandoned their faith in the God they knew and loved, they could expect God's severest judgment. God's door was always opened to the nations and he promised them rich blessings, but God never tolerated wickedness.

Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and **all the nations that forget God.**

5. What is interesting about Rahab and her family in V24 is that they were brought outside the camp! Why? They had to become ceremonially clean.

Leviticus 13:46 "He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

This Leviticus passage deals with the unclean leprous 患麻风病 man, but it helps us to understand that at first Rahab and her family were impure and had to go through the ceremonial cleansing and the men had to go through circumcision 割礼 with the rest of Israel...just like you are baptized to become a member of the church.

6. And to honor her for her acts of faith, and to prove that she was truly incorporated in the church of Jesus Christ, the Lord made Rahab a matriarch of Israel and a mother of the Lord Jesus. She is mentioned multiple times in the NT.

Matthew 1:5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,

God will honor you if you honor him...whatever role you may be called to fulfill: wife, teacher, employer!

Destruction of the Wicked

20 So the people shouted when the **priests blew the trumpets**. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a **great shout**, that the **wall fell down** flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21 And **they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword**. 22 But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." 23 And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. **So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel**. 24 But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

1. **After a great religious celebration where circumcision and the Passover took place, and then a week or religious preparation and the Sabbath worship of God, God called Israel to go into the land and destroy the king, the soldiers, men, women, children, and all their gods.** (See how deliverance of the godly was accompanied by destruction of the wicked.) It was a bloody scene. It was carnage 大屠杀 **It was indeed a holy war, where men were meting out the justice of a holy God.** All the wicked things and people had become "charam" or accursed, and had to be destroyed. Even the falling walls killed many according to history. (Muslims: Holy=halal. Unclean=cHaram.

Deuteronomy 7:2 "and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them **and utterly destroy them**. You shall make no covenant with them nor **show mercy to them**."

Deuteronomy 20:17 "but you shall **utterly destroy them**: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you,

2. **Why would God allow such carnage?** God's judgment is just and severe. And when God decrees an action it "...puts an end to all discussion," as John Calvin said. But hear some explanations and their relevance for today.

God brings the sins of the fathers upon the children to the 3rd and 4th generation.

The Canaanites were probably the wickedest people on earth. They were bad even before the time of Abram. But that that time, God had said they were not the worst yet. God was patient.

The Canaanites refused to repent even after God had given them **440 years to repent**.

The Canaanites rejected Jehovah God by rejecting God's works through Joshua at the Jordan and Moses in Egypt and at the Red Sea.

The Canaanites added to their sins daily, continuing to live the most perverted 变态 lifestyles known to man. Instead of submitting to God, they brought soldiers from other parts of the country to help protect Jericho. It is hard to mention how wicked they were – even what men forced their wives and daughters to do – and what how perverted their worship was. Those who have regard for worthless idols reject the only hope that could be theirs!

3. This severe judgment of God is consistent with what God did before and after. God was known as a God of justice 公义的神!

Consider the terror of fire and brimstone 硫磺 that God brought on Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring cities because they rejected him. Men, women, children, and the elderly were destroyed.

Consider God's plagues 瘟疫 – even the killing of their firstborn, upon the men, women, children and babies of Egypt who rejected the truth their Jewish neighbors had presented to them.

Consider the great continuing judgment God would later put on the Jews who persecuted the people of God and chose to form an alliance with Rome against them! The Jews ate their own children!

Revelation 19:1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication 淫乱; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

It is we who have lost the sense of justice in our feminized society. This is why most people believe today that a murderer should spend some time in prison or go into counseling rather than be executed. On man who was being executed by lethal injection 致命的注射 recently in the US took about 10 minutes to die and there was an uproar because many who oppose capital punishment think that it was a cruel and unusual punishment. How arrogant to think that capital punishment is wrong! How highly we think of ourselves! What poor view of justice!

Ultimately, it was God's justice in Christ that saved you from the hands of the Devil.

4. Question: Would you be willing to do these things if God called you to do them? God does call you to do harsh 苛刻 things...in fact, much worse things. The elders in the church, with the support and prayer of the congregation, often have to excommunicate members from the church – a far more serious thing. Excommunication affects the children as well, severing them from the covenant. When churches fail to exercise discipline to the fullest requirement of God, you will always see a deterioration 恶化 of church in purity and in worship! Pray that your elders will not waver in exercising discipline in New Horizon!

26 Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

5. Jericho's destruction became a symbol of God's great love and God wanted Israel to remember it forever. So God, not Joshua, forbade Israel to ever rebuild the walls of Jericho. When that story was ever told in the future, Israel had to remember that God literally sank 沉没 the massive stone walls by a simply shout and set his people to occupy it. **Sadly, someone did try to rebuild the walls of Jericho, and God fulfilled his threat about 500 years later.**

1Kings 16:34 In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

6. Jericho's destruction caused God's people to trust him more, seeing how this city of defense could not even stand up against the Word of God. With the wall fallen down, maybe God wanted Israel to also look at the surrounding hills, from whence their help came, instead of thinking of the thick brick walls that once were there as a false sense of protection. **The Christian life is a life of trust.** The one who is weak in trust will be weak in obedience. Ask God to strengthen your faith.

27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

7. God established Joshua as ruler of Israel to enforce his law so that the people would remain faithful in love.

Conclusion:

God delivered Rahab and her family the hellish suffering of Canaan. He delivered Rahab and her family because they had faith in the coming Savior and showed it by hiding the spies. **God justly destroyed the rest of Canaan,** sparing neither man, woman, or child. Indeed the sins were passed from parents to their children.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Rejoice that God destroyed the wicked Canaanites in order to preserve his people in a place from where Christ would come to redeem the world from sin and darkness. **2. Show your love for God and your neighbor by announcing this good news of God** so men can be delivered from death. **3. Pronounce God's death sentence upon all those who reject the message of Jesus Christ.** This means you must even be ready to excommunicate 开除会籍 from the church those who persistently live in rebellion against God until they repent.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you deserve hell. May God save you from hell as you call upon him and say: "I know I have sinned against you, but please Father, hold Christ's life and death as mine and save me from the terrors as hell. Give me new life and new hope, for Christ's sake, Amen."