

JOSHUA 6–7

OBSERVATION

Read the chapters

Who are the characters in this passage?

What is the setting of this passage?

If you could divide chapter 6 into sections, how would you divide it and what would you call each section? (The whole chapter is one narrative, but there are a couple basic divisions even within the narrative.)

There is a subplot apparent in chapter 6. What is it?

What external passages would you need to read to understand this subplot and its characters? Read them.

What is the relationship between chapter 6 and chapter 7?

Make a timeline of the events that occur in these two chapters.

INTERPRETATION

What is the significance of our passage chronologically within the larger narrative of Joshua?

After reading chapter 7, there remains an unresolved problem. What is it? (Hint: Read Chapter 1)

How far do you need to read to find the resolution of this problem?

In chapter 6, God begins with a promise, then with a command to Joshua. What do you think about this command?

What can be implied about Joshua based on his response? The people?

How do you think the Israelites appeared to the people of Jericho?

Are there other events similar to this one in other parts of the Bible?

What does the phrase “under the ban” in the passage mean? How did you arrive at this conclusion?

Do a word search (a Bible app or internet tool might help!) for the phrase “the ban.” Where in the Bible is “the ban” most clearly analogous to its use in this passage?

Why does this matter?

Rahab and her family was saved, while the rest of Jericho was utterly destroyed. Where in the Bible do we see something similar?

Does the text provide a reason for Rahab’s deliverance?

Chapter 6 concludes with a curse. Does this curse ever happen? (Hint: you might have to do another word search!)

How does Joshua respond to the defeat at Ai? What does this imply about Joshua?

What is God’s tone in response to Joshua, and what does it imply?

Why do you think God chose to use the method He did to identify the violator of the ban? Put yourself in Achan’s shoes.

How would you describe Joshua’s tone when he confronts Achan for the first time?

What do you think about Achan's response?

What were the consequences of Achan's sin? Who suffered? How does this make you feel?

Does God's dealing with Achan remind you of another passage in the Bible?

EVALUATION

Who were the original intended readers of Joshua? (Hint: The answer is in Joshua 5.)

How do you think our interpretation of this passage (and the rest of the book) differs from that of the original readers? What factors contribute to this?

What do you learn about how God works in chapter 6?

How do you respond to those who find fault (including yourself) with God's dealing with Jericho?

What does God's dealing with Rahab teach you about Him?

What do you learn by Joshua's example? The people?

What does God's dealing with Achan teach us about the nature of sin?

APPLICATION

Think about God's instruction to Joshua regarding Jericho. Why do you think He did this? What situations in your life can you apply this to?

Think about who Rahab was. What does this teach us about salvation? How should this change your attitude toward others? Where might you find a Rahab?

What does Achan teach us about the nature of sin? How do your sins affect those around you? What sins are you hiding?