



THY KINGDOM COME

**THE LAW OF
RECIPROCITY**

BISHOP FELTON HAWKINS

Joshua 5:10-15

10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

11 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.


12 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.


Joshua 5:10-15


13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

15 And the captain of the Lord 's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

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- This text reminds us that God is ultimately for himself. As we know, God created everything for his own pleasure and purpose.
 - When Joshua came into the presence of this great angel, it seems that he assumed the angel would be for him since he was of the lineage of Abraham. He soon found out that this was not the case.
 - Some people think that because they are Christians, they are entitled to certain benefits regardless of their failure to cooperate with God's principles and plans.
 - Notice that the angel says, "I came to represent the will of God in heaven." Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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- This is why so many people are confused when they say they love God but they do not prosper. On the other hand, other people don't seem to act or live the way we think they should but they prosper.
 - We really need to get it in our mind that God honors his word and his principles, even when he doesn't honor the person.
 - We have been very careful to stick with the principles of tithing and offerings in God's economic plan.
 - It would be wise to go back and listen to the complete series so that you can understand the nature of this story and its alignment with the principles we have discussed.


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- Jericho was the first city in Canaan to be captured by Israel. The Lord told Joshua to destroy everyone in the city except for Rahab and her household as agreed by the spies that she hid.
 - Because Jericho was the first city, God reserved that city for himself and all the spoils of that city were to be dedicated unto God.

Joshua 6:17-19

17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the Lord : they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.

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- Notice God says that the silver, gold, brass, iron are consecrated unto the Lord. This means they are holy unto the Lord and reserved for his purpose and cause.
 - These Holy items are not to be possessed by those who are the children of Israel.

Joshua 7:10-14

10 And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?


11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Joshua 7:10-14

13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the Lord taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the Lord shall take shall come by households; and the household which the Lord shall take shall come man by man.

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- Anything sanctified for God becomes a curse to those who choose to take possession of it for themselves.
 - Many people have lost the reverence for God and the worship necessary to exemplify that God is priority in our lives.
 - It should not be a surprise that there were those who did not honor God but were selfish and consumed by their own greed.

Joshua 7:19-26

19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.

20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Joshua 7:19-26

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.


23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the Lord .

24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

Joshua 7:19-26

25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

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- Thank God because of his grace in the new covenant we do not experience such drastic consequences as Achan and his family.
 - The law required harsh punishment and consequences to reduce the level of disrespect that was present.
 - But we cannot believe that we will get away from the law of reciprocity and think that we will not reap any repercussions for our refusal to cooperate with the principles of the kingdom.
 - The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is still eternal life.



Genesis 2:17

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Joshua 2:18-21

18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.

19 And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.

Joshua 2:18-21

20 And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.

21 And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.