

Inheriting the Land of Promise  
**JOSHUA**

*"Holy War, Christ and the Church"*  
**Fall of Jericho (pt. 2)**

"And the city shall be under the ban (*herem*), it and all that is in it belongs to the Yahweh..."

"And they utterly destroyed (*haram*) everything in the city both man and woman, young and old, and ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of sword."

(Joshua 6:17, 21)

## Understanding "Holy War"

### 1. The Justice of God

#### ➤ *Biblical perspectives*

- the Canaanites were not innocent people but hard-hearted idolaters who committed great abominations against Yahweh
- "holy war" by Israel was a temporal form of the Lord's just judgment against His enemies

## Understanding "Holy War"

### 2. The Uniqueness of Israel/Canaan

#### ➤ *Kingdom perspectives*

- Israel's dwelling in the land of Canaan is a type of the salvation-rest brought by Jesus culminating in the final kingdom
- the Canaanites represent polluters of God's land and potentially of His people

## Understanding "Holy War"

### 2. The Uniqueness of Israel/Canaan

#### ➤ *Kingdom perspectives*

- Holy war by Israel prefigures the establishing of God's kingdom through the destruction of His enemies by His greater Son

## Understanding “Holy War”

### 3. New Testament Perspective

#### ➤ *Fulfillment in Christ*

- by His death and resurrection Jesus triumphs over God's enemies (Col. 2:15)
- in Christ enemies die under God's judgment and are raised to new life (Col. 2:12-13)

## Understanding “Holy War”

### 3. New Testament Perspective

#### ➤ *Application*

- does NOT involve physical warfare, conflict, violence or punishment carried out by Christians against God's enemies

## Understanding “Holy War”

### 3. New Testament Perspective

#### ➤ *Application*

- holy war for disciples of Christ is fought on a spiritual level with spiritual weapons not physical conflict
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5