

# RAHAB AND “THE BAN”

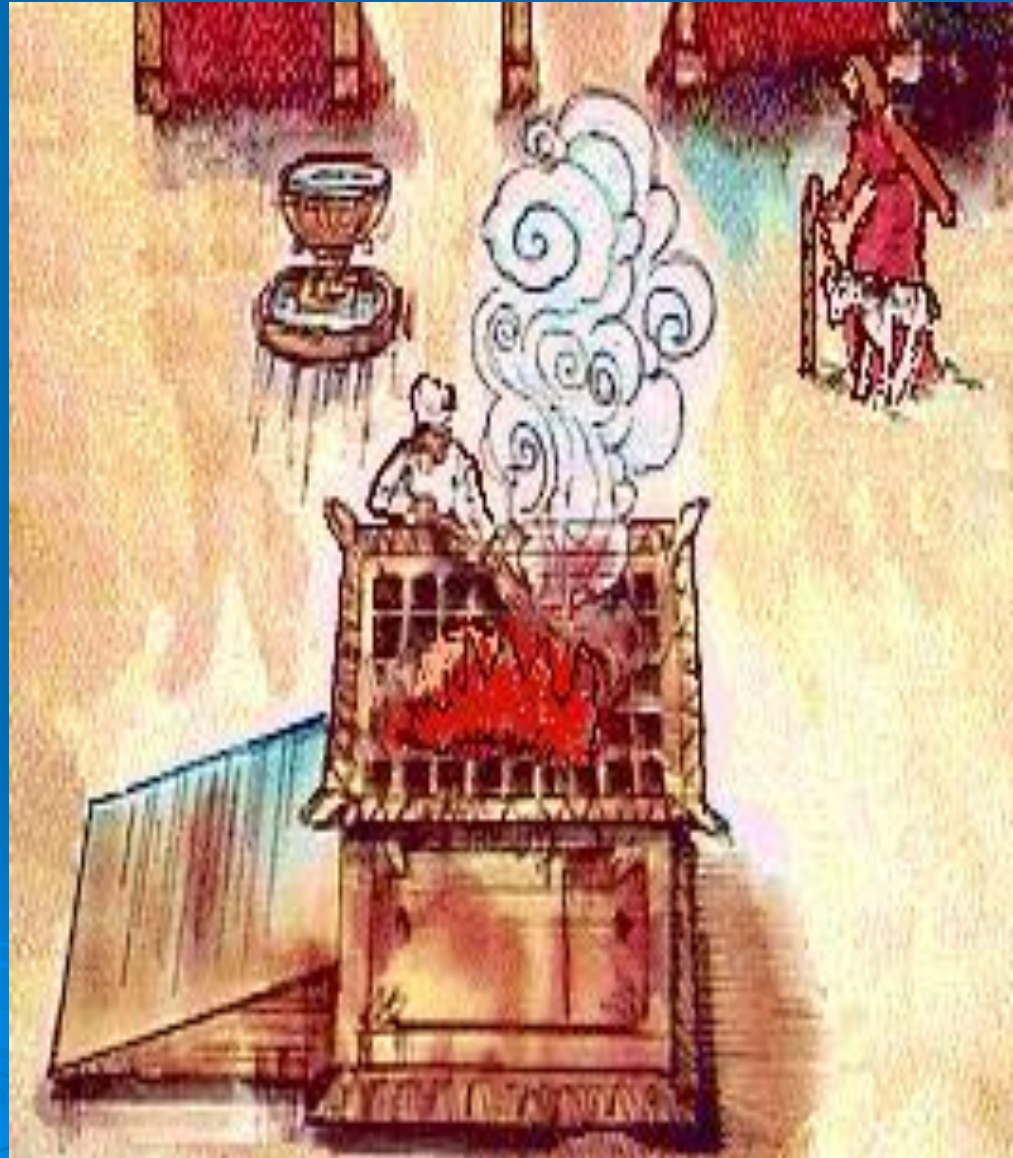


- **Principle:** The Ban = The Law of Herem
- **Principle:** A former enemy of God can be brought into the camp of Israel
- **The Ban:** All spoils of Holy War belong to God
- Only means to give spoils to God is to burn them up with fire
- Spoils = people, animals, possessions



# PRINCIPLE REFLECTED IN THE BRAZEN ALTAR

- Things devoted to God were to be burned up
- Rahab and family at first lived **OUTSIDE** the camp
- Later allowed to live **INSIDE** the camp
- ***Some*** benefit by living ***outside*** the camp
- **Greater** benefits by living **inside** the camp



# JOSHUA CURSES JERICHO



- Penalty for anyone who tries to rebuild Jericho is that their firstborn and last-born sons die
- This NOT about living in a village at Jericho
- This is about rebuilding a fortress against God
- 1Kings 16:30 – 34 Hi'el builds new fortress at Jericho, and loses his first and last-born sons
- Curse is still in effect <sup>3</sup>



# JOSHUA CHAPTER 7: THE BATTLE FOR AI



- *Achan* is the main character
- Revolves around the Law of Herem (the Ban)
- Luke 20:21 “...give to God what is God’s...”
- God’s holy property has the ban placed upon it

# GOD'S KINDNESS AND SEVERITY

- Things devoted to God, are God's
- When a man misappropriates God's holy property, that man receives God's severity
- Malachi 3:6 ***“Can a person rob God?”***
- Some things predetermined as belonging to God (people and possessions of Jericho)
- Other things can be given (or not) voluntarily
- Once a determination has been reached to give something to God, it cannot be revoked
- Upon the decision, the property instantly transfers to the Lord as holy property



# LESSONS NOT LEARNED



- To capture Jericho, Israel only marched around it silently while blowing shofars....God did the rest!
- After battle of Jericho was won, it seems someone has disobeyed the Lord and taken His banned property
- Israel identified as responsible
- One man (***Achan***) was the perpetrator



- All Israel was NOT seen as equally guilty as *Achan*
- *Achan* had robbed Israel of their purity and holiness
- Israel now bore the BURDEN (NOT the guilt) of Achan's sin
- ONE member of a group can affect the whole body
- It is the group's job, under God, to investigate, find the criminal and take proper action
- If we do NOT take action THEN we become guilty of that sin
- 1 COR. 5 “..if your right eye makes you sin, gouge it out.....”
- Matthew 5:29 “If your right eye makes you sin gouge it out....”



# Ai = The Ruin

- About 12,000 people lived there
- Israel's army feeling arrogant after Jericho victory
- Decided to send only 2 or 3 thousand men to capture Ai
- They were chased away, 36 Israelites died, humiliated by the defeat





# JOSHUA AND THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL MOURN AND DESPAIR



- Leaders sure that God must have withdrawn from them
- Complained to God as the people had during the Wilderness Journey
- Two fears: 1) Canaanite tribes will gain courage and come and destroy Israel 2) God's name will be dishonored
- ***Shem*** = name = reputation, character

# STAND UP!!

- Joshua is to seek the proper source of the impediment to victory
- The problem is with Israel, not God
- Israel has sinned, it has taken some of the ban (the holy spoils of war)
- Holiness and impurity can be transmitted from one thing to another
- A process was initiated to show Israel who the perpetrator was



# THE CRIMINAL MUST BE FOUND

- The items under ban must be found and destroyed
- The criminal who took them must ALSO be destroyed
- The person (criminal) who has taken the ban, is now himself ban!
- Lots were used to determine the criminal's tribe, clan, family, and household

