

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 7 – THE BATTLE BEGINS

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God’s grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God’s expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

DIGGING IN

- 1) What basis did Joshua have for being “strong and courageous”? (pg 89) Which assurances that God gave Joshua most strengthen and encourage you?

- 2) The prostitute Rahab played a role in Israel’s conquest of Jericho. (pages 90-91) Read Matthew 1:5 and identify another role she played in God’s overall plan of salvation. What God’s use of Rahab, a prostitute, reveal to us about him?

- 3) Rahab hid the spies and then lied to the authorities when they came looking for them. When, if ever, is it okay to lie? How do you know?

- 4) Why did God order the Israelites to go to war against others? How was this war justified?

- 5) This chapter was full of great military victories won by the people of Israel. How do we know that their success came only because the LORD was on their side? Give examples to support your answer. What does this teach us about who is really in charge of history?

- 6) Christians are not called to “holy war.” There is not branch of “militant Christianity.” At the same time, believers on earth are sometimes referred to as the “Church Militant.” Who is our enemy? Where does this battle take place? (cf. Ephesians 6:10-18)

- 7) Joshua is well-known for his statement, “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (pg 101) How does this compare with what many parents today say: “We don’t want to force religion on our kids. We’ll let them decide what they want to believe”? Comment on the responsibility and influence of parents in the faith formation of their children.

FOR NEXT TIME

Chapter 8: A Few Good Men...and Women
Bible Reference: Judges 2-4; 6-8; 13-16