

## **Dr. David Howard, Joshua - Ruth, Session 10, Joshua 7, Rahab and Achan Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 10, Joshua 7, Rahab and Achan, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

This excerpt is from a lecture by Dr. David Howard on the books of Joshua and Ruth. **The lecture focuses on a comparison between Rahab and Achan in Joshua chapters 6 and 7. Rahab, a Canaanite, found salvation through faith in Israel's God, while Achan, an Israelite, suffered destruction due to his disobedience. Dr. Howard highlights the ironic contrast:** Rahab, a Canaanite by birth, became Israelite in faith, while Achan, an Israelite by birth, suffered the fate of a Canaanite due to his lack of faith. The lecture uses this comparison to illustrate the importance of faith and obedience.

**2. 6 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 10 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Joshua-Ruth).**



**Howard\_Josh\_Ruth  
\_Session10.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 10, Joshua 7, Rahab and Achan

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, "Howard\_Josh\_Ruth\_EN\_Session10\_Ruth\_Achan.pdf":

#### **Briefing Document: Joshua 6-7, Rahab and Achan Contrast**

##### **Overview:**

This document summarizes Dr. David Howard's analysis of Joshua chapters 6 and 7, highlighting the contrasting stories of Rahab and Achan. The lecture focuses on how their actions and faith (or lack thereof) led them to distinct fates, ultimately blurring the lines between their birth identities and their chosen spiritual allegiances.

##### **Main Themes & Key Ideas:**

1. **Contrast Between Rahab and Achan:** The core of Dr. Howard's analysis is the striking contrast between Rahab, a Canaanite, and Achan, an Israelite, in their respective actions and outcomes.
2. **Rahab's Faith and Inclusion:**
  - Rahab, despite being a Canaanite, demonstrated faith in the God of Israel.
  - As a result of her faith, she and her family were spared when Jericho was destroyed.
  - Howard notes, "We've seen in some detail about Rahab back in chapter 2, actually, who was a Canaanite who embraced the faith of Israel. And then in chapter 6, we see her and her family spared because of this faith."
  - He argues that Rahab, "by her faith, she ended up, in a sense, being an Israelite. Not by birth, but by her faith."
1. **Achan's Disobedience and Destruction:**
  - Achan, an Israelite, committed a sin of disobedience which resulted in the complete destruction of himself and his family.
  - Howard points out: "Achan in chapter 7, we see him sinning and the aftermath of that, and he ultimately suffers the complete destruction of himself and his family."

- Dr Howard suggests that Achan, "ended up suffering the fate of the Canaanites. He was destroyed completely the way the Canaanites were to be destroyed. And so, in a sense, Achan became a Canaanite in the end..."
1. **Identity Beyond Birth:** Dr. Howard emphasizes that faith and actions define one's true identity more than birthright or national origin. He succinctly puts this in terms of two main comparisons:
    - **Rahab, a Canaanite by birth, became an Israelite by faith:** "...Rahab, a Canaanite, became an Israelite and joined the family of faith by her faith, not by her birth."
    - **Achan, an Israelite by birth, became a 'Canaanite' by his actions:** "So, Caleb, an Israelite, became a Canaanite, so to speak, by his lack of faith, his disobedience."
  1. **"Becoming" the Other:** Howard uses the term "in a sense" to describe how Achan became a "Canaanite" by his actions and how Rahab became an "Israelite" by faith. It's not a literal change of ethnic identity, but a reflection of spiritual alignment and its consequences.

#### Key Quotes:

- "We've seen in some detail about Rahab back in chapter 2, actually, who was a Canaanite who embraced the faith of Israel. And then in chapter 6, we see her and her family spared because of this faith."
- "Achan in chapter 7, we see him sinning and the aftermath of that, and he ultimately suffers the complete destruction of himself and his family."
- "...in a sense, Achan became a Canaanite in the end, whereas Rahab, by contrast, was born a Canaanite, but by her faith, she ended up, in a sense, being an Israelite. Not by birth, but by her faith."
- "Rahab, a Canaanite, became an Israelite and joined the family of faith by her faith, not by her birth."

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Howard's analysis of Rahab and Achan in Joshua 6-7 provides a powerful illustration of how faith and obedience, or the lack thereof, shape one's destiny. It challenges the notion that birth identity is the sole determinant of belonging and fate, suggesting that genuine faith transcends ethnic boundaries and that disobedience carries severe consequences. The lecture highlights that one's actions, in faith or rebellion, ultimately determine their alignment with God.

## 4. Study Guide: Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 10, Joshua 7, Rahab and Achan

### Joshua 6-7: Rahab and Achan Study Guide

#### Short Answer Quiz

1. What is the primary contrast Dr. Howard highlights between Rahab and Achan in Joshua 6 and 7?
2. How does the text describe Rahab's faith in chapter 2, and what was its result in chapter 6?
3. According to Dr. Howard, what was Achan's sin in chapter 7 and how did it connect to the fate of the Canaanites?
4. How does Achan's lineage being specified in the text influence the interpretation of the story, according to Dr. Howard?
5. In what way did Rahab become like an Israelite, according to the lecture?
6. In what way did Achan become like a Canaanite, according to the lecture?
7. What does Dr. Howard suggest is the means of belonging to the family of faith for Rahab?
8. What was the fate of Achan and his family in Joshua 7?
9. According to Dr. Howard's analysis, was Achan disobedient or lacking in faith?
10. How does the contrast between Rahab and Achan serve to highlight the role of faith, according to Dr. Howard?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Dr. Howard contrasts Rahab, a Canaanite who embraced the faith of Israel, and Achan, an Israelite who sinned and suffered complete destruction. He suggests they are a counter-example to how identity is often presumed.
2. Rahab's faith is shown through her actions in protecting the Israelite spies, and as a result, she and her family are spared during the fall of Jericho.
3. Achan's sin was disobeying God's command by taking devoted things, which led to him and his family being destroyed like the Canaanites.

4. By specifying Achan's clan, the text emphasizes that he was an Israelite, yet he still suffered the same fate as the Canaanites. It serves to create the contrast.
5. Rahab became like an Israelite not by birth, but by her faith in the God of Israel, which led to her being integrated into the Israelite community.
6. Achan, though an Israelite by birth, became like a Canaanite through his disobedience and actions, resulting in his destruction like the Canaanites were to be.
7. Dr. Howard states that Rahab joined the family of faith through her own faith, not by birth or ethnicity.
8. Achan and his entire family were destroyed as a consequence of his disobedience, emphasizing the severity of his sin.
9. According to Dr. Howard, Achan displayed a lack of faith that resulted in his disobedience.
10. The contrast highlights how one's faith, or lack thereof, can determine one's true identity and fate, regardless of birth origin or heritage.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the symbolic significance of Rahab's inclusion in the lineage of Jesus, considering her Canaanite background and actions in Joshua 2 and 6. How does this affect an interpretation of God's kingdom?
2. Discuss the concept of "corporate responsibility" as it appears in Joshua 7 in the context of Achan's sin and its consequences for his family. How might this be applied or interpreted in a modern context?
3. Compare and contrast the themes of obedience and disobedience in the stories of Rahab and Achan. How do these narratives contribute to the overall message of the book of Joshua?
4. Explore the idea of "becoming" as it relates to identity in Joshua 6 and 7. How do Rahab and Achan represent different pathways to identity? How do these pathways speak to the reader?
5. Consider the concept of divine justice in the context of Joshua 7. How does the punishment of Achan and his family challenge or affirm traditional understandings of divine justice in the biblical narrative?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Canaanite:** A member of the people inhabiting the land of Canaan, who were often viewed as adversaries of the Israelites in the Old Testament.
- **Israelite:** A descendant of Jacob (Israel), the patriarch of the twelve tribes of Israel; the chosen people of God in the Old Testament.
- **Faith:** A deep trust or belief in a power or entity, often specifically referencing belief in God and adherence to His principles.
- **Disobedience:** Failure or refusal to comply with a command, often with religious or moral connotations.
- **Obedience:** Compliance with an order, request, or law, typically viewed as a virtue in religious contexts.
- **Devoted Things:** Items or possessions that were specifically set apart for God, often associated with sacred or holy purposes. Taking them was a violation of God's direct command to the Israelites.
- **Clan:** A group of people united by kinship or descent, typically forming a distinct community within a larger society or culture.
- **Identity:** The sense of self or belonging, often associated with birth origin, faith, or group affiliation, among other things.
- **Corporate Responsibility:** The concept that the actions of an individual can have consequences for the group to which they belong.
- **Divine Justice:** The belief that God is righteous in judging right and wrong and ensuring punishment for evil.

## 5. FAQs on Howard, Joshua-Ruth, Session 10, Joshua 7, Rahab and Achan, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions about Joshua Chapters 6 & 7:

1. **Who are the two key figures contrasted in Joshua chapters 6 and 7, and what makes their stories so different?**
2. The two main figures are Rahab and Achan. Rahab, a Canaanite, demonstrates faith in the God of Israel, leading to her and her family's salvation when Jericho falls. Achan, an Israelite, disobeys God by taking forbidden plunder, resulting in his and his family's destruction. Their contrasting fates highlight how faith versus disobedience determines one's true allegiance and destiny, regardless of birthright.
3. **How does the text portray Rahab's transformation?**
4. Rahab, though a Canaanite by birth, becomes, through her faith in the God of Israel, an adopted member of God's people. She moves from being an outsider to an insider by aligning herself with God's promises and showing loyalty. This is not by ethnic origin but by spiritual alignment.
5. **How does the text portray Achan's downfall?**
6. Achan, an Israelite by birth, is portrayed as aligning himself with the doomed Canaanites through his act of disobedience. He ultimately suffers the fate of those who are against God. His actions and the consequences they bring highlights the seriousness of disobedience and the reality that one's actions determine one's place, more so than lineage.
7. **What is meant by the idea that Achan "became a Canaanite" in the end?**
8. This is metaphorical. Achan, by choosing to disobey God's commands, aligned himself with the rebellious Canaanites who were slated for destruction. It doesn't mean he changed ethnicities; it means he adopted a character marked by disobedience and was punished accordingly. His actions led to the same result that the Canaanites faced.



**9. How does Rahab become an "Israelite," according to the text?**

10. Rahab becomes an "Israelite" not by birth or ethnicity but through her active faith in the God of Israel. She chose to align herself with them and their God, thereby becoming part of their covenant community. She was spared destruction due to her faith. This signifies how loyalty transcends bloodlines and birth.

**11. What broader lesson is the comparison between Rahab and Achan meant to teach?**

12. The comparison underscores the crucial role of faith and obedience in determining one's standing with God. It illustrates that simply belonging to the covenant community is not enough; it's one's actions and alignment of heart with God that matters. It emphasizes that faith transcends ethnicity, while disobedience results in a spiritual detachment from God's people, regardless of one's background.

**13. Does this comparison suggest that ethnicity is insignificant in determining one's standing before God?**

14. Yes, to an extent. While ethnicity and lineage were significant within the historical context of the Israelites, the stories of Rahab and Achan show that it's one's faith, actions and alignment with God that are the determining factor in their relationship with God. Rahab's acceptance shows that God's promises are not exclusive to a particular lineage.

**15. What does the story of Achan reveal about the nature and consequences of disobedience?**

16. Achan's story reveals that disobedience is not a trivial matter. It can have devastating consequences, not just for the individual but also for their family. It demonstrates the severity of betraying God's trust and the importance of living righteously before God. It serves as a warning about the dangers of greed and the high cost of turning away from God's commands.