

## **Dr. Robert Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 7A, Joshua 1-5, Jordan, Gilgal Circumcision, Rahab Lying Resources from NotebookLM**

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

### **1. Abstract of Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 7A, Joshua 1-5, Jordan, Gilgal Circumcision, Rahab Lying, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

This lecture from Robert Vannoy explores the book of Joshua, specifically chapters 1-5, focusing on Israel's entry into Canaan. The discussion begins with Joshua's commission and the mobilization of the people. **It analyzes the story of Rahab and the ethical considerations of her actions, particularly regarding the ninth commandment and the permissibility of deception.** The lecture then examines the crossing of the Jordan River, highlighting the miraculous nature of the event and its parallel to the Red Sea crossing. **Finally, it covers the circumcision of the Israelite males at Gilgal and the subsequent celebration of Passover, emphasizing the renewal of the covenant between God and His people as they enter the Promised Land.**

**2. 26 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 7A – 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 → Exodus to Exile).**



**Vannoy\_ExtoExile\_Session07A.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 7A, Joshua 1-5, Jordan, Gilgal Circumcision, Rahab Lying

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture excerpts, along with relevant quotes:

#### Briefing Document: Vannoy on Joshua 1-5

**Overview:** This briefing summarizes key points from Robert Vannoy's lecture on Joshua 1-5, focusing on Israel's entry into Canaan, the story of Rahab, the crossing of the Jordan River, and the covenant renewal at Gilgal. The lecture explores the historical and theological significance of these events, as well as ethical considerations, particularly concerning Rahab's actions.

#### I. Introduction & Context:

- **Contemporary Approaches to the Conquest:** Vannoy briefly reviews different models for understanding Israel's establishment in Canaan: the traditional conquest model, a modified conquest model, the migration model, and the peasant rebellion model.
- **Joshua's Commission and Mobilization:** He highlights the transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua and the challenge to Joshua based on Deuteronomic theology: obedience leads to blessing, disobedience to curses. "Verse 8: 'Do not let the book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.'" The people are mobilized to cross the Jordan.

#### II. The Story of Rahab (Joshua 2):

- **Rahab's Faith:** Vannoy emphasizes Rahab's faith as the key to understanding her actions. He connects her actions to Hebrews 11 and James 2, which commend her. He quotes Joshua 2:11 "For Yahweh your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.'" There's Rahab's faith. She believed that Yahweh was God in heaven and on earth. Her action in giving protection to those spies was an action that was born of that faith."

- **Ethical Considerations: Lying:** A significant portion of the lecture focuses on the ethical implications of Rahab's deception. The central question is: "are there any conceivable circumstances in which it is permissible to deceive another person?" He explores whether her actions were commendable or worthy of condemnation given she lied.
- **The Ninth Commandment:** He places Rahab's actions in the context of the ninth commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), distinguishing between its specific intent (judicial procedure) and broader implications (serving one's neighbor with truthful words). He notes, "the commandment is speaking specifically about judicial procedure and the way in which a person's words should cause justice rather than injustice to prevail, with respect to their neighbor."
- **Four Positions on Lying:** Vannoy presents four different viewpoints on whether it is ever permissible to lie:
  1. **Never permissible:** Lying is always wrong, without exception.
  2. **Situation Ethics:** Right and wrong are determined by applying the "law of love" in each situation (Joseph Fletcher).
  3. **Clash of Obligations:** Lying is permissible only in extreme circumstances where there is a conflict of obligations, and the "spirit" of the ninth commandment takes priority over a formal statement of truth.
  4. **Redefining "Lie":** Answering "no" to "Is it ever permissible to lie?" but redefining "lie" to allow for situations where speaking or intimating what is not true is not considered a lie.
- **Charles Hodge's View:** Vannoy delves into Charles Hodge's perspective, which aligns with the fourth position. Hodge argues that a lie involves not just a false statement, but also an intent to deceive when one is expected and bound to speak the truth. He cites examples from the Old Testament (Hebrew midwives, Samuel deceiving Saul, Elisha misleading the Syrians) to illustrate situations where deception might be justifiable because there is no obligation to reveal the truth to those who have no right to expect it. Hodge states it is not simply an *ennunciatio falsium*, a false statement, but there must be intent to deceive when we are expected and bound to speak the truth.

- **Walter Kaiser's Counter-Argument:** Vannoy discusses Walter Kaiser's view, which strongly opposes any form of lying. Kaiser distinguishes between "concealing" and "lying," arguing that it is permissible to conceal information but never to lie. He contends that Rahab was commended for her faith, not for her lying, and that her lie was an "unnecessary accoutrement."
- **Additional Perspectives:** Mentions Corrie ten Boom (who refused to lie, expecting God to intervene), and Brother Andrew (Bible smuggler, who tried to distinguish between concealing and lying). Notes Rushdoony stating Rahab would have been testing God had she told the truth.

### III. Crossing the Jordan River (Joshua 3-4):

- **Miraculous Crossing:** The lecture describes the miraculous crossing of the Jordan, where God stopped the flow of the river, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground. Vannoy notes that the crossing is described as being cut off in a heap, possibly referring to a landslide.
- **Memorial Stones:** Joshua is instructed to set up twelve stones as a memorial to this act of deliverance. This serves as a visual reminder of God's power. "These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." This is compared to the plagues of Exodus.
- **Authentication of Joshua's Leadership:** The crossing is presented as an authentication of Joshua's leadership, similar to how the Exodus authenticated Moses.

### IV. Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal (Joshua 5):

- **Removal of Canaanite Resistance:** The Canaanites' will to resist was removed by fear. "When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted; they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites." This allowed for the renewal of worship and covenant.
- **Circumcision of the New Generation:** Vannoy explains that the males born during the wilderness period had not been circumcised, possibly due to God's judgment during that time. Now, they are circumcised at Gilgal.
- **Observance of Passover:** The Israelites celebrate the Passover at Gilgal, marking a renewal of covenant fellowship with God.

## V. Key Themes:

- **Faith and Obedience:** The lecture highlights the importance of faith in God and obedience to His commands.
- **God's Power and Deliverance:** The events described demonstrate God's power to deliver His people from their enemies.
- **Covenant Renewal:** The events at Gilgal emphasize the importance of covenant renewal and maintaining a close relationship with God.
- **Ethical Dilemmas:** The story of Rahab raises complex ethical questions about truth-telling and the potential for conflicting obligations.

## VI. Points for Discussion:

- The differing interpretations of Rahab's actions and the permissibility of lying.
- The role of faith in difficult ethical situations.
- The balance between the letter and the spirit of the law.
- The application of these principles to contemporary life.

This briefing provides a solid overview of the key topics and arguments presented in the lecture excerpts.

## 4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 7A, Joshua 1-5, Jordan, Gilgal Circumcision, Rahab Lying

### Joshua: Entry into Canaan Study Guide

#### Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. What are the four contemporary approaches to the establishment of Israel in Canaan discussed by Vannoy?
2. According to Vannoy, what was the challenge to Joshua as he assumed leadership of the Israelites?
3. What two New Testament passages are relevant to understanding Rahab's actions in Joshua 2, according to Vannoy?
4. Explain the specific intent of the Ninth Commandment within the context of Israelite judicial procedure.
5. According to Vannoy, what are the four basic responses to the question, "Is it ever permissible to lie?"
6. Briefly describe Walter Kaiser's perspective on the story of Rahab and lying.
7. What was the purpose of setting up the twelve stones after crossing the Jordan River?
8. According to Vannoy, how did the Canaanites react upon hearing of Israel's crossing of the Jordan River?
9. According to Vannoy, what was the apparent reason for the lack of circumcision during the Israelites' time in the wilderness?
10. Why does Vannoy think God allowed Israel's initial days to be spent in worship and covenant renewal rather than in war?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The four approaches are the traditional conquest model, the modified conquest model, the migration model, and the peasant rebellion model. These models represent different scholarly attempts to explain the archaeological and biblical evidence related to Israel's settlement in Canaan.
2. The challenge to Joshua was to be obedient to the Law of Moses and to meditate on it day and night so that he could be careful to do everything written in it,

which, according to Deuteronomic theology, would lead to prosperity and success. This obedience was essential for leading the people into Canaan and conquering the land.

3. The two New Testament passages are Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25. These verses are both commendatory of Rahab, particularly of her faith, although the question is raised about the ethics of her methods.
4. The specific intent of the Ninth Commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor," is related to judicial procedure and jurisprudence in ancient Israel. It was designed to prevent false testimony in court, which could lead to injustice and the punishment of innocent people, safeguarding justice and order in society.
5. The four responses to "Is it ever permissible to lie?" are: (1) No, without exception; (2) Yes, based on situation ethics; (3) Yes, in extreme circumstances where there is a clash of obligations; and (4) No, but redefine "lie" to allow for situations where speaking what is not true is not considered a lie.
6. Walter Kaiser believes it is never permissible to lie and finds fault with Rahab's actions, he argues she is commended for her faith, not for her lying. He distinguishes between concealing and lying, suggesting concealing facts is permissible when there's no obligation to reveal them.
7. The purpose of setting up the twelve stones was to serve as a visual memorial and a sign among the Israelites, reminding them and future generations of the Lord's miraculous deliverance in drying up the Jordan River and allowing them to cross into the Promised Land on dry ground.
8. The Canaanites' hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites. This fear, instilled by God, allowed Israel to spend its initial days in the Promised Land in worship and covenant renewal rather than in war.
9. Vannoy believes the lack of circumcision during the Israelites' time in the wilderness was due to the Lord's judgment against that generation for their disobedience at Kadesh Barnea. This judgment, lasting thirty-eight years, meant that applying the sign of the covenant of circumcision was deemed inappropriate during that period of divine displeasure.

10. Vannoy thinks God allowed Israel's initial days to be spent in worship and covenant renewal rather than in war in order to assure them that he is their covenant God and to encourage them as they faced the coming battles. This renewal of covenant fellowship was crucial for their spiritual preparation and strength.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the ethical complexities presented by Rahab's actions in Joshua 2, considering the various perspectives on lying and the Ninth Commandment discussed in the lecture.
2. Compare and contrast the significance of the Jordan River crossing in Joshua 3-4 with the Red Sea crossing in Exodus, highlighting the similarities and differences in their purpose and impact.
3. Discuss the importance of covenant renewal and religious observance, specifically circumcision and Passover, in Joshua 5, and explain why these practices were prioritized upon entering the Promised Land.
4. Evaluate the different contemporary approaches to the establishment of Israel in Canaan, considering the strengths and weaknesses of each model in light of the biblical text.
5. Explore the concept of "clash of obligations" in ethical decision-making, using examples from the Old Testament, and discuss whether the spirit of a law can ever take precedence over its letter.



## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Deuteronomic Theology:** The theological framework found in the Book of Deuteronomy, emphasizing that obedience to God's commands leads to blessing, while disobedience leads to curses and judgment.
- **Ninth Commandment:** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." This commandment, part of the Ten Commandments, specifically prohibits giving false testimony in a legal setting but has broader implications for truthfulness in all aspects of life.
- **Situation Ethics:** An ethical theory that argues there are no absolute or objective moral standards; instead, ethical decisions should be made based on the most loving thing to do in each specific situation.
- **Cairn:** A heap of stones set up as a landmark, monument, or memorial. In Joshua 4, the Israelites set up a cairn of twelve stones taken from the Jordan River as a memorial to God's deliverance.
- **Gilgal:** The place where the Israelites encamped after crossing the Jordan River. It served as a base of operations and a place for covenant renewal through circumcision and the celebration of Passover.
- **Rahab:** A prostitute in Jericho who hid the Israelite spies and helped them escape. She is mentioned in the New Testament as an example of faith and is included in the genealogy of Jesus.
- **Amarna Letters:** A collection of clay tablets written primarily in Akkadian, which document the correspondence between the Egyptian administration and its representatives in Canaan and Amurru during the New Kingdom.
- **City-State:** An independent city and its surrounding territory forming a self-governing entity, often with its own ruler or king, as was common in Canaan during the time of Joshua.
- **YHWH:** The personal name of God in the Hebrew Bible, often translated as "LORD." It represents God's covenant name and his unique relationship with Israel.
- **The Law of Moses:** Refers to the first five books of the Old Testament and represents God's teaching to the Hebrew people beginning with the revelation to Moses.

## 5. FAQs on Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 7A, Joshua 1-5, Jordan, Gilgal Circumcision, Rahab Lying, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions About Joshua 1-5

- **What are the main contemporary approaches to understanding Israel's establishment in Canaan, as discussed in the lecture?**
- The lecture mentions several approaches: the traditional conquest model (a rapid, widespread military takeover), the modified conquest model (suggesting destruction was limited to a few key cities), the migration model (a gradual influx of people), and the peasant rebellion model (an internal uprising of oppressed groups).
- **What is the significance of Joshua's commission in Joshua 1:1-9?**
- Joshua's commission marks the transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua. It emphasizes the importance of obedience to the law, as adherence to Deuteronomic theology is essential for prosperity and success in conquering Canaan. It presents a challenge to Joshua, urging him to meditate on and obey the law.
- **Why is the story of Rahab in Joshua 2 significant and what ethical questions does it raise?**
- Rahab's story highlights her faith in Yahweh, influencing her decision to protect the Israelite spies. Ethically, it raises questions about whether it's justifiable to deceive (lie) to protect someone from injustice, and the conflict between obligations to different parties (e.g., loyalty to her king vs. protecting the spies).
- **What are the different perspectives on the ethics of Rahab's actions, specifically regarding lying?**
- The lecture outlines four main perspectives: (1) Lying is always wrong, without exception. (2) Situation ethics: morality is determined by the "law of love" in each situation, dismissing objective standards. (3) Lying is permissible only in extreme circumstances where there's a clash of obligations, and the spirit of the Ninth Commandment (protecting one's neighbor) takes precedence. (4) Redefining "lie" to allow for situations where not speaking the truth isn't considered a lie if there is no obligation to disclose the truth.

- **What is the specific intent of the ninth commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), and how does it relate to Rahab's situation?**
- The specific intent relates to judicial procedure in Israel, where bearing false witness could lead to injustice. It emphasizes truthfulness in legal proceedings. It is argued that Rahab's actions may be justifiable under the spirit of the ninth commandment if her actions were to bring justice to her neighbor (the Israelite spies) rather than injustice.
- **How does crossing the Jordan River mirror the crossing of the Red Sea?**
- Both events are miraculous displays of God's power, demonstrating his ability to deliver his people. Just as the Red Sea crossing authenticated Moses' leadership, the Jordan crossing authenticated Joshua's. Both crossings are associated with visual reminders: the stones taken from the Jordan are akin to the memorial Passover, and the crossing at the Red Sea.
- **What is the significance of the circumcision and Passover observed at Gilgal in Joshua 5?**
- These acts represent a renewal of the covenant relationship between God and Israel immediately after entering the Promised Land. They symbolize purification and dedication to God before engaging in war. The circumcision addresses the fact that males born during the wilderness wandering were not circumcised.
- **Why weren't the Israelite males circumcised during their time in the wilderness?**
- The text implies that circumcision was not performed during the wilderness period because it was a time of God's judgment on Israel due to their lack of faith after the spies' report at Kadesh Barnea. As such, applying the sign of the covenant was seen as inappropriate until the new generation entered the Promised Land.