

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

- ✓ **Joshua 1:1-3:17.** Joshua.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 9:1-5.** Giving according to grace, not out of necessity.
- ✓ **Psalm 47:1-9.** God as King and Warrior.

COMMENTARY:

Joshua 1:1-3:17. In chapter 1 we have the commission of Joshua, in chapter 2 Rahab hides the spies, and in chapter three Israel crosses over the Jordan. In 2:4 Rahab lied to the king of Jericho, saying that the men had already gone and that she did not know where they went. Given that she is commended for her faith (Heb. 11:31) and blessed in that that she and her family were saved when Israel destroyed Jericho, it may appear that she is blessed for lying. However, as we have seen in our studies regarding evil suffering, it is fallacious to take a consequent and say that the antecedent was the cause. In other words, just because someone is able to get some good out of evil suffering, does not mean that that is why God sent it. Hence, just because she lied and was blessed does not mean that one can say *because* she lied she was blessed by God. God blessed Rahab in spite of her lie, not because of it. She exhibited great faith by siding with Israel against the people of Jericho when she protected the spies from being discovered. Moreover, given her limited knowledge and background, God would not have held her responsible. It is also important to remember that God commands obedience to government (Rom. 13:1), but there are many examples of justified civil disobedience when the government attempts to compel unrighteousness (Ex. 5; Dan 3, 6; Rev. 13); the case of the Hebrew wives is one of the clearest examples (Ex. 1:15-21).

2 Corinthians 9:1-5. In the section Paul deals with the Corinthians who needed to complete what they had started with respect to giving (8:6, 10). The Corinthians had agreed enthusiastically (8:11) to be involved in this service to the saints (8:4; 9:12–13). However, unlike the Macedonians, they lacked diligence in seeing the project through to completion. Slow starters, the Macedonians finished quickly. But the Corinthians, willing in spirit, needed to be reminded. So, Paul arranges for Titus and the brothers (8:23) to help the Corinthians get their financial house in order. The goal was that when Paul arrived, no collections would have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2) under pressure which might resemble exploitation. Such motivation is unworthy of grace. Instead, grace giving is to be a willing response to God’s grace, not something done grudgingly.

Psalm 47:1-9. This psalm is classified as a kingdom psalm. The occasion for the psalm was great military victory. Note how the imagery focuses on God ruling over the universe. This ultimately points to the celebration of the ascension and rule of Jesus Christ, who is both King and Warrior—and we will be His bride with front row seat of His glory in destroying all wickedness: *Revelation 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*⁸ *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*⁹ *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*¹⁰ *And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to*

me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." ¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don