

Joshua 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

Analysis

The condition placed on Rahab—'whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head'—emphasizes personal responsibility in salvation. Those who left the protected space forfeited protection. This illustrates that salvation requires remaining in the covenant refuge provided by God. The phrase 'his blood shall be upon his head' uses covenantal language indicating that the guilt of his death rests on the individual, not on those who provided refuge. The Hebrew ראש (rosh—head) signifies both physical location and responsibility. Conversely, 'whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head' transfers responsibility to the Israelites—they covenant to protect all within. This bilateral covenant mirrors God's covenant with believers: we must remain in Christ (John 15:4), and He pledges to keep those who remain in Him. The house becomes a type of the church—safety is found within the covenant community, in the place designated by God.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern warfare typically involved no quarter given during city conquest—complete destruction was standard for cities under herem (חֵרֶם—devoted to destruction). The unusual nature of sparing any household required strict conditions to prevent Israel from violating their covenant to destroy Jericho (6:17). The covenant oath sworn by the spies (2:14) created legal obligation binding on all Israel—they gave their word 'when the LORD hath given us the

land.' The requirement to stay inside the house during conquest mirrors the Passover command (Exodus 12:22)—none could go out until morning lest they perish. This pattern teaches that salvation isn't merely intellectual assent but requires active, ongoing trust that remains where God provides safety. The spies' willingness to stake their lives ('his blood shall be on our head') on Rahab's protection demonstrates the seriousness of covenant promises in ancient culture.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the requirement to 'remain in the house' teach about perseverance and abiding in Christ?
2. How does personal responsibility ('his blood upon his head') relate to the gospel's call to faith and repentance?
3. In what ways does the church serve as God's 'house of refuge' in a world under judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל לָ	כֶּסֶף	וְזָהָב	וְכֵלֵי י	נְחֹשֶׁת	וּבְרֹזָה ל
H3605	But all the silver	and gold	and vessels	of brass	and iron
	H3701	H2091	H3627	H5178	H1270
קִדְּשׁ	הָ וְאֵל	יְהוָה הָ	אֲצֻרָה	יְהוָה הָ	
are consecrated	H1931	of the LORD	into the treasury	of the LORD	
H6944		H3068	H214	H3068	
יָבֹאוּ:					
they shall come					
H935					

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 26:20 (Parallel theme): And of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasures of the house of God, and over the treasures of the dedicated things.

Mark 12:41 (Parallel theme): And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

Matthew 27:6 (Parallel theme): And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

Nehemiah 10:38 (Parallel theme): And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.

1 Chronicles 18:11 (References Lord): Them also king David dedicated unto the LORD, with the silver and the gold that he brought from all these nations; from Edom, and from Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek.

1 Kings 7:51 (References Lord): So was ended all the work that king Solomon made for the house of the LORD. And Solomon brought in the things which David

his father had dedicated; even the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 24:13 (References Lord): And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.

2 Samuel 8:11 (References Lord): Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;