

Scripture Reading: Joshua 6:20-26

Is God loving and Merciful...?

When the people of Israel came around the walls of Jericho for seven days and on the seventh day blew the trumpet and shouted praises unto God, the walls of Jericho fell flat before their eyes. Joshua, according to God's command, just spared Rahab and her household but slew all that lived in the city including women and children, youngsters and the old. That day, they burnt the entire city. Only Rahab and her household were saved because of her trust in God. Though it is a fact that God loved the people of Israel, when we see Him destroy the people of Canaan and Jericho, isn't there a doubt that arises about His lovingness?

Answer:

Before we meditate on the book of Joshua and the book of Judges, when we look into the above question, we will be able to understand why God wanted to completely destroy all the Canaanites. Almost five hundred years ago, God had determined to give this land of Canaan to Abraham. At that time, the people who lived there greatly sinned against God and provoked Him to anger. He waited for all these years to give them an opportunity to repent. But they repented not. The last forty years, He brought the Israelites through the wilderness and performed mighty deeds in their midst and caused the news of it to spread through Canaan. Even then, except for the family of Rahab, none accepted Him as their God. On one hand they kept on sinning against God, on the other side, they rejected all the opportunities that God gave them to repent. If the sin continued likewise, the righteous God who stands no sin will be forced to destroy the entire humanity once again. In order to avoid that, He chose a people for Himself and through them destroyed such people. Even tomorrow we shall meditate about this in more clarity and then proceed further.

"But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance?" Romans 3:5

Prayer

Dear father, You died for the sins of this world. You desire to even reveal Your love to Your enemies. Thank You Lord. Amen