

**SICK:** Clara North (Magnolia Hosp.), Mary Dexter, Ken Latch, Jewell Mullins, Frankie Briggs (Steve's cousin), Bobby Davis (Paulette's uncle).

**GOSPEL MEETING:** Mt. Zion church of Christ, April 1-5, 7pm. Sun. 9:30am Charles Leonard-The False Doctrine of Premillennialism, 10:30am-Will There be a Rapture?, 6:00 pm-What About the Seven Years of Tribulation?, Mon. Robert Taylor-What Does the Bible Say About the Battle of Armageddon?, Tues. W. D. Jeffcoat-The Church, Prophecy and Premillennialism, Wed. Ronald Choate-What Does the Bible Say About the 1,000 Year Reign?, Thurs. Garland Robinson-The Doctrine of Final Things.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** Antioch church of Christ, Blue Springs, MS. April 1-4. Garland will be doing the preaching.

**ANNUAL East Main Lectureship, April 1-4.**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS:** Angelita Robinson 7<sup>th</sup>, Dorothy Taylor 7<sup>th</sup>, Teresa Aldridge 12<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Michael 16<sup>th</sup>, Velon Driver 19<sup>th</sup>, Bobby Franks 21<sup>st</sup>, Doris Aldridge 21<sup>st</sup>, Mendy Hilliard 24<sup>th</sup>, Steve Jones 25<sup>th</sup>, Tim Hardwick 28<sup>th</sup>, Kayla McNair 30<sup>th</sup>.

**FOOD ITEM:** Juice

**SHUT-INS:** Pauline Irvin, Nellie Wallace, Mary Dexter, Annie Nauman, Faye Jackson, Clydie Morrow, Frances Massengill, Doug Kimbrough, Sula Perry, Harry Prater, Lucille Leatherwood, Dorothy Johnson.

April 1	AM	PM
Announce	Earl	Earl
Singing	Bobby	Orlander
O.Prayer	Wallace	Jimmy N
L. Table	Rheuben / Kevin Edmond/JimmyB	J.P. Tom W
C.Prayer	Wilbur	Jim R
Usher	Jimmy N	Terry

Cam: Tommy S Close: Bill Sing: Chuck

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**East Corinth Church of Christ**

<p><b>ELDERS</b> Wallace Benjamin - 286-3266 Earl Case - 286-3938 Bill Kimbrough - 287-1591 Edmond King - 286-2005</p> <p><b>DEACONS</b> Orlander Hardwick - 286-5718 Jamie Hendrix - 286-0618 Rodney Hilliard - 284-9581 Steve Jones - 286-8472 Rheuben McGee - 287-3348 Johnny Purvis - 287-5052 Tommy Wade - 452-7514</p>	<p><b>TIME OF SERVICES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday</b></p> <p>Bible Study ..... 9:45 am Morning Worship ..... 10:30 am Evening Worship ..... 6:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p>Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm</p>
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**Garland M. Robinson**  
Evangelist & Editor  
(662) 286-6575 home  
(662) 286-2040 office

<p><b>RADIO PROGRAMS</b> Monday - Friday 6:55 - 7:00 am WACI (95.3 FM) &amp; WCMA (1230 AM) Monday - Friday, 12:45 - 12:50 pm WSIP (1400 AM &amp; 99.3 FM)</p> <p><b>SONG LEADERS</b> Orlander Hardwick    Chuck Hill Bobby Franks         Tim Hardwick</p>	<p><b>T.V. PROGRAMS</b> Sunday, Comcast 6, 8:30 am Sunday, TV 53, 9:00 - 9:30 am Tuesday, Comcast 8, 8:00 pm Thursday, Comcast 8, 9:00 pm</p> <p><b>NEWSPAPER</b> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> The Daily Corinthian Each Thursday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You can find us on the Web at: <a href="http://www.tsixroads/-ecorinth">http://www.tsixroads/-ecorinth</a> You may Email us at: <a href="mailto:ecorinth@tsixroads.com">ecorinth@tsixroads.com</a></p>
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Light For Living

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105)

## SHOULD WE USE THE WORD "REVEREND" WHEN SPEAKING TO A PREACHER?

The English word "reverend" is found only one time in the Bible. In Psalm 111:9 we read, "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and **reverend** is his name." The context of this passage has reference to God and God alone. He is due reverence and is worthy of veneration, homage and praise.

Men of every generation have loved acclaim and praise. However, they do not deserve such honor. It is vanity and egotism. Many love to be recognized and positioned above others. Such was certainly true in the Lord's day just as he said it would always be true. Jesus not only warned about it, He forbid it when He said, "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And **call no man your father** upon the earth: for one is your Father, which

is in heaven. **Neither be ye called masters:** for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matt. 23:5-12). Paul said, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). "...The princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant..." (Matt 20:25-28). c.f. 1 Cor. 4:6.

No man today is worthy to be called "reverend" or by any other title of distinction. The Scriptures make clear that we are all equal in the Lord with no one above another. To call men by such titles cannot be done with a "thus saith the Lord." Men who love it must repent. Are you willing to follow the Lord?

—Garland M. Robinson

## WHY DID JEHOVAH COMMAND ISRAEL TO DESTROY THE CANAANITES?

In the process of conquering Canaan, the Israelites killed many people. Critics of the Bible point to this as an immoral act on the part of God's people. They claim this demonstrates God is without love and fairness, and thus could not be worthy of man's service and worship.

Why did God give the command to kill the inhabitants of Canaan? By no means do we propose to have all the answers to every aspect of this question, but we would like to provide some biblical and historical information for your consideration.

God commanded the Israelites to destroy the inhabitants of Canaan. Deuteronomy 7:1,2 says, *"When the Lord thy God shall...cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites,...thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them."* In chapter 20:16-17 we read, *"...thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: But thou shalt utterly destroy them...as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee."* It could not be any plainer.

The Israelites, for the most part, carried out this charge to destroy the Canaanites as we read in Joshua 6-12. There were times, however, when individual tribes of Israel did not completely destroy the Canaanites who lived in the territory. This caused tremendous problems in the future for God's people.

Just when did God decree to destroy the Canaanites? Hundreds of years before, God told Abraham (while living in Canaan) that his descendants *...shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full*" (Gen. 15:16). This statement implies there would be a time in the future when the iniquity of the inhabitants of Canaan would be "full" in God's sight. When was that? In the days of Joshua, which was the 15th century before Christ's birth.

Were the Canaanites whom the Israelites killed innocent? Genesis 15:16 says their "iniquity" was to be running over. Iniquity is

sin. Sin is transgression of God's law or lawlessness (1 John 3:4). Thus, the Canaanites were guilty of violating Jehovah's will. From the Bible and archaeological findings we learn that in the time leading up to and during the conquering of Canaan by Israel, the inhabitants of Canaan and surrounding nations were involved in wicked behavior. Such things as idolatry, sexual immorality (including temple prostitution), and sacrificing babies to pagan gods were prevalent activities of the Canaanites before the Israelites destroyed them. Further, through the counsel of Balaam the Israelites had been seduced by Moabites and Midianites to commit fornication and join themselves to idols (Num. 25:1-3; 31:15,16).

Evil behavior was the norm of the day for the Gentile nations with whom the Israelites came in contact, both en route to Canaan, and in Canaan itself. Thus, when God charged Israel to "destroy" the people of Canaan, Israel was acting as an instrument in the hand of the Almighty to carry out His justice against these transgressors.

It is sometimes suggested it seems unfair for God to punish the Canaanites, when, after all, they had no knowledge of Him or His will, and thus were acting out of ignorance. Three lines of evidence in the Bible serve to show that this type of reasoning is faulty.

1) By observing the material world around them, the Canaanites had the possibility to learn of the existence and power of God. This conclusion is based on the apostle Paul's declaration about the Gentiles in general: *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse"* (Rom. 1:20). Notice that men of all ages ("from the creation of the world") could learn of God through nature.

2) Teaching about Jehovah had been done in the land of Canaan long before the Israelites conquered it. During the days of Abraham, which was several hundred years before Joshua led Israel into the land of

promise, there was a priest of God at work among the Canaanites. Genesis 14:18 says Melchizedek *"was the priest of the most high God."* To him Abraham gave *"tithes of all"* (14:20). From other passages we learn that in God's scheme of things, priests function by helping people worship the true and living God, and at the same time teach people about God's law. So, several hundred years before Israel ever left Egypt to head towards the land of Canaan, Melchizedek was acting as a priest of the one, true God among the Canaanites. That means he was informing at least some of those people about how to serve the Creator! Those who learned from Melchizedek would then have had the responsibility to pass on such information to their offspring.

3) Rahab, who lived in the city of Jericho at the time when Israel invaded Canaan, and other Canaanites knew of God's uniqueness and great miracles. Notice her confession to the two spies whom Joshua sent to Jericho: *"I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites...And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you. For the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath"* (Joshua 2:9-11). Thus, Rahab and those who lived with her in Canaan did have knowledge of the Lord God, and were responsible to serve Him.

But still, how could killing the Canaanites be of help to the nation of Israel? We must remember that God desired for Israel to be a holy nation (Lev. 11:44), meaning to be sanctified or set apart. In order to keep Israel morally pure, it was necessary to remove the immoral Canaanites, lest they teach God's people their ways and cause them to depart from Him. The Messiah was to come from Jacob, namely from the tribe of Judah, so God wanted to keep Christ's ancestors free from the contamination of other nations.

In addition, God forbid the Israelites to intermarry with the Canaanites, for He knew that if they did, they would forsake Him. He strictly charged His people, saying, *"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them...For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods; so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly"* (Deut. 7:3,4). God later told Israel, *"But thou shalt utterly destroy them...That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God"* (Deut. 20:17,18).

What about the innocent Canaanite women and children who were slaughtered? How could God be justified in giving the command to kill them? Does this action not seem out of harmony with His character and love for all people? We do not claim to have complete understanding of all that Jehovah has done, but we happily confess that whatever He has done or said has always been right, and has always been done with man's best interest in mind. Let us not forget: *"For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth"* (Psalm 33:4). Concerning the "innocent" Canaanite women, as we have already noted above, many of them were, in fact, involved in great immorality and rejection of God. And what about the children? If we will consider their eternal destiny and not their physical lives, then we will see that it was really better for them to die before the age of accountability. This is true due to the fact that if they had grown up in the wicked environment that existed in Canaan, then they themselves would most likely have done evil as well, and as a result be lost eternally. The young, by being killed at an early age, would be spared eternal punishment.

Indeed, there are some tough questions associated with Old Testament history. We personally desire to understand much more than we do at present. Let each of us keep in mind that God always knows what is right, wants what is right, says what is right, and does what is right.

—Roger Campbell