

Study Aids

Discussion Questions for “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 43

Questions:

In the Study Aids for lessons 37 and 38 we spoke briefly about the Canaanite god Baal and implied that the danger from this false religion was greater than the danger of Israel facing a large army. The latter they could defeat on the battleground, but the former held an attraction that was subtle, yet powerful. We shall talk much more about Baalism in future lessons. But are you beginning to see at this point that Baal was a threat to “infant Israel” and it was absolutely necessary that Israel wipe out this threat, as was explained in Study Aid 41?

Does this help you to understand why God commanded Israel to utterly destroy the various peoples that inhabited Canaan, and that it was a just and fair judgment on God’s part? It is not an easy concept for some people today to accept, because they want to re-create God in a one-dimensional image of their own making. But God is not just a God of mercy; He is also the God of justice. When someone rejects God, that person brings upon themselves the wrath of God. And that was the situation in Canaan at the time of Joshua.

Do you think that God knew what lay ahead for Israel, and what needed to be done initially in order to preserve Israel?