

"HIEL, WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?"

(Joshua 6:20-27)

INTRODUCTION

(Joshua 6:26) "... Cursed be the man before the Lord, that rises up and builds this city Jericho ..."

(1 Kings 16:34) "In his days (Ahab's) did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho ..."

LESSONS FROM THE STORY:

1. LACK OF INFORMATION IS DANGEROUS

Perhaps Hiel was unlearned about the curse or nobody warned him.
(Hosea 4:6) "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ..."
(2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Revelation 1:3)

2. GOD'S WORD IS ALWAYS TRUTHFUL

Even after 500 years, God's word proved true.
(Psalm 19:7) "the testimony of the Lord is sure" (Psalm 111:7-8; Gal. 6:7)

3. GOVERNMENT MAY EXERT A STRONG INFLUENCE

(1 Kings 16:33-34) "And Ahab ... did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him. In his days did Hiel build Jericho ..."
(Acts 5:29) "... we ought to obey God rather than men"
Something legal in society may not be approved by God.

4. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS (UNBELIEF) IS POWERFUL

Evidently Hiel came to believe that God didn't mean what He said.

5. TIME DOES NOT CANCEL GOD'S WORD: (2 Peter 3:8)

6. EVEN A COMMAND THAT SEEMS "STRANGE" MUST BE OBEYED: (Isa. 55:7-9)

7. WE IGNORE GOD'S WORD AT OUR OWN PERIL: (Prov. 3:5, 7; 14:12)
(Colossians 3:17; Revelation 22:18-19)