

**Are we Working
for Herem?
Or Heaven?**

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We sometimes have a personal Ai

"But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully regarding the things designated for destruction, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the designated things; therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel."

"So the Lord said to Joshua, "Stand up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? Israel has sinned, and they have also violated My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things designated for destruction, and have both stolen and kept it a secret. Furthermore, they have also put them among their own things. Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become designated for destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you eliminate from your midst the things designated for destruction."

Joshua 7:1-10- 12

Original Word: חָרַם charam/herem: accursed

Part of Speech: Verb

Definition: to ban, devote, exterminate. Destinated for destruction

Charam/herem. Means something devoted to God, or under a ban, and can refer to things or persons to be utterly destroyed. The Hebrew word *herem* is translated variously as "proscribed," "devoted to destruction" and later as "excommunication." Herem is curse thing, dedicated thing, things which should have been utterly destroyed, appointed to utter destruction.

"He who sacrifices to any god, other than to the LORD alone, shall be utterly destroyed. (herem)."

Exodus 22:20

'The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD.'

JOSHUA 6:17

"Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'"

1 Kings 20:42

“For My sword is satiated in heaven. Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom. And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.”

Isaiah 34:5

In the context OF Joshua 7, herem — presumably destruction — is the punishment for someone who makes sacrifices to another god.

What Scripture teaches is that it's not only certain sinful activities that are "haram"--we ourselves naturally, every one of us--is haram before God. Thank God for Jesus Christ. Jesus came to free us from the curse of Herem so that we can have fellowship with God. The world is under the herem, the curse of God. The world is banned for God's people.

We who are the elect of God are called out of the secular world to be holy unto God. The elect children are called the 'ecclesia', the church, the chosen people of God who will live holy lives for Him and through Him according to His character and purpose laid out for us in the Bible. God's people are separated from the world, because they are sanctified in Christ, they are set apart for His purpose, and dedicated to live for Him in His light in the world which is in darkness.

'For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"; and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS." So then let no one boast in men.'

1 Cor 3:19-21

Many people still suffer because they have not kept God's herem, and they still love the world and the things of the world. Herem still applies to us in our day. *'Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.'*

1 John 2:15-16

No one who is in Christ can live according to the flesh of natural man and be holy, to live for the world is herem. *'For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.'*

Rom 8:5

Without realising, we can quickly adopt the reasoning of the natural man, which is herem, and find ourselves opposing the wisdom of God given to us

in the Bible. God's people are His special possession, purchased by the precious blood of His Son, and chosen out of the secular world to be holy as God is holy. So, we have to be careful we are not lazy in accepting the profane as if it is acceptable for those whom He has chosen to live as His children in the image of Christ.

If we don't believe and obey the word of our Lord, we are living through the flesh of man intend by God for herem. *'if you are living according to the flesh, you must die.'*
Rom 8:13

As God's chosen children we can live in accord with the Spirit of God because Jesus has sent Him to help us live as holy children of God.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you."
John 14:16-18

It is in the person of the Holy Spirit that Jesus come to abide in us, because the Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. *'if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.'*
Rom 8:9

Everyone in Christ is to live according to the Spirit of God.

'However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'
Rom 8:9-11

Jesus removed the barrier between God and ourselves by His substitutionary death on our behalf; but any attachments we have with the created things of the world and its way of thinking, builds a wall between us according to the extent of our worldliness. The world is herem, and if we are attached to the world, we will suffer more than we ought, because the Lord our God will discipline us as disobedient children.

“For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He punishes every son whom He accepts.” It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.’

Heb 12:6-10

If we live according to the Spirit we can have the presence of God through the work of Christ, because we have been called out of the world to live for Christ. *‘For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.’*

2 Cor 5:14-15

But we cannot walk in the presence of God and continue to be identified with the world. *‘I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.’*

Gal 5:16

If we live in obedience to the Spirit, nothing can separate us from His love and security. *‘Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’*

Rom 8:35-39

Baptism is the mark of God’s ownership securing us from herem

To be baptised into the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, is to have our whole identity and reason for living transferred from the darkness of the world, and secured in the light of the kingdom of God. Baptism is receiving the mark of ownership from the Father, Son and Spirit.

We are not saved by baptism; we are saved by faith when we receive spiritual life from God. Baptism is the sign of our circumcision not done by human hands, but by the Spirit of God when we are born again.

We who are in Christ by faith are a new creation. *‘Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.’* 2 Cor 5:17

Because we are saved by grace through faith in the death of our Lord, our home is now in heaven. *‘For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.’* Heb 13:14

Our one purpose as a new creation in Christ is now to please God in all we do. *‘Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.’* Col 3:23

We are now disciples of Christ, committed to obeying all He taught. Jesus said: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matt 28:19-20

We are not in Christ just to obey God. We are in Christ to be intimate with God. In Christ, God has a purpose in our obedience. God wants us to be like His Son, who was perfected through obedience. *‘Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.’* Heb 5:8

God has chosen us to be in Christ so that we become transformed into His image and likeness through obedience to His word. *‘For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.’* Rom 8:29

‘As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.’ 1 Pet 1:14

As children of obedience, we have received the Holy Spirit to enable us to walk humbly before God. *‘You have an anointing from the Holy One.’* 1 John 2:20

‘Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?’ 1 Cor 6:19

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 14:26

We don't have to make our own way or decide for ourselves what we need to do. *‘For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.’*

Rom 8:14

The leading of the Spirit can only be known in concert with what has been written in the holy scriptures. He will *“bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”* And there is more: *‘All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.’*

2 Tim 3:16-17

The scripture is given to us by the grace and mercy of God to keep us out of herem.

The Holy Spirit is the perfecter of God's grace in us

The Spirit is our godly enabler to give us understanding and to strengthen us to do the will of God. *“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”*

Ezek 36:27

The Spirit of God lives in us and He will teach us all we need to know as we feed daily on the written word of God. The Spirit will keep us from falling if we will lean on Him. (Gal 5:16) He will show us how to follow the way of Christ, but only if we allow Him to lead us moment by moment. If we will only walk by His presence we will not live as if we still belong to the world.

When we have denied ourselves and taken up our cross to follow Christ as we must, we can rest on the promise of God. *‘And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.”’*

Luke 9:23-24

When Jesus called on anyone who would follow Him, He was calling on us to not only deny ourselves, but in our self denial, we also separated ourselves from the world, from the ban, from the herem.

When we are committed to denying the kind of life we once lived according to the world, the Spirit will enable us to know the reality of the presence of the Father and the Son. *"I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."* John 17:20-21

The Spirit in us will help us understand that we belong in the presence of God and that the Triune God is now in us, and we secured in them. *'The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.'*

Rom 8:16

But the life of love and peace to be enjoyed by the elect set apart for God, to live in the presence of God, can only be realised in His terms, for we are not our own to please ourselves. *'For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.'* Gal 5:17

To assist us in being able to live and learn what it is to be children made in the image of Christ, and enabled to live the life of Christ, Christ has placed us in His now earthly body, the church. *'For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.'* 1 Cor 12:12-13

The Holy Spirit is the governing power of the church

The Spirit provides everyone grafted onto the body of Christ with an ability to contribute to the spiritual growth of all into the image of Christ.

'Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.' 1 Cor 12:4-7

The Spirit places each person exactly where He alone determines for the greatest good.

No one who has been placed in the body of Christ by the Father can claim to be living for themselves. No one in the body can say they have the right to determine how much effort they will undertake to please God, or how quickly they can grow into Christ. No one can choose for themselves how they will live. Everyone in the church is there for everyone else saved by grace. Everyone in Christ is subject to everyone else given to serve in the body of Christ for the common good. Everyone in the Church is the servant of Christ as He works in them for His purpose.

'So that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.'

1 Cor 12:25-26

No one who is in Christ can therefore claim that their spiritual life is a private matter for them alone, which invariably means to be excluded from outside interference from others in Christ. *'For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.'*

1 Cor 12:12

In order to make sure we can do what is required of us according to the will of God, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our spirit. *"You know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."*

John 14:17

If we want herem, we will suffer the consequences, this is inevitable, because we erect our own barrier between God and ourselves, because without holiness we cannot see God. Without willingly being set aside for God alone we are a law unto ourselves.

If we don't believe all these wonderful things of power and sanctification written in the scriptures for our benefit, we will likewise fail to experience the love and the peace of God.

'Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.'

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people, but we are well known to God; and I hope that we are also well known in your consciences. For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognise no one by the flesh; even though we have known Christ by the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.'

2 Cor 5:9-11, 14-17

Christian obedience is the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22) *'But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.'* Gal 5:16

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned."

John 15:1-6

If our life is not governed by the Spirit, we will evidence none of His fruitfulness, the fruitfulness of Christ revealing His divine nature and purpose will not be a light unto the world through us. John 15:5

But God has given us the life of His Son so we will be light in the darkness. *'Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.'*

2 Pet 1:3-4

God promises us the power to produce the holiness that is pleasing to Him. And those in Christ have the love of Christ for each other when we live for

Him and not ourselves. If the evidence is contrary to the work of the Spirit, we need to consider our attitude to His salvation. If our obedience is treated lightly, we trample on the gift of the Son, and we show forth a distorted image of His majesty.

'Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will repay each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honour, and immortality, He will give eternal life; but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, He will give wrath and indignation.'

Rom 2:4-8

The day of God's herem is coming to the world

'For after all it is only right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified among His saints on that day, and to be marvelled at among all who have believed—because our testimony to you was believed.'

2 Thess 1:6-10

Heaven love compels the saints to be holy, as separated unto Christ, so that the devil doesn't gain the advantage in their lives.

The saints, the *hagios*, i.e., the holy ones. Set apart by (or for) God, holy, sacred. Consecrated for the use of God. Destined for heaven, not given over to herem.

Therefore, be Holy as God is Holy.

Abide in Christ, for without Him we can do nothing. We can know nothing, and we will not live in peace.

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

'But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former way of life, you are to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, ridding yourselves of falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbour, because we are parts of one another. Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.' Eph 4:20-27

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