

## HEARTS MELTING

The idea of the heart melting was introduced in last week’s lesson by Rabah’s testimony recorded in Josh.2:9-11.

We will examine Josh.2:9-11 by the following six homiletical points.

- **Testimony**      “I know the Lord has given you the land.
- **Terror**            “And that the terror of you has fallen on us.”
- **Towel**            “And that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you.”
- **Tactical**          “For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordon, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.”
- **Terminal**        “And when we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you.”
- **Trust**             “For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”

**This lesson will study SIX aspects of the doctrinal concept of HEARTS MELTING as described by Rabah to the two Hebrew spies at Jericho.**

### 1. Three Hebrew words are used to describe how the melting of hearts occurs in Josh.2:9-11.

We will study them in the way they work and affect our lives.

The first Hebrew word is emah (Josh.2:9). It is translated as terror falling on all the inhabitants of the land. **This is fright threat taken to fear taken to despair and paralyzing panic.** “I will send **My terror** ahead of you, and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.” (Ex.23:27) Lord’s promise to Moses at Mt.Sinai / Conquest challenge.(Ex.23:20-33).

The second Hebrew word is mug ( niphil pf) (Josh.2:9, 24). It is translated melted. It refers to disorganized thinking that makes one feel helpless. It is the loss of objectivity and becoming subjective because of some immediate threat. It is the loss of rationale thinking resulting in anxiety neurosis (throw into confusion; plight to fright to flight).

The third Hebrew word is masas (niphil impf) (Josh.2:11). It is also translated melted. It refers the heart being dissolved or overwhelmed by anxiety neurosis so that fright becomes hysteria. It resulted in delusional psychosis (turn their backs) (Num.13:33) [**grasshopper mentality** / no courage remained].

### 2. It happened to all the inhabitants of the land just as God promised (Ex.23:20-33; Deut.2:25; 11:25).

It was an extension of the promised given in the Abrahamic covenant (Gen.12:1).

“Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.” (**Rom.4:20-21**)

[After reading Ex.15:13-16 and 23:23, 27-29, write what applies to each of these.]

| People of the land | God | Israelites |
|--------------------|-----|------------|
| /                  | /   | /          |
| /                  | /   | /          |

**3. The Rahab incident in the redemptive plan of God shows the importance of the specifics of the Word of God (CBD).**

Let me give three examples of this principle.

- **The promise to Abraham** (Gen.15:13, 16) “Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.” (Deut.18:9-13) [Iniquity of Amorite]
- **The prevailing of the promise by Moses** (Deut.2:15-16; 3:8-11) (kings of Amorites defeated).
- **The possession of the promise by Joshua** (Josh.2:10; 5:1) (kings of Amorites and Canaanites hearts melted).

**4. The Spiritually Mature Believer must maintain a tenacious and courageous heart to think and apply categorical bible doctrine (promises of God) to experiences of life that are attached to threatening circumstances or people or important in one’s life events.**

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.” (Josh.1:6-7)

**Caleb**, in contrast to the other ten reports said: “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it.” (Num.13:30).

**Cowardice** was evidenced by the other ten spies when they said: “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.” (Num.13:31)

Here is the difference: “And being fully assured that what He (God) had promised, He (God) was able also to perform.” (Rom.4:21)

**Conquest Promise** (Ex.23:20-33) “I (God) will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.”

**5. Having a courageous heart when applying the faith cycle to one battle in the angelic conflict is no guarantee of a repeated victorious performance.**

King David reminds us that it was possible to “win” in the lion, bear and Goliath incident of 1 Sam.17:36-37, 45-47 and “fail” in the Bathsheba and Uriah incident of 2 Sam.11-12.

Rahab reminds us it is possible to “win” by Faith, even to a young Believer (Josh.2:9-11) “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

Paul’s encouragement to us is to: “Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Tim.6:12; Eph.6:10)

**6. While Jesus Christ was suffering, for the sin of the world on the cross, Psalms 22 declares it caused His heart to melt (Ps.22:1-21) [Messianic Psalms] (John 1:29; Matt.27:45-50) [last 3 hours]**

“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted (masas) within me.” (Ps.22:14; 73:26)