

Joshua Chapter 2

V: 1 Joshua sends out two spies to check out the city of Jericho.

- Why does he send out the spies? The last time spies were sent out it had disastrous results.
- We're not told why, just the he did. Then they end up at a harlot's house...
- Thus far this doesn't seem like a recipe for spiritual advancement.
- Although going to the house of a harlot means that there won't be a lot of questions asked either – a place of anonymity.

Rahab: "arrogant, raging, turbulent, afflicter."

- Rahab ends up in the hall of faith listed in Hebrews Ch. 11, she is part of the lineage of the Messiah, Jesus our Lord – maybe if nothing else this does prove:

Romans 8:29 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

V: 2-7 The king was watching or somehow he knew that the spies had infiltrated his kingdom and in general knew where they were.

- As hard as they tried to be discreet, the children of God were distinct and identifiable.
- Rahab lied to the kings men, the authorities.
- This brings up the issue of situational ethics. This situation is almost always cited as a proof that it is ok to lie under certain circumstances.
- This is a difficult situation to deal with, people can always create hypothetical circumstances or cite some situation where it would seem to be better to lie for a greater good than telling the truth.
- Yet God's word is very clear:

Exodus 20:16 “Thou shalt not bear false witness...”

Colossians 3:9 “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.”

Proverbs 12:22 “Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight.”

- The fact of what took place is recorded here, not that God necessarily approved.
- Why were they there to begin with? It is somewhat speculative, but we don't read that God told Joshua to send the spies out, and if he hadn't – we wouldn't be faced with this question.

Jesus declared:

John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life...”

- It would seem inconsistent for God to encourage lying at any time.”
- Sometimes it's better just to be silent.
- There's also an assumption built into this scenario that this was the only way for these men to survive or for God to accomplish His purposes – which is not true.
- Had she been truthful and informed on them it would have been interesting to see what God would have done.
- The bottom line is that Rahab lied and it was wrong.
- Abraham lied and it was wrong; Isaac, Jacob, King David all lied at times – and it was wrong.
- God's word records her actions, but it doesn't justify them. She hides the spies and sends the guards on a wild goose chase.

V: 8-11 “Before they laid down”: they were going to sleep! They were at peace!

Psalm 23:5-6 “⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

- She approaches the spies and describes how the whole kingdom is terrified, they've heard of God's great power in overthrowing Egypt, parting the Red Sea, and the destruction of Sihon and Og.
- Their hearts have melted, there is no courage.

“For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.”

- Neither Isaiah, Jeremiah, nor Elisha are mentioned in the hall of faith, but there's Rahab.

James also mentions Rahab when talking about faith that works:

James 2:25 “Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?”

- This is why Rahab is in the hall of faith: because she made a confession of faith!
- Why would a lying prostitute be in heaven? Why would a murdering zealot like the Apostle Paul – and for that matter all those like us that are somewhere in between - by faith.

Romans 10:9-10 “⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Rahab is proof of what Paul preached:

Romans 5:20 “... but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

- Rahab wasn't saved when the spies showed up, she was already saved; this was simply her opportunity to express her faith.
- This is also the fulfillment of what God told the children of Israel:

Exodus 15:14-17 “¹⁴The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold of the inhabitants of Palestina. ¹⁵Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. ¹⁶Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone...”

Deuteronomy 2:25 “This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.”

V: 12-22 She is invoking the name of “Yahweh” and seeking to make a deal.

- The scarlet thread or ribbon in the window is the sign.
- Scarlet is symbolic of blood, just like the sign at the Passover. The blood upon the doorposts, this time the blood upon the window: those under the blood would be saved.
- Those that go out on their own, take their lives into their own hand, and their blood shall be upon them.

Jesus said:

John 15:6 “If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

- The deal is struck and the spies make their escape.

V: 23-24 The spies return to give Joshua a good report.

- There is a similarity in that in both cases where the spies were sent out, two came back with a good report.
- God has delivered the land unto the children of Israel!

Joshua Chapter 3

- In Joshua Chapter 2 we see the faith of the individual, Rahab – now in chapter 3 we begin to examine the faith of the nation, Israel.

Romans 10:17 “So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“Faith is not believing in spite of the evidence, it obeying in spite of the consequences.”

V: 1 Joshua rose early in the morning, no delay in doing what God said.

Isaiah 50:4 “The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.”

Joshua being a type, we see Jesus doing the same thing – rising up early to be with the Lord.

Mark 1:35 “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

- Moving from “Shittim” which mean Acacia towards the Jordan river, and 8-10 mile journey, preparing to cross over. Getting 3 million people moving is a big deal.
- Picture / Map.

V: 2-3 The people are instructed to follow the ark, to follow the presence of the Lord – which is generally good counsel.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto thee.”

- Another way of looking at it is that the presence of the Lord will go before them.

- This represents a new dispensation, God is dealing with the children of Israel in a different way. They will no longer be led by a pillar of cloud by day, and by the pillar of fire by night.

Another fulfillment:

Exodus 33:14 “My presence will go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”

- Now the Ark, carried by the priests will lead them. Contained within are the tables of the Law. Affixed to the top of the Ark is the Mercy seat – which without God’s mercy they’re toast.

1 Samuel 6:19 “And he smote the men of Beth-Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord, even He smote the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the Lord had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.”

V: 4 The children of Israel were to follow, but not too close – no pushing God!

- 2,000 cubits, roughly 3,000 feet.

V: 5 Sanctify yourselves; purify, cleanse yourselves.

Moses told the people the same thing prior to the Lord descending upon Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 19:10-11 “¹⁰And the Lord said unto Moses, go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, ¹¹and be ready against the third day: for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.”

V: 6 There are obviously gaps in this sequence of events: There was likely some time between being told to sanctify themselves and the priests being told to move out.

V: 7-8 God reassures Joshua that He will be with him, just as He was with Moses. This day God will begin to magnify Joshua.

- Again we see the typology: Joshua was magnified as he went down into the river Jordan.
- When Jesus was baptized at the Jordan, He was magnified by God as well:

Matthew 3:16-17 “¹⁶And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: ¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- To the priests, just head into the Jordan. The waters will retreat back from their feet and they will be on dry ground – but they must take that step of faith first.

Galatians 3:11 “... the just shall live by faith.”

V: 9-13 Joshua gathers the people and tells them – “this shall be the sign to you that the Lord is in our midst...”

- Joshua refers to God as the “*living God*” and the “*Lord of all the earth*” - because that is what He is.
- This is the first time that God is referred to as the “Lord of all the earth”.
- As the Ark of the covenant – prior to this it was referred to as the “ark of the testimony” – but now they are in a covenant relationship with God.
- When they step out in faith, God will move.
- The waters will stand up as a heap.

V: 14-17 And then it happened.

- Map: Shittim to Adam – approximately 30 miles up stream.
- Timing: The Jordan overflows it's banks at the time of the Harvest.
- In the early spring, the snow upon Mt. Hermon begins to melt and flow down hill into the sea of Galilee, then through the Jordan to the Dead Sea.
- Rahab was laying out the flax on her roof, this is harvested at the same time as the barley harvest. We also know that one of the first things they did after crossing the Jordan was to observe the Passover which took place in April.
- The reason I mention this is because some critics have said that the bible was wrong because the wheat harvest is in June or the different harvests are at a different time; it's just a matter of knowing which harvest they are talking about which in this case is the barley harvest.
- All the people passed over up against Jericho.
- They stood on dry ground – God doesn't do things part way.

[This is reminiscent of the crossing of the Red Sea:](#)

Hebrews 11:29 “By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.”

1. This is different than the Red Sea crossing. At the Red Sea Moses lifted up his rod and God brought the wind and opened it up before them.
2. Here they are being told to step out in faith, put your foot in – then the waters will retreat...
3. God is looking for commitment, a greater degree of commitment and faith.

4. God wants us to walk by faith, trusting in Him. So often we want to know ahead of time what is going to happen or to be able to see it all laid out.
5. God is saying, “trust Me, step out” – all part of developing a deeper relationship with Him, learning to trust in Him more and more – that is when and how we enter into His rest, entering into the promise land of faith.