

JOSHUA CHAPTER 2

THE SPIES

- 2:1** Joshua sent out **two spies** to check out the land around Jericho.
- He used the same method as Moses had done in Num 14
 - he does not risk 12 spies since only 2 came back with a good report!
 - these two will have to act as **a unit**.
 - Num 33:48-49 says that Israel was encamped at Shittim in the plains of Moab – opposite Jericho... so it was a short distance away.
- 2:2** As outsiders – foreigners – and possible invaders, the two spies would not expect to get help from anyone – but amazingly they got help from an unusual source.
- they were accepted by “Rahab, the harlot” **INTO HER HOUSE!**
 - God’s Providence worked silently in their favour: Ps 37:23-24

Who is this Rahab?

- If she is **trading** as a harlot no one will be surprised at the arrival of men.
- Yet her behaviour indicates something different – she obviously **WAS** a harlot in the past and **so** has kept that reputation – but does she deserve it?

Examples:

- (a) “**Simon**, the **leper**” in Mt 26:6. This man was the **first** to be healed in Mark 1:40-45 and was one of the Twelve in Matt 26! Yet, this identification remained!
- (b) “**Mary**, the **sinner**” stayed even after the Magdalene became a disciple of Jesus. Her reputation as “harlot” has lasted 2,000 years – even though she is a great saint!

- 2:3** King of Jericho demands Rahab to give up the 2 spies – to be executed!
- 2:4** Rahab defies the King’s order! She hid the men: (Why?)
- 2:5** She lied to the King’s soldiers...
- 2:6-7** She had hidden the men on the roof under the **stored Flax** while the soldiers set out in pursuit of them...

Rahab’s covenant (pact) with the Two Spies: 2:8-24

- 2:8-11** Rahab is the first Gentile believer in the True God in Canaan. Ex 12:38 says that “a mixed multitude” or “people of various kinds” joined the Exodus... they were Gentiles accepting the True God.
- So God gets Himself small harvests in the strangest of places!
- cf John 4 The Samaritan woman was the outsider with a reputation for being a harlot also... yet she accepted Jesus when Israel rejected its Saviour.



Rahab manifests the richness of Divine Mercy

- Born into paganism... she was living in a race about to experience God's Judgement... in a city about to be destroyed...
- As a Canaanite she was a stranger to the covenants of God: Rom 9:18 Eph 2:11-12
- Yet – like all the peoples around her she **OBSERVED** what God had done for the Israelites in Egypt – But **she** put her faith in the God of Israel!

2:9 **I know that God has given you this land... everyone is terrified of you**

Considering how **weak** and sinful they were in the Wilderness, it must have been amazing to hear that **ANYONE** would be afraid of them!

2:10 That **fear** came from their victories over Sihon & Og – the two giant kings in the Transjordan region where they were living now – peacefully.

2:11 **Rahab's conclusion: The Lord your God IS GOD both in heaven and on earth.**

- **This was the faith of Israel! cf Deut 4:39**

Rahab's faith is found again in another foreign woman later in Israel's history

- **Ruth**, the Moabitess who became the ancestress of King David and so found herself in the Bloodline to **CHRIST!**

(NB) In both of these cases we have intimations of God's desire to **finally** bring all the Gentiles into the K.O.G after the P/D/R of Christ.

- when **the wild olive tree** (Rom 11:17) would be grafted onto the **Vine of the Lord:** Jn 15 cf Heb 11:31 **By faith Rahab received the spies.**

James 2:25 **Rahab... considered righteous** by her good deeds.

THE FLAX was laboriously gathered by women... laid on flat roofs to dry

- later used for spinning and weaving... cf Prov 31:13

Notice: that Rahab and her family were **ALONE** in their faith. The **could** not speak of it in Jericho – this lonely faith demands **COURAGE** and **STRENGTH**
cf 3 men in fiery furnace in Dan ch 2
cf Elijah in 1 Kgs... John, the Baptist in Jesus' time, etc.

Notice: the "I **KNOW**" of the true believer in 2:9
The N.T. is full of statements of "**We know**..." 2 Cor 5:1 Gal 4:9 Eph 6:9
Phil 1:6 Col 3:24 etc.

(NB) For all this Rahab was **NO SAINT!** She lied... and she made a pact to save herself and her family... there was plenty of **self-interest** present...

However • she had none of the helps available **to us** and no-one to show her **the way**...

The Scarlet Cord: 2:12-21

2:12 Rahab asked the 2 spies to make a solemn pact (covenant) with her to
2:13 save her whole family when the Judgement came to Jericho.

- This posed a problem for both the spies **and** Joshua.
- Deut 7:2: God gave clear instructions that the Canaanites were to be **wiped out** "put under the ban" (*means: 'leave nothing alive'*). And they were to **make no covenant with them!**
 - this is the exception to the rule. Why? Rahab has become **a believer**: she has joined Israel. **She** has chosen the Chosen People for her whole household.
 - She has shown kindness to the Lord's People... and He showed kindness to her people.

2:14 Covenants are conditional. They stand on an "IF" clause. To break a covenant meant **DEATH**.

- So, if Rahab **SPEAKS** about it **SHE** will die in the conquest. And, if the spies break it **they** are under God's Judgement.
- So, this is a very solemn arrangement.

Notice how sure the spies are that the Lord **HAS GIVEN** this land to them!

- We, too, are **SURE** that Jesus has given us Eternal Life in Heaven.

2:15 Rahab then let the spies down the city wall by a rope. Her house was "**inside**" the wall of the city... but when the walls fell down only her part of the wall was saved. God honoured the Covenant made by His servants: Josh 6:25 cf Paul's escape from Damascus centuries later: Acts 9:24-25

- therefore not an unusual way of escape.

2:16 Wise advice! Just because God **will** give you the Land – no case for **presumption**.
We must take all necessary precautions.
2:22 shows they obeyed Rahab – who is presented as a **WISE, PRACTICAL** woman.

2:17 The conditions of the Covenant **must** be observed by both sides.

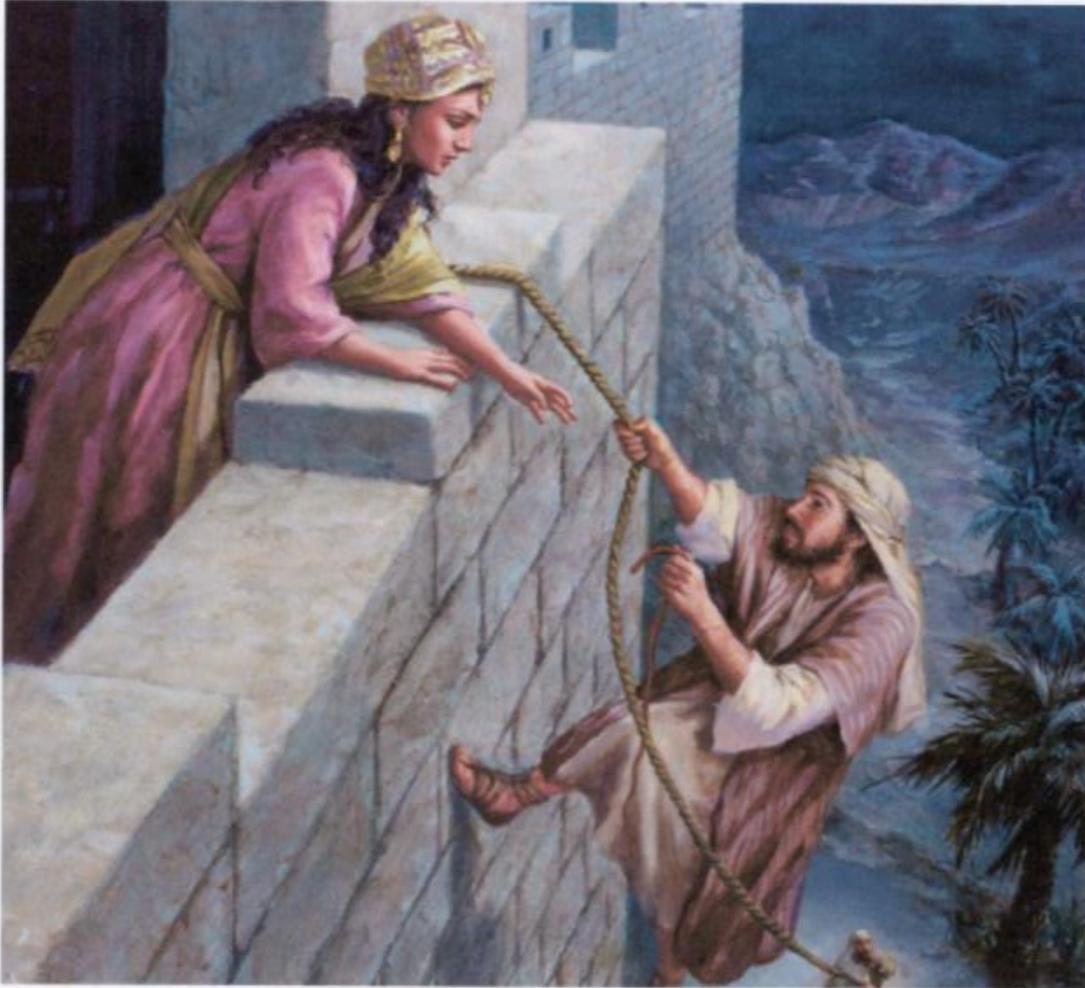
2:18 The spies **GIVE** Rahab a **SCARLET CORD** (rope) which she **MUST** tie to the window through which they escaped.

- This cord (rope) will be **HER** means of escape very soon.

2:19 **Only** those actually **IN** Rahab's house will be spared. Those who go **out** of the house will be judged. They had to separate themselves from the wicked if they were to be saved.

- Jesus made a Covenant with the Father for us also... so we must **enter** that Covenant and **STAY** in **His House** (Church)... if we go outside of it, we fall under the judgement that will be given to the world and its wickedness.
- Like Rahab and her family, we must separate ourselves from the world.

cf Rom 8:13, 11:22 Heb 3:6 2 Cor 6:14 - 7:1



Scarlet cord in his left hand will be her means of escape soon.

2:20-21 **According to your words SO BE IT** = Amen!

- To participate in the Covenant of Jesus we, too, must **accept HIS WORD**
- Jesus **IS** THE WORD INCARNATE: Jn 1:1-18 – so we accept **His Person**
 - but we also accept **HIS WORDS** – the Gospels and the teaching of His Servants – N.T.
Since **His Words** are based on OT we accept **ALL** of God’s Word in the Holy Scriptures: Heb 4:12
- Our words must echo **His** words... Proverbs on the power of the word.

2:21 Rahab **then** tied the **scarlet rope to the window**. **SHE OBEYED**

(NB) There is a “scarlet rope” extending through Salvation History to **us**

- a) **In Exodus**: The first Passover in Egypt just before the escape of the Hebrew slaves: **Ex 12:1-14**
 - A lamb was slain in reparation for their sins and the lamb’s **BLOOD** became the “scarlet cord” which showed the Angel of Death to pass over these houses which were to be saved.
 - On the night when Judgement came to all Egypt, only the houses that displayed the **red blood** of the lamb were saved.
- b) **Redemption**: The red, shed, blood of **the Lamb of God** has been there for anyone who wants to be saved since 33 AD.
 - Anyone who covers themselves with the Blood of Jesus will be saved. 1 Jn 2:3
 - Each soul must take hold of that “scarlet cord” of Jesus so that what happened to Rahab physically will happen to us **spiritually**.

2:22-24 The spies obeyed Rahab's advice and returned safely to Joshua where they gave a VERY GOOD report!

The Lord has delivered the whole country into our hands.

Its inhabitants TREMBLE already at the thought of us.

(NB) When we live and operate in the Divine Will, Hell trembles because they know that their judgement is close and that the WHOLE EARTH will be given to the Reign of Jesus and His Beloved children.



Our agreement with God's Covenant



From sign in Joshua to fulfilment in Christ



The scarlet cord (rope) of Christianity
- from the Cross of Jesus to any soul who wants it!