

“Joshua – The Investigation”

Joshua chapter 2

Scripture Ref: 1 Chron 5:25-26; Heb 11:31; James 2:25; Rom 8:28;
Rom 5:8-11; Matt 1:2-6

1. **Left off – Joshua telling Reuben & Gad they had to go and fight...**
 - a. **Remember Reuben and Gad stayed on the border – but it was a bad decision**
 - b. **1st Chron – they were the first conquered by the Assyrians – never returned**

1 Chron 5:25-26

25 And they were unfaithful to the God of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them. 26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, that is, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He carried the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh into captivity. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan to this day.

- c. **“other side of the river” – one foot in the world, one foot in the kingdom.**
- d. **Terrible place to be!**

Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho."

2. **Some 40 years earlier, Joshua had gone on the exact same mission – Déjà vu!**
 - a. **Sent the out ‘secretly’ – good discernment!**

So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

3. **God sent the spies to the house of a harlot...**
 - a. **** What were they doing at a brothel?? (!)**
 - b. **Her house was close to wall – easy access**
 - c. **Strange men in a brothel would not attract attention**
 - d. **Perhaps God had another purpose...**

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country."

3 So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

4. Several things we don't know...

- a. How did the king find out that there were spies amongst them?**
- b. What made him think they were at Rahab's house?**

4 Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them." 6(But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.) 7 Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

5. One of the questions in the bible...

- a. Why did she lie – not trust God?**
- b. Does the bible condone this lie?**
- c. Were the men wrong in hiding and being a part of this lie?**
- d. Here she is a LIAR - Later in scripture – Rahab is portrayed as a woman of *faith and works*...**

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

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

6. Some thoughts:

- a. Rahab was not exactly a mature worshipper of the Lord – she was a prostitute**
 - i. Lying was probably second nature to her – how many times had she lied for her clients?**
 - ii. (“Mrs Salmon - your husband has never been here...not that I know who your husband is of course...”)**
 - iii. We don't know when she began to believe**
 - iv. Or how long it took for her to change her obviously many sinful ways**
 - v. She probably did what many new Christians do – some little white lie that is justified that it is for the greater good!**
- b. This account never condones her lie – it simply records it.**

7. Regardless of what we do or don't do, God is always God and is always sovereign...

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- a. **“all things” means “all things” not just “all good things”**
 - b. **God takes the “all things” and works them together for “good” according to “His purpose”**
- 8. Does that mean we can live however we want and God works it all out?**
- a. **One hand - YES – God will always work out “His purpose” – in and beyond our lives**
 - b. **Other hand - NO – When we disobey God – God’s purpose will still be worked out according to His will –**
 - c. **yet we may well suffer consequences in our personal lives for our choices**
- 9. As well – I do think that Rahab had other incentives...**

8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

- 10. IOW – Rahab as well as the whole city had heard how God had done great and mighty things in bringing Israel out of Egypt and through the desert.**
- a. **How they had destroyed the Amorites – who were no weak people – and the people’s were very worried!**
 - b. **It had become apparent that God was with the nation of Israel**
 - c. **“for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”**

12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

11. Does that mean that Rahab was shallow or insincere in her desire to throw her lot in with the Israelites?

- a. I mean, if this were football or some sport, or looking at this from a military conflict standpoint – she is being a traitor.
 - b. But we have to remember the context of the reality of Gods kingdom...
 - c. This is not a war of two governments – or a team sport competition
 - d. There is truly a “right and wrong” side, a “good side and bad side”
12. When a person begins to ponder leaving the “kingdom of the world’ for the Kingdom of God – they are not abandoning their principles...
- a. NO – they are gaining a truth that God is REAL and that they want to establish their lives on TRUTH and RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - b. And God might use any number of ways to accomplish that purpose (His purpose)
 - c. Many people come to Christ in desperate situations – foxhole conversions – they have no where else to turn – they have hit rock bottom
 - d. Does that make their conversion or their faith any less because they come to God like “Oh – I’m such a nice person – I just love – I must love God also!”
 - e. Paul gave us some interesting insight on this...

Rom 5:8-11

*8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if **when we were enemies we were reconciled to God** through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

13. Remember the scripture in Hebrews told us ***“By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace”.***
- a. Was her faith perfect? No. Complete? No.
 - b. Did she understand doctrine and proper worship and all? No.
 - c. She only knew ***“for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath”***
 - d. It was enough!
14. ALSO – EVIDENCE – people will see the Lord then they see the evidence of God IN YOUR LIFE.

Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

14 So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. 16 And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

17 So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, 18 unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. 19 So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. 20 And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."

21 Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

15. Red cord – symbolic of the blood of Jesus?

- a. **Rahab *immediately* put her faith into both the identification and safety of the scarlet cord.**
- b. **She also trusted in the ones who made the promise about the scarlet cord**

22 They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought them all along the way, but did not find them. 23 So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them. 24 And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

16. But what was the bigger purpose? Two-fold

17.#1 - Considering how God will have them conquer the city of Jericho, how did the information from these spies help in the battle for Jericho?

- a. **Jericho was one of the strongest and most heavily fortified cities of Canaan;**
- b. **if Israel could conquer it, the whole land would be before them – but how did this reconnaissance help them with the eventual battle?**
- c. **It didn't help them at all!**

- d. **The reconnaissance mission didn't help with military strategy, but it did help in encouraging the faith of these spies and the whole nation.**
 - e. **This was far more important than a good battle plan**
- 18.#2 - I believe to save Rahab and her family...**

Matt 1:2-6

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king.

- a. **Incredible – Rahab – a Canaanite prostitute – ended up marrying Salmon, the father of Boaz – to Obed, Jesse, and David – the bloodline of Jesus Christ!**