

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON LESSON 2

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move On!

Lesson 2: Preparation to Move Forward (Josh. 2)

Today's Study: Josh. 2:1-24

1. Spies Sent Out (v. 1)
2. Security through Rahab (Vv. 2-7)
3. Salvation for Rahab (Vv. 8-21)
4. Satisfactory Report (Vv. 22-24)

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson

INTRODUCTION

Faith in God's promises need not disregard but instead should encourage our earnestness in utilizing the best and most effective methods necessary to accomplish our God given goals. Joshua's commitment and dedication to ensure an effective military campaign is demonstrated in his initial preparation and procedure as commander. The people were informed and he secretly sent two spies on a fact finding mission in preparation to secure an area that would be strategically important to the overall campaign of conquering Canaan.

The surveillance work of the two spies was reported and an immediate search for them was put in place by the authorities of Jericho. Rahab was used of God not only to provide security for the spies but to supply well needed information. Sometimes that which seems to happen by chance, is often overturned by divine providence of God to accomplish great results.

Rahab was a person of questionable character but look at the end result of her life. Many who have had awful evil pasts have found glorious new beginnings and an amazing blessed future in God. Think also of John Newton who was miraculously transformed and penned the ever-refreshing hymn "Amazing Grace." The fact remains, only God can transform the common to the uncommon; another outstanding example is Ruth (See the Book of Ruth and note carefully Ruth 1:16-17; note also chapter 4, NB Vv. 13-22).

In this account, in the beginning chapter of Joshua, we have the initial phase of the campaign to conquer and possess Canaan and Joshua was experiencing a great and encouraging start: God did promise him (1) Israel would possess the Promised Land (Josh. 1:3-4) (2) the enemies would be conquered (Josh. 1:5) (3) he, Joshua, was guaranteed the unbroken presence of God (Josh. 1:5, 9).

A. Spies Sent Out Josh. 2:1**1. Secret Mission (Josh. 2:1a)**

(a) "Shittim"

"And Joshua the Son of Nun sent out of Shittim ..." (Josh. 2:1a KJV)

(1) Shittim was the last encampment made under Moses' leadership (Num. 25:1 and 33:49).

(2) It was east of Jordan, opposite Jericho, at the foot of the mountains rising from the valley of the Jordan.

(b) Shittim was a place where Israel miserably failed God and paid a great price (See Num. 25).

(1) God was now using this place as a launching pad for spiritual victory.

(2) Here again we see that God can transform any adverse situation for better.

Note also Joel's prophecy in Joel 3:18.

- The valley would be invigorated by a supply of healing water.
- See also prophecies in regards to the outflow of God's healing water: Ezek. 47:1-12; Amos 9:13; Zech. 14:8.
- That outflow of healing waters continues in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit (John 6:37-38; also John 4:10; Rev. 22:1).

(c) Spies Mission...

"... two men to spy secretly, saying, "Go view the land, even Jericho." (Josh 2:1a KJV)

(1) Sent to gather military information.

- How well fortified was the city.
- What was their army like ... its strength, the morale of the soldiers, etc.
- What were the physical features of the city within and without?
 - Its water supply, source and supply of food.
 - The geographical features of the city:
 - The land formation, mountains, lakes, valleys.
 - Make a careful observation and leave nothing out.
 - What are the citizens like, their security, outlook, etc.

(2) **Two set of spies (a) Moses Num. 13-14 (b) Josh. 2.**

- Moses sent twelve spies; Joshua sent two.
- Moses' spies focused on the land of Canaan; Joshua's spies focused on Jericho.
- Obviously, Moses' mission was known to all the people; Joshua's mission was secretly done.
- As we will see the reports brought different results, and yet Moses was not to be blamed for the negative response as a result of the spies report (Num. 13:31-33; 14:1-12). The negative response was as a result of the people's lack of faith and their rebellion against the will of God.

- As a result of Israel's response (Num. 13 -14) all male twenty years and older died in the Wilderness Wandering and it took Israel 40 years before reaching the border of Canaan (Deut. 1:1-3).
- "Now faith is the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen ... But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God **must** believe that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:1, 6 KJV)

(3) Site for attack ... "Jericho!"

- Jericho was described as the "City of Psalm Trees." It is also referred to as the "City of Fragrance."
- This city was one of the earliest settlements and believed to have been founded about 9,000BC, some source says 9,600BC.
- Jericho was well known for its protective walls. ***Please note scholars differ in regards to the following:***
 - The walls were estimated to have been 11.8 to 17 feet high; and 5.9 to 6.6 feet wide at the base
 - They had a tower of stone believed to have been 28 feet high and 30 feet wide at the bottom.

(4) Jericho was situated in the Jordan valley.

- Today it is located in the disputed West Bank.
- As it was in the time of Joshua, it was a well fortified city and a formidable foe but was destined to crumble by the power of God!!

2. Stay of Abode (Josh. 2:1b)

(a) Was this surveillance (reconnaissance) necessary?

- (1) Was Joshua displaying a lack of faith by sending the spies?
- (2) Was it not a fact that God had ordered the advance and the people promised to obey; then why send the spies?
- (3) We (the Church, the Body of Christ) are involved in spiritual warfare and we know the battle is the Lord's (1 Sam. 17:47), He is mighty in battle (Psa. 24:8) and He will always be with us (Mat. 28:20b)... these are well established facts...
 - With those factors as well as others in mind, does it mean that we simply take certain situations for granted, for example, do we blindly approve of anyone and everyone who claim to be ministers of God, having a message from God, etc. ... do we just go along ...
 - Or do we prove that they are genuinely of God (1 John 4:1-6)?
 - The Scriptures also remind us that fruits produced are essentially important (Matt. 7:15-23); the life lived says who we really are!!
 - Faith does not remove the need for wisdom and doing what must be done in advancing the cause of God.

- Definitely, we could say a lot more in regards to the above but this is my emphasis: Joshua was not taking anything for granted and was putting into effect all that was necessary for a successful military campaign. We, the Church, need to follow suit and be cautious and strategic in fulfilling all our assignments.
- (b) Joshua was fully convinced that sending the spies was the correct thing to do.
- (1) He knew God's command to cross Jordan as well as His other promises but was persuaded it also required him to make all necessary preparation for this assignment.
 - (2) He obviously did not believe that the immediate presence of God and His miraculous help promised, licensed him to neglect the measures a wise and prudent leader would take.
 - (3) **Joshua was fully persuaded that God didn't want him to go forward blindly.**
 - He recognized that arrangements were not to be left to chance.
 - This is no time to procrastinate. The time for effective planning and implementation is now!!
 - (4) **He also sensed that Jericho was the key citadel (stronghold) of the Jordan valley and that it must be conquered. He obviously was a military genius.**
 - By conquering Jericho, he would be able to strike across the center of the country and split the north and southern armies of the Canaanites.
 - Jericho's area was strategic not only because it could serve as a launching site for his military campaign but it would be ideal location to set up a home base for the soldiers and other families of Israel; Gilgal, which was close to Jericho (Josh. 4:19) served as his base for operation.
 - Joshua saw great advantages in conquering Jericho and was not about to take the challenge lightly nor for granted.
 - He was a man of faith but faith without works is dead.
 - As a result, Joshua turned his attention to the task of acquiring all information that was possible.
- (c) **The spies at Rahab's house.**
- "So they went and come to the house of a harlot named Rahab and lodge there." (Josh. 2:1b NKJV).
- (1) We will avoid the debate whether Rahab's lifestyle as a harlot was before this encounter in Josh. 2; and that she was at the time solely operating lodging.
 - (2) She has been described **in the Bible** as a harlot (Josh. 2:1; 6:17). As briefly noted above and will be seen below, Rahab was one who although had a bad start, she experienced a wonderful change to the glory of God!!
 - (3) **Why these carefully chosen men go to the house of a harlot?** Several reasons ... a few are:
 - It may have been the only place available for them to lodge.

- These men went there because it was a place where they would not be recognized,
- They went there because in such a place there might be considerable loose talk (not basically vulgar and careless) and as a result they would glean valuable military information.
- Rahab's house was an ideal location for a quick escape because it was built in the city wall (Josh. 2:15)
- Beloved, God is omniscient He knows it all! Here was someone who despite certain facts has a heart yearning for the living and true God!! Someone who wants to be delivered! Desiring deep inside for a change like the woman with the hemorrhage (Mark 5:25-34) whose only hope of deliverance was in God!! **Oh may we see the needs all around us and become God's ambassadors!! (2 Cor. 5:20; Mat. 22:1-14).**

(d) **A few practical pointers (Briefly noted).**

- (1) Great men must see with other people's eyes.
 - Joshua could do so much and no more, therefore his officers and other workers were very important.
 - This made it necessary to be cautious who was chosen.
 - Those who are chosen will need to display commitment and fidelity.
 - Work depends on the type of workers in place and it is important to note that good rapport is vitally important between workers and their superiors!!
- (2) Faith in God's promises should not remove or hinder but encourage our careful and persistent work.
 - Joshua was sure he had God with him, never-the-less, he sent spies out on a fact finding assignment.
 - We do not trust God, but tempt Him, if our expectations slacken our endeavors.
- (3) Committed people are willing to pay the price which ensures successful accomplishments of set goals.
 - See how ready these men were to go upon this high-risked assignment.
 - They put their lives in their hands and went in obedience to Joshua's orders.
 - There was zeal (passion, enthusiasm, etc.), by these men, for the services to be performed and in dependence upon the power of God, who is the keeper and protector of His people.

B. Security through Rahab Josh. 2:2-7

1. Search for the Spies (Josh. 2:2-7)

- (a) Most likely the king of Jericho suspected that the Israelites would send spies on a reconnaissance mission.
 - (1) All the nations heard of the accomplishments of the Israelites and were expecting an incursion.

- (2) Most likely they had men assigned to be observant and report any suspicious characters.
 - (3) The spies did infiltrate the city and were eventually observed.
 - (4) The king of Jericho was informed (Josh. 2:2) and a search for them was put in effect immediately.
- (b) At all cost the spies must be found and killed.
- (1) The search was thorough, making sure they left no stone unturned. Observe their hot pursuit ... see verse 7.
 - (2) The objective was to prevent any progress in a possible invasion by the Israelites.
 - (3) It has always been Satan's goal to defeat the cause of God!!
 - Satan himself led rebellion against God; this is a debated reference but necessary to be considered ... Isa. 14:12-14; see Christ's statement in Luke 10:18.
 - Satan continues to be our arch-enemy who ceaselessly works to defeat and destroy (1 Peter 5:8-9).
 - The good news is ... greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).
- 2. Secured by Rahab (Josh. 2:3-7)**
- (a) Informed that the spies were at Rahab's house the authorities ordered her to turn the spies over to them (Josh. 2:3).
- (b) Rahab made sure that the men were properly secured.
- "And the woman took the two men and hid them ..." ((Josh 2:4)
- (1) As it relates to the culture of those days, there was a strong tradition of hospitality.
 - If someone was a guest in your house you had a strong duty to protect and care for them.
 - Examples of such hospitality can be seen throughout Scriptures; displayed for example by: (a) Abraham (Gen. 18:1-8, (b) Lot (Gen. 19:1-11), (c) Laban (Gen. 24:29-31), (d) Jethro (Ex. 2:20, (e) Etc. (*Read the chapter of each reference for context*).
 - (2) As observed in the situation with Rahab, her hospitality went above and beyond!
 - What she did was not an easy task but she displayed great courage although her own safety was at stake.
 - By harboring the enemies, she had betrayed her own country by aiding those who intended to bring about destruction.
 - Most likely, the men sent to her house were armed guards but Rahab was determined to protect the spies.
 - (3) Her courageous action was a clear indication of her willingness and determination of forsaking the former life.

Let's go down a list briefly noting the signs of her faith in God (Josh 2:4-6.

- She hid the spies (v. 4)
 - She admitted the strangers had come, but she denied knowing they were spies (v. 4)
 - She stated that they had left the city before night fall and before the closing of the gate; however she did not know where they were going (v.5).
 - She suggested that they might be caught if the armed guards pursued them quickly (v. 5).
 - She had actually hidden the spies on her roof under some stalks of flax. (v. 6).
 - Stalk of flax was used to make yarn and then linen cloth.
 - After being harvested, it was placed on the roof top to dry out and then processed for its intended purpose (the homes then had flat roofs).
- (c) The armed guards wasted no time and immediately rushed towards the shallow areas of the Jordan River (Josh 2:7 ... “the way to Jordan unto **the fords** ...” KJV).
- (1) Rahab risked her life to save the two Israelites spies.
 - (2) As noted above by saving the lives of these two spies, she betrayed her country and committed treason.
 - Why would she want to do such will be easily seen below,
 - At this time the important point is: **she was forsaking her former life!! She had made a courageous decision to turn away from the evil and corruption of the Canaanites.**
 - It was a courageous decision to turn to God and become identified with the people of God.
- (d) It is a fact that Rahab deceived the officers that examined her . . . note the following highlighted pointers.
- (1) At this time Rahab was not a member of the covenant community and was not bound to the moral laws of the covenant.
 - (2) Remember the status of Rahab . . . she was one of the city prostitutes.
 - (3) We must also realize that the darkened conscience is but gradually enlightened.
 - (4) The Bible simply reported Rahab’s lie. It did not praise or excuse it!
 - Only her faith and works were approved as we will see below.
 - God in no way needed to rely on deception to fulfill His covenant promises or to protect the spies (Josh 1:5-6).
 - (5) Rahab was just in process of changing her whole way of life!!
 - She was beginning to throw in her lot with God’s people and be identified with them!
 - We are also reminded that likewise Ruth also came out of the darkness of sin . . .
Ruth 1:16e (KJV)
“... thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”

(6) Scripture is clear: we must forsake sin and turn to God.

- There has to be repentance in our lives as we seek God. It is appoint where we turn away from the sins of the world and turn to God.
- Repentance is not only **sorrow** for sin but it also involves **stop** sinning (2 Cor. 7:10; John 8:11)
- See also Acts 17:30; Eph. 4:22; Heb 12:1; 1 Peter 2:11; etc.

C. Salvation Desired Josh 2:8-21**1. Fear of God (Josh 2:8-11)**

(a) Rahab's profession of faith is remarkable, coming from a woman with a pagan background.

(1) The reports she had revealed were probably heard from men at her brothel, as well as a few facts she knew herself.

(2) What she had heard led her to believe that the **One who** had done these astonishing achievements for the benefit of His people has to be the true "God in heaven above and on the earth beneath." (Deut 4:39 NKJV)

- See also **Ex. 23:27; Deut. 11:25**; Ex. 8:10; 1 Sam. 2:2; Isa. 43:10.
- Read Deut. 2 (Note verse 25 ... the enemy nations would be terrified because God was with His people Israel)

Deut. 2:25 Amplified Bible

"This day will I begin to put the dread of you upon the peoples who are under the whole heavens, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you."

(b) Rahab revealed her innermost thoughts and conviction to the spies (2:8-11).

(1) It is obvious that the facts known had gripped and controlled her very life!

- As noted before: Rahab believed that the God of Israel was the living and true God.
- She believed that God was giving the Promised Land to the Israelites and their (Israel's) victory was assured.
- As a result her people were gripped with fear (Josh. 2:9).
- The victory God gave to Israel some 40 years before, when they were delivered from the Egyptian bondage (Ex. 3-15), was still fresh on her mind (Josh. 2:10a).
- Rahab remembered the victory God gave to Israel over two kings of the Amorites, Sihon and Og (Num. 21:21-35 ... Josh. 2:10b).
- She revealed crucially important information needed by the spies.
 - She showed there was a defeatist spirit had gripped the Canaanite.
 - Their hearts melted in fear.
 - Their lives were characterized by hopelessness ... expecting defeat.
 - With their morale (confidence, optimism, team spirit) lost, victory was assure for Israel.

- **Josh. 2:11 Amplified Bible**

“... neither did spirit or courage remain anymore in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. [Heb. 11:31]”

(2) The common trait among the inhabitants of Canaan was fear.

- It is obvious that Rahab was more terrified of God than she was of her own king.
- This fear that would characterize the nations was made known to Moses by God (as quoted above see Deut, 2:25).

(c) Rahab (at the time of Josh. 2) did not know God personally but she believed in her heart that He is the living and true God!

(1) By this confession (Josh. 2:11), Rahab was declaring . . .

- ... that the Lord (Jehovah, Yahweh) was the Supreme God, the **ONLY** living and true God, who rules in both “heaven above and the earth below.” (Josh. 2:11)
- ... that the Lord (Jehovah, Yahweh) was a personal God, “your God, (v. 11) who guided and took care of His people.”
- ... that the Lord (Jehovah, Yahweh) was God who was worshipped by the Israelites and He would fulfill His promises to His people, in particular the promise of the Promised Land.

(2) The fear of God is absolute reverence and awe for the Almighty God, the Transcendent Creator and Sovereign King, there is none like Him (Ex. 15:11; etc.)

- See Deut. 10:12-13; Josh. 24:14; Prov. 8:13; Ecc. 12:13; Isa. 8:13; Matt. 10:28; 1 Peter 1:17; 2:17; etc.
- **Heb. 12:28 (NKJV)**
“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”

2. Faith Manifested (Josh. 2:12-13)

(a) Rahab requested that she and her family be saved from death (Vv. 12-13).

(1) This is a picture of one calling upon the Lord for salvation.

- Salvation (while the gate is still ajar) is an open invitation to the willing (Luke 12: 8; Acts 10:43; 1 John 5:1; Rev. 22:17; etc.)
- **Rom. 10:12 NKJV**
“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, **for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.**”

(2) Rahab forsook her past, her country for the sake of the two spies. She gave up everything now she seeks salvation for herself and her family.

- Her desperate request flowed from the depth of her heart! (Josh. 2:12).
- Rahab gave strong expression of her faith (v. 13)
 - She believed the Lord would give victory to Israel.

- Knowing the imminent destruction of Jericho she cried out to the two spies, **“deliver our lives from death.” (Josh. 2:13)**
 - “Save us from death!”
 - “Save us!” ...“Rescue us when you attack the city.”(Josh. 2:13, 18)
 - **GET THE FAMILY COVERED!! (BRIEFLY NOTED)**
 - Safely in the ark (Gen. 7, NB Vv. 1-10)
 - Covered by the blood (Ex. 12, NB v. 13; Matt 26:28; Rom. 5:9; etc.).
 - Aaron atones not only for Israel but for himself and his household (Lev. 16, NB v. 11)
 - The prison keeper and his family accepted Jesus Christ (Acts 16”26-34, NB. v. 34).
 - The testimony of Joshua still echoes far and wide loud and clear (See Josh. 24, NB v. `15)
 - Etc.
- (b) **One should take note that Rahab manifested more than intellectual knowledge of the God of Israel ...**
- (1) She had some heart convictions ... it was from deep within.
 - (2) She had faith ... saving faith.
 - (3) She was ready to negotiate
 - (4) She wanted to identify her household with the people of the Lord; the Lord of all the earth and she wanted a **“sure sign.” (Josh. 2:12)**
 - “... and give me a sure token.’ (KJV)
 - “... and give me a sure sign” (RSV and other translations)
 - (5) **Saving faith (Eph. 2:8) involves more than mental assent. (Details not possible ... note a few pointers; briefly and randomly listed)**
 - To believe in the One God is good; but the demons also believe and tremble (James 2:19).
 - Saving faith involves acknowledging our lost condition because we have all sinned (Rom. 3:23); acknowledging Jesus Christ as our only deliverer (Acts 4:12) and expressing our faith in His finished work for our salvation (Rom. 10:9-11).
 - There must be a godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10); repentance is compulsory (Acts 17:30).
 - There must be a transformation, a recreation (Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:17)
 - It involves taking off the old and putting on the new (Col. 3:1-17; Eph. 4:17-24).
 - It means **becoming a child of God!** (One quick reference John 1:12)
 - Believing (faith) in Christ
 - Receiving Christ
 - Becoming a child of God
 - You will know you have eternal life (John 3:16; 1 John 5:13)

(c) Rahab's remarkable confession may have been motivated by fear and a desire for self-preservation but it was nonetheless genuine.

(1) God promises spiritual victory and blessings to all who seek Him!!

- Rahab was not promised deliverance because of her shrewdness or solely for helping the spies but because of her faith (Josh. 2:9-13, 17-21; 6:23; Heb. 11:31).
- Her life of prostitution was not approved by God, but He made a way just as He does for every human being!!
 - ... God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9)
 - Jesus Christ's mission was to seek and to save the lost (John 19:10)
 - "Jesus" means "Savior" ... He came to save from sin (Matt. 1:21)
 - Etc.

(2) **Rahab's walk of faith!!**

- She believed the God of Israel was the true God (Josh. 2:10-13)
- She was commended for her faith (Heb. 11:31)
- Her faith was demonstrated by good works (James 2:25)
 - We are not saved by good works but **unto good works** (Eph. 2:8-10).
 - God's grace is sufficient for the worst of sinners (Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2, NB Vv. 1-13; 1 Tim. 1:15).
- This harlot became a part of the lineage of King David, from whom the Messiah descended (Ruth 4:18-20; Matt. 1:4-5; Luke 3:32) Rahab married to Salmon of the tribe of Judah and was the mother of Boaz and the great-grand mother of David.
 - Oh, for the boundless, matchless love of God!!!
 The love of God is greater far
 Than tongue or pen can ever tell
 It goes beyond the highest star
 And reaches to the lowest hell
 The guilty pair bowed down with care
 God gave His Son to win
 His erring child He reconciled
 And pardoned from his sin

 O love of God, how rich and pure!
 How measureless and strong!
 It shall forevermore endure
 The saints and angels' song.

- Beloved, God's grace and mercy extends to all! He freely pours out His forgiveness and love upon all, irrespective of class, color, creed, ones past or present, whatever the situation may be!! Sin is falling short of God's glory, it is missing the mark and its result is eternal damnation!! Sin is a heavy load

and will wear you out but Jesus Christ opens His comforting hands and says:
“Come to Me and I will give you rest ...!” See Matt. 11:25-30

3. Factors of the Agreement (Josh 2:14-21)

(a) Rahab was given the assurance of being rescued and saved (v. 14)

(1) The spies made a rather strong and solemn promise to her (v. 14)

- They pledged both their word and their lives.
 - This was the boldest pledge that could be made.
 - They themselves, their very lives became the surety, the guarantee of safety for Rahab.
- Before God, they were declaring that the Lord could take their lives in battle if they failed to rescue Rahab and her family.
- They would keep their word but it was equally incumbent on Rahab to keep her part of the agreement.

(2) Rahab demonstrated strong faith (Vv. 15-16)

- She put her faith into action, by making sure the spies escaped safely. She also advised the spies where to hide and for how long before returning to their camp.
- She was not “almost persuaded” but whole-heartedly believed and continued on the pathway of faith.

(b) There were specific conditions in order for Rahab and her family to be saved.

(1) She must identify her home with the scarlet rope (v. 18)

- The scarlet rope would identify her house as a **“house of safety.”**
- Consequently, the soldiers of Israel would pass over her house when they were executing judgment against Jericho.
 - This was seen when the death angel executed judgment in Egypt (Ex. 12, NB Vv. 13, 29-30)
 - It is also a clear picture of the blood of Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:19; Rev. 5:6, 8, 12, 13; 7:9-17, NB Vv. 14, 17; etc.)

(2) She was to bring her family into her house and keep them there (Vv. 18-19)

- **She had to make sure that no one left the “house of safety” to go back into the streets.**
- If any family member decided to return and rejoin the evil, wicked citizens of Jericho, that family member would be destroyed (Ezek. 3:18-19; 33:1-5; Acts 18:6)
- There are some great lessons to be learnt from Acts 27; look carefully at verse 31.

(3) She must keep secret the purpose of the spies visit (v. 20).

- If she was not cooperative, the spies would be blameless of the oath (v. 17)
 - Note v. 20 ... if she betrayed her oath.
 - KJV: “... then we will be quit of thine oath ...”
 - NKJV: “... then we will be free from your oath ...”

- Failure to keep the conditions of the agreement would make it “null and void.”
- We are cautioned about returning to the old sinful way!! (One reference 2 Peter 2:21-22 ... read the chapter for context).
- Note Rahab’s response in v. 21
 - These words revealed her continued faith and guaranteed the salvation of her family.
 - The reality of her abiding faith is seen in the fact that she “bound the scarlet line in the window” (v. 21 KJV) (“line” ...”rope”).
 - She was committed! She decided to stand firm, unmoved!! She would continue trusting and obeying!!

4. Practical Lessons

(a) **For the greatest sin there is no bar to pardoning mercy if it be truly repented of.**

- (1) We read of the publicans and harlots entering into the kingdom of the Messiah, and being welcomed to all the privileges of that kingdom (Matt. 21:31, read Vv. 28-32 for context).
- (2) There is room at the cross!! Mercy there (was) is great and grace is free!!
 - Sinful and rejected women found deliverance!! (Luke 7: 36-50, NB v. 47; John 8:1-11, NB v. 11)
 - Despised, condemned sinners (Read Luke 15, NB v. 2)
 - Hopeless and hell-bound with no hope ... like the thief on the cross Luke 23:32-43, NB v. 43).
 - Etc.
- (3) **Psa. 51:17 NKJV**
 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and contrite heart—
 These, O God, you will not despise.”

(b) **There are many who, before conversion, were wicked and vile, yet due to an encounter with Jesus Christ came to great eminence and lived a life of holiness!**

- (1) Paul the persecutor upon his conversion later became a herald of the same gospel he fought against (Acts 9, NB v. 20; etc.)
- (2) I mentioned John Newton before who had a difficult past, among his experiences he got involved in slave trade. Upon his conversion he not only penned what is regarded as “The most famous hymn in history,” “Amazing Grace;” but was otherwise involved in God’s work.
- (3) A most recent and outstanding example is Lee Strobel. He was an atheist, an award winning journalist, etc who was converted in 1980 and has written several books, for example “The Case for Christ” etc. and serves as a teaching pastor.
- (4) This list goes on and on!!

(c) **The conditions of salvation are clearly seen in the experience of Rahab.***Some repetitions ... limited comments at this time:*

- (1) Salvation from sin is possible because of the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - The scarlet (a brilliant red color) rope used by Rahab identified her house as “a house of safety.”
 - The color of the scarlet rope reminded us of the blood of Jesus Christ . . . the Passover Lamb.
 - What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!!
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!!
 - See Rom. 5:9; John 1:29; Heb. 9:14; Eph. 1:7; 1 Cor. 5:7; etc.
- (2) We must repent and be separated from the world.
 - This requires that we turn away from the world and its sinful ways and pursue a life of righteousness and true holiness.
 - See 2 Cor. 6:17-18; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-16; etc.

D. Satisfactory Report Josh. 2:22-24**1. Divine Providence v. 22****(a) The spies heeded Rahab’s advice.**

- (1) They stayed in the hills for three days while the king’s guards searched frantically (desperately, hysterically, etc.) for them.
 - When the guards did not find them they returned to the king with the unfortunate report.
 - Most likely, Rahab had provided the spies with the necessary provisions.
- (2) **Wise counsel** is always an asset and should be heeded.
 - It is not good for a person to be without knowledge (Prov. 19:2; see also verses 20-21).
 - See how the Scripture compares the folly of him who is wise in his own eyes, in comparison to him who listens to wise counsel (Prov. 12:15).
 - Many other references, for example Prov. 11:14; 15:22; James 1:5; etc.

(b) The safe return of the spies was due to the providence of God.

- (1) He blessed their going out and their coming in.
- (2) He provided Rahab to be a source for providing a haven.
 - She sheltered the visitors with the necessary abode.
 - She secured them when sought by the king’s guards.
 - She shared vital information necessary to the fact finding mission of the spies.
 - She settled the curiosity of the spies in regards to the success of their imminent invasion.
 - She sought salvation for herself and her family.
 - She sent the spies away with good counsel and needed provision for their return trip.

- She showed her firm faith and unshakeable commitment by placing the scarlet rope in her window.
- She was satisfied that despite the high risk involved, this transaction and new way was worth it all!!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY GEAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!!

(c) The spies were overwhelmingly convinced!!

- (1) The assurance that the “fear of God and the dread of Israel” would characterize the enemies of Israel (Deut. 11:25); was witnessed by them among all the inhabitants of Jericho.
- (2) The spies were fully persuaded that God was the “Divine Keeper” ... we, the Church, should be likewise minded!
 - **He is The Pilgrims Companion** (Gen. 28:15)
 - **He is The Sleepless Watchman** (Psa. 121:4)
 - **He is The Protecting Father** (John 17:11)
 - **He is The Almighty Guardian** (2 Tim. 1:12)
- (3) They (the spies) knew He watches over their lives (our lives) with infinite care.
 - **Psa. 115:12-13 NKJV**
 “The Lord has been mindful of us;
 He will bless us;
 He will bless the house of Israel;
 He will bless the house of Aaron.
 He will bless those who fear Him,
 Both small and great.
 - See also Matt. 6:32; Luke 12:7; 1 Peter 5:7; etc.
- (4) We can all join in the song and sing:
 Victory is mine
 Victory is mine
 Victory today is mine
 I told Satan to get thee behind
 Victory today is mine.

2. Duty Fulfilled/Defeat of the Enemy Assured (Josh. 2:23-24)

(a) The spies made their report.

- (1) They shared the entire story of their narrow escape and Rahab’s faith and help.
- (2) Observe carefully the declaration of their faith: **“Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.” (Josh. 2:24 KJV)**
 - In strong faith and excitement, they declared that the Lord had surely given the land into their hands.
 - They saw the Canaanites as being panic-stricken and their hearts were fainting and melting with fear.

- (b) This report differs from the spies who reported to Moses (40 years before... Num 13-14).
- (1) They reported to Joshua and not the entire camp.
 - (2) They were not overshadowed with pessimism and an attitude of defeat but were motivated with hope of victory.
 - (3) They didn't focus on the vigilant king and his aggressive guards but the coverage of God who guarantees victory.
 - (4) They didn't see the strong, intimidating people but people overcome with fear, hopelessness and a lack of self-esteem, which confirmed a sure victory for Israel.
 - (5) Instead of focusing on such features as Jericho's great walls and mighty army they saw a successful military campaign against Jericho.
 - (6) Instead of a lack of faith in God, they saw the awesome power of God, creating all conditions necessary for victory!!
- (c) Everything they had to say substantiated that which had already been promised by God, namely:
- Repeated for emphasis**
- (1) "All the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away." (Ex. 15:15 KJ)
 - (2) "I will send fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come." (Ex. 23:27 KJV)
 - (3) "There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon as he hath said unto you." (Deut. 11:25 KJV)
 - (4) Etc.

3. Practical Lessons

- (a) Joshua would be a savior for Rahab, but a judge of the rest of Jericho
- (1) In the same way Jesus Christ is a Savior for those who trust in Him, but a judge for those who reject Him.
 - (2) Beloved, there are souls to be rescued, there are souls to be saved!! We must be light of the world and salt of the earth!!
- (b) Rahab demonstrated a strong faith in the Lord, and her faith saved the lives of the spies.
- (1) Our faith **must** reach out to help others, to bear a strong testimony and be witnesses so that others will be saved because of our faith.
 - (2) We must help people escape the Evil One, even Satan, the Devil who seeks to imprison, kill and destroy precious souls ... victory is found in Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:14-15).
 - (3) We must proclaim our faith, bear strong testimony and witness to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (4) See Acts 1:8; 4:20; 5:20-21; Titus 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Tim. 1:8; Isa. 62:6; 63:7; Mal. 3:16.

- (c) The spies were apparently fully convinced that God's program was being accomplished.
- (1) Joshua was reassured that he was understanding God rightly and will continue in obedience.
 - (2) There was now only one direction in which to move, and that was towards Jericho.
 - (3) **John 4:35 (NKJV)**
"Do not say, There are still four months and then comes harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest."

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON!! TO THE WORK TO THE WORK WE ARE SERVANTS OF GOD!!

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Amplified Bible

"Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth."

LESSON 2 REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Complete the following:
“Faith in God’s promises, need not (a) _____ but instead should
(b) _____ our (c) _____ in (d) _____
the best and most (e) _____ method necessary to (f) _____
our God given (g) _____.

2. What was revealed about Joshua as a commander in his preparation and procedure in his first assignment?

3. As recorded in Numbers 25 (*If not acquainted with please read the chapter*) briefly state in what way Israel greatly transgressed to a point that it was one of their worst failures, as it relates to their covenant with God? (See also Num. 31, NB Vv. 8, 15-16)

4. Israel miserably failed God at Shittim (Num. 25). Joshua is now sending the spies from Shittim to Jericho (Josh. 2); what significant lesson is to be leant based on Joshua’s action?

5. List some outstanding features about Jericho at the time of Joshua.

6. Choose the correct answer:

Today Jericho is located _____.

- (a) Golan Heights
- (b) Gaza strip
- (c) West Bank
- (d) In Egypt

7. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.

“Since Joshua was assured of God’s abiding presence and victory over all enemies, there was no need for him to send the spies to Jericho.”

8. Why was it important for Joshua to conquer Jericho before other cities in Canaan?

9. What are some possible reasons why the spies went to Rahab’s, the harlot, house?

10. Complete the following:

“Faith in God’s (a) _____ should not (b) _____ or hinder but (c) _____ our (d) _____ and persistent (e) _____.”

11. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“We do not trust God, but tempt Him, if our expectations _____ .”

- (a) strengthen our faith.
- (b) slacken our endeavors
- (c) secretly doubt sometimes
- (d) satisfy only ourselves

12. What strong tradition of hospitality was practiced by the host; as exemplified by Rahab as well as other Old Testament characters?

13. What was demonstrated by Rahab’s courageous action when she protected the spies from being apprehended?

14. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.

“The armed guards did not believe Rahab’s account in regards to the spies where-about and demanded a search of her home.

15. In regards to Rahab's lies which of the following was not listed among our brief listing responses relating to her lies (Lesson 2 Josh. 2).
- (a) Remember the status of Rahab ... she was one of the city prostitutes.
 - (b) The Bible simply reported Rahab's lie. It did not praise or excuse it.
 - (c) Rahab was in process of changing her life.
 - (d) Irrespective of the fact that she lied, the life of the spies were saved.

16. Complete the following:
The following refers to one of the highlighted points about Rahab's faith ... her deep desire for salvation.

"With what she had (a) _____ led he to (b) _____ that the **One who** had done these (c) _____ achievements for the (d) _____ of His (e) _____ has to be the true God in (f) _____ and on (g) _____."

17. List at least five things that gripped and controlled Rahab's heart in regards to the God of Israel.

18. In what ways was Rahab's awareness of God was more than intellectual knowledge?

19. Complete by choosing the correct answer:
“Rahab’s remarkable confession may have been motivated by fear and a desire for self-preservation but _____.”
(a) it was solely deceptive
(b) it was nonetheless genuine
(c) it was partially genuine
(d) it was for riches

20. What Scriptural acknowledgment do we have of Rahab’s faith?

21. Briefly explain the agreement drafted by the spies in regards to saving Rahab and her family.

22. In what way would the agreement drafted between Rahab and the spies become nonbinding?

23. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“For the greatest sin there is no bar to pardoning mercy _____.”

- (a) if one pretended to be sorry.
- (b) if valuable excuses are made sincerely
- (c) if one is conceited and egoistic
- (d) if it be truly repented of.

24. Match the statements on the left with their corresponding reference on the right.

“God is Our Divine Keeper!”

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	JUMBLED REFERENCES
He is The Protecting Father		2 Tim. 1:12
He is The Pilgrims Companion		Psa. 121:4
He is The Almighty Guardian		John 17:11
He is The Sleepless Watchman		Gen. 28:15

25. Briefly list at least five ways the report of Joshua’s spies (Josh. 2) differs from the report of Moses spies (Num. 13-14).

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class