

Joshua 2

Background to the book: Place of book of Joshua in the canon of Scriptures? 1st book in history section

-**Date for the exodus from Egypt?** 1445 BC

-**Date for the crossing of the Jordan River into the Promised Land?** 1405 BC

-**Who was Joshua?**

Review of Joshua 1.16-18 – Notice the respect of the people for Joshua

-**What happened when the Israelites did not respect Moses?** *Num. 16* – rebellion of Korah - This is the most frightening scene in the entire Bible

-**Was Moses perfect? No – Imperfections?** Temper, wanted for murder, terrible marriage

-**Any Scriptures in the New Testament about respecting those who are placed in a position of authority?** Read Heb. 13.17 – Read Romans 16.17-18

-**What should we do if we disagree with a decision of the elders?**

-**For an opinion?** Get over it

-**Because of scriptures?** – Talk to them in private

There is never a time for a whispering campaign – the Holy Spirit appoints these men by using the congregation to decide if they meet the qualifications

-The procedure for removing a bad elder is found in *1 Timothy 5*

Conclusion: God is very, very serious about following and obeying scripturally appointed leaders for his people

Joshua 2.1-7

-**Why Jericho?** Strategic

V1 – **Why send spies if God had already "given" them the land?** The characteristic of a good leader is knowing the opposition – also: Moses had sent spies into the land of Canaan

Matt. 10.16 – ...be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves....

Why 2 men? 2 of 12 brought favorable report 40 years earlier

-**Why Rahab?** A prostitute (male foreign visitors would not arouse suspicions)

Does the New Testament ever speak of Rahab?

-**Read Matt. 1.5** (the great-great grandmother of David, she was the mother of Boaz)

-**Read Hebrews 11.30-31**

-**Read James 2.25-26**

-Rahab was looking for the truth

V2 – King was told that Rahab had taken in spies from the Israelites

V3 – **What was the command of the king?** Turn over the men

V4 – **What was the reply of Rahab?** She said that she had taken them in, but did know where they had come from – **the truth?** No, a lie

V5 – Rahab lied again – God never approves of lying!

-**Did God ask her to lie?** Absolutely not

-**Could God have taken care of the spies without Rahab's lying?** Yes, God could have saved the spies without the lying of Rahab

-Have God's people ever lied?

-Abraham about Sarah being his sister

-Peter lied about never having heard of this man named Jesus

V 6 – Why were the stalks of flax laid on her roof? To dry; used to weave linens

-Her family was involved in agriculture; she stayed in her apartment while in town

V 7 – Why did the men of Jericho shut the gate? To show that the city was tightly shut up for the upcoming battle – the message: the city was trusting in its gates to save itself

Joshua 2.8-14

V 8 – Rahab visited the two spies on the roof to tell them the news of Jericho (people terrified)

V 9 – She is faithful in whatever little spiritual light she had

-All the people of Jericho were filled with terror, but Rahab's fear led her to what?

-She thinks religiously: "Who are they? Their God must be powerful"

V 10 – What was all that she knew about God and the Israelites?

-1. She had heard about the dividing of the Red Sea

-2. She had heard about the defeat of the Amorites (*Num. 21-21-35*)

Apparently she didn't know about the 10 Commandments or the water that Moses brought out of the rock or anything else, but she still knew that the Israelites worshipped the one true God

V 11 – What "confession" does she make in v 11? God is the God of heaven and earth (monotheistic)

V 12 – What did Rahab ask of the 2 spies? Safety for her and her family

V 13 – Concern for her family

-Did they also believe in God? Apparently – they could have betrayed Rahab/they had to get into her apartment during the battle, etc.

V 14 – God always gives us a way of escape – **Read 1 Cor. 10.13**

-Matt. 6.13 – ...and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil....

Conclusion on Rahab? God doesn't care what we have been, but what we can become, with his help

Did Rahab leave her profession? "Silence of the Scriptures?" Of course, she did – she was brought into the family of God, the Israelite nation after the battle

Joshua 2.15-21

What deal had the spies made with Rahab? If she kept quiet and put the red cord down the outside of the wall, she and her family would be saved (v 14)

-Note: Salvation by faith **and** by works

-Her salvation was a gift to her from the spies, but she had to do something to get it

V 15 – Where was Rahab's house? On the city wall

-How did the spies escape? Let down by a rope

V 16 – Her instructions to the spies? Go to the hills for 3 days

V 17-20 – The terms of the agreement?

1. She had to tie a red rope from the window
2. She had to get her family into her house
3. She had to keep this matter a secret

If she told anyone? The agreement was off

-And if any relative went out of her house, that relative would be killed (v 19)

V 21 – Rahab's reply to the terms? Agreed to them all

-**Notice:** She didn't say: *But suppose one of my relatives is headed to my apartment and trips and breaks his leg and can't make it?*

-In other words, she didn't try to think up hypothetical stories to find a loophole in God's plan (as people do today with baptism)

-Illustration: *Suppose a man is crawling across the desert and realizes that he needs to be baptized, but dies before he can get to a body of water?*

The answer:

Read Acts 8.26 and Acts 8.38-39 – a body of water in the Gaza desert deep enough of Philip and the eunuch to go into the water (the purpose for that statement)

-or: *What a man in a plane who wants to be baptized, but the plane crashes before he can be baptized?*

What did Rahab do as soon as the men left? She got the scarlet cord (even though the attack was still 2 weeks away) – she didn't want to take any chances about delaying, because her city was about to be destroyed

-People today put off baptism and take risks

-Or they seize something that the preacher or an elder said that made them mad

-They plan to say in the Day of Judgment: *Remember that Sunday when that elder walked right past me and didn't speak – it's his fault that I never obeyed the gospel*

Thought question: What else could she have done to help the Israelites? Nothing- at this point, it was out of her hands

-She had to be patient and trust God

What was the "seal" of this agreement? The scarlet (red) cord to be hung out her window

Why the scarlet (red) cord? A symbol of the blood of Christ

-Think about the Israelites marching around the walls each day and seeing that red cord every time they went around – must have meant something...

Note: In every book of the Old Testament, there is some kind of reminder of the coming of Christ

-**Genesis?** Death of animals to get skins to clothe Adam and Eve from the nakedness in the presence of God

-**Exodus?** – The blood of the lamb for the Passover

-Here is Rahab hanging the red cord down from the wall of the city, like the blood of Christ coming down from the cross

What other "seals" did God use in the Bible?

-Noah – the rainbow

-Mizpah – between Jacob and Laban

-Abraham – circumcision

-Jesus – Lord's Supper

Could other people have joined Rahab and her family in the apartment during the battle? Yes –

they could have asked about the scarlet cord (the invitation is always open)

Joshua 2.22-24

V 22 – **What did the spies do?** Went north 3 days

-The pursuers gave up

V 23 – **Where did the two spies go next?** Back to Joshua

V 24 – **Their report?** God has given the land to the Israelites

Note: They were not afraid of the high walls of Jericho

-They believed in the promises of God

Read Exod. 15.15/Exod. 23.27/Deut. 11.25

Great lessons from Joshua 2

1. All people can be saved, regardless of past sins – Rahab was a prostitute

-Christ usually dealt with the coarser elements of society – they accused him of eating with "sinners and prostitutes"

2. People must accept the terms of their salvation (not just by grace)

Note: Rahab became the mother of Boaz (husband of Ruth) – Rahab became the great-great-grandmother of David and was in the lineage of Jesus Christ

Note: Use a spell checker on the computer, and the computer wants to replace Rahab with "rehab" – think about the spiritual significance – she really was "rehabbed" from her old way of life

Messianic line (Matt. 1.5-6):

Salmon and Rahab... (Great-great-grandmother of David/in lineage of Jesus Christ)

Boaz and Ruth...

Obed...

Jessie...

David the King

Revised 2012-09-15