

## Faith—Joshua 2

### Context—

- Joshua has been set apart as new leader
- The people have committed to follow him
- The Lord repeatedly commanded him to “be strong and courageous”

### A Tale of Two Espionage Accounts (vv. 1-7)

Numbers 13-14

Spies Sent

Spies Go

Spies Return with this message:

***The Ten***

The land is great; the people are too big—they will crush us.

***The Two***

The land is great; *Yahweh is great!* And He’s with us!

Joshua 2

Spies Sent

Spies Go

Spies Return with this message:

***The Two***

Yahweh is giving us this land; the people are melting away in fear!

Why spy?

In Numbers 13—God sent the spies *to see the land He was giving them*

In Joshua 2—not as clear

Could be for encouragement (like in Numbers)

Could be specifically for Rahab (Boice)

### Rahab’s Faith (vv. 8-14)

Prostitute, Inn-Keeper—a place where travelers would congregate

Great place to get information

No hint of impropriety from the spies

A not so secret, secret mission

People find them out, somehow communicate message to the King

King knows exactly where they are (at Rahab’s)

Rahab hides the men; Rahab “gives friendly welcome to the spies”; “received the messengers and sent them out by another way.”

Cf. Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

Rahab chooses to protect the men, risking her life by lying to the King’s men  
She shows allegiance to these men and the people of God, *instead of her own people and “gods”*

One commentator says this: “It was an act of treason!”

Rahab along with the people of Jericho AND the rest of Canaan are being confronted by a God who is not regional

Rahab recounts what she has heard—

The Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

The Defeat of the Amorite Kings (Numbers 21:21-35)

Rahab declares an acceptance of these realities:

Yahweh is the God of *Heaven and Earth*

Yahweh is *the God* of Heaven and Earth

Yahweh *may be merciful...*

Dale Ralph Davis: “Amazingly, Rahab not only trembles before the terror of the Lord but also senses that there might be mercy in this fearful God.”

## **Rahab’s Scarlet Cord (vv. 15-21)**

Only those marked by the cord will be saved

Cf. Exodus 12 (Noah’s ark?)

*All those marked with cord...* no matter that she was a Gentile Prostitute

## **The Spies’ Increased Faith (vv. 22-24)**

They didn’t focus on the thickness of the walls nor the locked gates. They didn’t see the giants anymore. They simply saw the glory of God and His power.

### **Recap:**

- Rahab’s faith included a turning away from all that she knew and a clinging to a hope in this God she believed—it was a faith in action.
- The spies’ too had hearts that were encouraged and faith that was deepened.

## What about Rahab's Lie!??

- First, not the emphasis of the text nor the emphasis of any other Scriptural reference
- Second, don't let that distract from the heart of Rahab's faith—she sided with Yahweh and His people, shifting allegiance (repentance), throwing herself at His mercy (faith).
- Third, here are some options:
  - o Lesser evil (both are sin; choose the lesser sin and repent)
  - o Greater good (“their usual nature as sins is set aside, redefined...” Howard)/Hierarchy of Values
    - Hebrew Midwives
    - Matthew 23:23-24—weightier issues of the Law
  - o Non-conflicting Absolutes (there was another way out)
    - 1 Cor. 10:13
    - Character of God (God of Truth)

“Therefore, although our purpose be to assist our brethren, to consult for their safety and relieve them, it never can be lawful to lie, because that cannot be right which is contrary to the nature of God. And God is truth.”  
John Calvin

[This view says that Rahab lacked faith in God and that is why she lied—problem is that Scripture never rebukes her for lack of faith rather praises her for great faith.]

### Mount Ararat Bible Church

All-Church Bible Study

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