

Three Days

Joshua 2

Read Joshua 2:1-21.

Chapter 2 opens with the three-day countdown to crossing the Jordan and conquering the promised land.

1. Read Numbers 13:17-20 for the account of Moses sending the twelve spies to Canaan 40 years earlier. Describe their mission.

2. As part of their three-day preparation, Joshua conducted a military operation. Briefly describe the mission given to the two spies. (Joshua 2:1)

3. What differences do you see between these two missions?

4. **THINK:** What do you think Joshua hoped to gain by sending out the spies?

God had promised to give them the land, but they bore the responsibility of doing their part in cooperation with God's leading and promises.

5. **THINK:** Why do you think the spies choosing the house of a harlot for lodging could help them accomplish their mission?

6. What hindered the spies from getting all the information they were looking for?

It seems that with the Children of Israel camping just on the other side of the Jordan, Jericho was on high alert, and the spies' attempt to go unnoticed failed miserably. In fact, it doesn't look like they even made it through the night without being discovered.

7. What does Rahab choose to do with men instead of turning them in? (v. 6)

8. What is surprising about how Rahab responded to the king's command to bring the two men out of her house? (v. 4-6)

9. Rahab makes an impressive statement of faith in verses 9-11. Detail all that she believed about the God of the Israelites.

v. 9a _____

v. 10a _____

v. 10b _____

v. 11c _____

10. How had the people of Jericho reacted to what they heard about the God of the Israelites? (v. 8-11)

11. Both the people of Jericho and Rahab knew a lot about God. Compare and contrast what they did with that information.

12. What did Rahab ask for in exchange for her kindness towards the spies? (v. 12-13)

13. What does this tell you about Rahab and her newfound faith in the God of Israel?

14. What were the conditions of the agreement the two spies made with Rahab? (v. 17-20)

15. In what ways could the scarlet cord have been significant? (Read Exodus 12:21-23)

16. How do the scarlet cord and the lamb's blood still relate to us today? (Ephesians 1:7)

17. **THINK:** What difficulties do you think Rahab could have had in convincing her family to come and stay at her home?

18. What difficulties have you faced in trying to convince those you love to apply the saving blood of Jesus to their lives?

19. Read the following verses and record how they encourage you to keep trying.
Remember, don't just copy the verses; record how you are encouraged.

Galatians 6:9

Luke 1:37

Hebrews 13:16

Rahab was a Canaanite woman who had been raised in a culture that served pagan gods, and yet she was able to recognize the God of Israel as the God of Heaven and Earth. Believing, she acted on her faith and protected the spies, sought salvation for herself, and shared a way for her family to be saved as well.

Read Joshua 2:22-24.

20. What was the report given to Joshua by the spies? (v. 24)

21. **THINK:** Carefully consider what happened to the spies (they were found out before they could carry out their mission and had to sneak out of Jericho). What about their experience made them so confident that they would not only take Jericho but also the whole land?

Joshua may have sent the spies to gather important military information to help them in battle, but God had something else in mind. Their encounter with Rahab encouraged their faith in God's promise and, as a result, the faith of the whole nation of Israel. In God's economy, this increase in **faith** held far more value than any military information they could have gleaned.

22. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about the power of faith.

Matthew 8:5-10,13

Matthew 17:20

Hebrews 11:6

Joshua thought he knew the purpose behind sending spies to Jericho, but it was God's purpose that prevailed.

23. Take a moment to consider the lengths God went to in order to save you.

Our focus has been on the faith and courage of Rahab, but how do we reconcile her lying? She lied three times, and there don't seem to be any consequences.

24. Look up the following verses and record what the Bible has to say about lying.

Leviticus 19:11

Proverbs 12:22

25. Look up Exodus 1:15-20 and answer the following questions:

Who lied in this passage? _____

Why did they lie? _____

How did God deal with the people who lied? _____

26. Read Matthew 12:1-14. For each act of civil disobedience, record how the law was broken and why the law was broken.

Working on the Sabbath (v. 1-2)

Unlawfully eating the showbread (v. 3-4)

Working on the Sabbath (v. 6-13)

27. Summarize the meaning of Matthew 12:7 using your own words.

Graded absolutism - when you are in a conflict over two laws or virtues your obligation is to obey the higher law or virtue or command and you are exempt from obeying the lower law or virtue or command.

- Norman Geisler

28. How did God deal with Rahab? (Joshua 6:25 and Matthew 1:1-6)

Justified – declared by God to be righteous and acceptable to Him and fit to receive the pardon of sins and eternal life.

29. According to Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25, when was Rahab justified?

Rahab heard about the God of Israel and believed that He was indeed the God of Heaven and Earth. It was her faith that caused her to act on that belief. She chose to fear God more than what an earthly king could do to her. Her actions testified to the realness of her faith, and God rewarded her for it.

30. Sarah and Rahab are the only two women mentioned by name in what is known as the Hebrews' Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11). Their differences are notable. Sarah was a godly, married woman. Rahab was a gentile prostitute. What made these two women similar from God's perspective?

As you read through Chapter 2, you may ask, "What about the innocent people of Canaan?"

31. What does Joshua 2:10a say that the people of Canaan knew?

32. How long had it been since God parted the Red Sea? (Deut. 1:3) _____

33. **THINK:** It had been forty-plus years since the splitting of the Red Sea. In other words, forty-plus years since the people of Canaan heard and knew about the power of God. What do you think kept them from turning to God?

34. Read Genesis 15:12-16 and answer the following questions. Note: God is speaking with Abram (Abraham) while he is physically in the land of Canaan.

- a. How long does God say Abram's descendants will live as strangers in a land that is not theirs (Egypt)?

b. When does God say Abram's descendants will return to the land of Canaan?

c. What reason is given for the 400-year wait?

Amorite – one of the peoples of east Canaan and beyond the Jordan.

35. For four hundred-plus years, God waited and tolerated the wickedness of the people of Canaan before He allowed Joshua to take the land. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and take a moment to share your gratitude for our longsuffering God.

God had suffered long with the people of Canaan. He made sure they knew about Him and all He did in Egypt; the truth of it made their hearts melt. But they did not turn their hearts to God; instead, they chose to stand against Him, unlike Rahab, who did the opposite. We continue to see the mercy of God stretching over thousands of years as we wait for the second coming of Christ. Our God is truly a merciful God.

36. Record everything you learned about God while doing this week's study.

37. What can you learn from Rahab?

A Closer Look at the Scarlet Cord

Joshua 2:15, 18, 21

38. Reread Joshua 2:18 and 21. What instructions were given to Rahab by the spies, and what did she do in response?

39. The cord (rope, thread, line) is mentioned three times in chapter two. From each verse, record the sentence containing the word *cord/rope*:

2:15

Cord - (hebel) cord or rope.

2:18

Cord - (hut) a thread, cord, line, or string.

The word **this** in verse 18 is a definite article, indicating the rope had been mentioned before. The only cord previously mentioned was the rope in verse 15. Therefore, the rope she let them down with was the same cord she was to bind in the window.

2:21

Cord (tiqvah) a literal cord – as an attachment; expectation, hope or a thing longed for.

40. Review each mention of the **cord** and the variation of the meaning. Every time cord is mentioned, it is the same cord. Why do you think the meaning changes?

Questions 15 and 16 referred to the possible reason the cord was scarlet – it was red like the blood of the Lamb, which saves us from our sins. Rahab had professed her faith in verses 10-11, and she had been saved! And now, with the scarlet thread, she would put her hope in being saved from the destruction of Jericho.

41. Read Isaiah 1:18. How does this verse relate to the scarlet cord, and how does it minister to you personally?

The word *cord* in verse 21 means hope. Rahab put her hope in God. The cord in her window was a sign of her faith – she had *attached* herself to God. The cord was a lifeline.

42. Look up the following verses and write about the hope you have:

Psalm 62:5

Psalm 71:5

Proverbs 23:18

43. Look up 1 John 5:13. What is the hope we have today?

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ..."

- Hebrews 6:19

44. Consider the hope Rahab was given, the above verses, and the hope you have today, and write a response to the Lord for what He has done.
