

Bible Study on Joshua
JOSHUA 2: THE PROSTITUTE WHO BECAME A PRINCESS

1. Joshua 2.1. Joshua sends two spies to Jericho

2. Joshua 2.2-7. Rahab receives and hides two Israelites spies

- Rahab's lie. The Lord does *not* commend Rahab for lying but for her faith in Him which led her to protect the spies (Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25).

- *Rev. Paul Treick*: "Sin cannot ever be justified. The question here was whether Rahab was sinning. The only way that we could justify her action would be to consider her already on the side of Israel. In that case, to reveal the location of the spies could be considered treasonous – giving information to the enemy. ... In the case of war, a prisoner is not bound to tell all he knows to the enemy; or to protect the life of a family, a person is not required to tell a criminal of their whereabouts so that he might kill them" (*Our God and His People*, p.143).

3. Joshua 2.8-11. Rahab's confession of faith in the LORD

- The LORD's purpose in His mighty works was so that people of all nations would know that He is the LORD and there is no other God (Exodus 7:4-5; 9:16; 14:16-18).

- Hearing what the Lord did at the Red Sea will cause Israel's enemies to tremble and to be paralyzed with fear (Exodus 15:14-16).

- The victory over Sihon and Og was designed to encourage the second-generation of Israelites not to be afraid like their parents were of facing the mighty Canaanites (Numbers 13:28-33; Deut. 31:3-4).

- Rahab believed without seeing, without experiencing the exodus.

4. Joshua 2.12-21. Rahab pleads for mercy for herself and her family

- The law of reciprocity.

- The scarlet cord.

5. Joshua 2.22-24. The spies safely return and report to Joshua

- The safe return of the spies was itself an encouragement to Joshua. Even more encouraging is what the spies reported.
- The first thing conquered in Canaan was not Jericho, but the heart of a Canaanite prostitute.
- Rahab the prostitute became the wife of a prince of Judah – Salmon (Ruth 4:21-22).

APPLICATION

1. “Rahab is a wonderful example of the power and sovereignty of grace. She appears to be an unlikely candidate for grace, but that is the point. She is a vivid picture of all who are dead in sin and who are made alive by the greater Joshua, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (*Reformation Heritage Bible*).
2. Rahab “had come under the blood of the coming Christ and was the harlot cleansed. Is Rahab any worse than we? ... We all stand in Rahab’s place in the sight of the holy God. ... We are all sinners. ... We are under the judgment of God and will stay under it until we do what Rahab did. She believed. She came under the work of the real Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. And she passed from the midst of unredeemed humanity to redeemed humanity on the basis on his blood. ... Let those of us who have believed in Christ ask God to help us so that our works will prove our faith, even if this means a threat to us, even if this places us in as much danger as it did Rahab” (Francis Schaeffer, *Joshua*, 81-82).
3. How can Rahab’s surprising conversion encourage us in evangelism and witnessing?