

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03-Jun..... Joshua 1:1-18
- 2) 10-Jun..... **Joshua 2:1 – 6:27**
- 3) 17-Jun..... Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
- 4) 24-Jun..... Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
- 5) 01-Jul..... Joshua 23:1 – 24:33

INTRODUCTION

- The first spy agency (FSA) is created and Jericho is annihilated – men, women, kids, and animals – except for Rahab and her family

Passage	Comments
Joshua 2:1-24	<p><b>Rahab – Harlot, Liar, Idolatress, Great...G'ma of Jesus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Joshua “secretly” sends 2 spies to Jericho</li> <li>• vv2-4. Rahab harbors 2 spies and lies to her king                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>vv9-12.</b> In 4 verses Rahab acknowledged “the Lord” as the one true God – she’s a believer</li> <li>♦ Rahab is addressed in 2 OT chaps (Josh 2 &amp; 6), but in 3 NT chapters (Mat 1:5; Heb 11:31; James 2:25)</li> <li>♦ Mat 1:5 “Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab” is where we learn Rahab was in the lineage of Jesus</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rahab’s family included Mom, Dad, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews – but she apparently had no kids</li> </ul>
3:1-17	<p><b>Crossing the Jordan – Myth or Miracle?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v4. The people were to keep about ½ mile away from the Ark of the Covenant – this distance became known as a Sabbath journey</li> <li>• This 2<sup>nd</sup> water crossing Miracle confirmed 4 things:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God still does wonders after Moses’ death..... v2</li> <li>2. Joshua was God’s chosen man..... v7</li> <li>3. The Living God was still with Israel..... 10</li> <li>4. Israel will defeat 7 greater nations..... v10</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
4:1-24	<p><b>Memorial Stones to Remind Israel of God’s Greatness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One day God’s wonders will cease for a time</li> <li>• The stones would be a reminder to future generations that they could still rely on God for all their needs</li> <li>• ? Do we need signs and wonders to believe ?</li> <li>• More blessed are those who believe but have not seen</li> </ul>
5:1-15	<p><b>Rededication – Manna Stops – Lord’s Commander</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-9. Circumcision performed to renew the covenant</li> <li>• vv10-12. Manna ceases – Food is plentiful in the land</li> <li>• vv13-15. Possible Christophany (OT appearance of JC)</li> </ul>
6:1-27	<p><b>The Fall of Jericho – Myth or Miracle?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did walking around the city in silence for 7 days accomplish? Obedience? Unconventional Warfare to intimidate the enemy? Mentally prepare the warriors?</li> <li>• v17. “But the city and everything in it are set apart to the Lord for Destruction”</li> <li>• v21. They completely destroyed everything – people and animals – but silver and gold went to the Lord                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recall the 7 Nations practiced immorality, bestiality, homosexuality, child sacrifice, &amp; were unrepentant (cf Lev 18; Deut 7:16; 9:4; 12:31; 18:14 20:16,17; Josh 6:21; 11:20)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v23. Rahab and family lived “outside the camp” – being foreigners, they were kept at a distance till “cleaned”</li> </ul>
Spying & Lying: Right or Wrong?	<p><b>Are there biblical principles to justify spying and using “unconventional” or deceptive means?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God doesn’t divulge the wicked schemes of nations as He once did with Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-12) – so nations often have to conduct various forms of espionage to safeguard their people and interests from rogue nations bent on doing evil</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Employing Deceptive Means.</b> There are principles in Scripture where lying or withholding the truth seems justified to preserve the lives of innocent victims                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and reaped blessings from God ..... Exodus 1: 15-21</li> <li>♦ Rahab lied about the 2 spies, and she saved her family and became an ancestor of Jesus ..... Joshua 2</li> <li>♦ King David feigned insanity to protect his life – and was successful ..... 1Samuel 21:13</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Potential for Misuse &amp; Abuse from Spying.</b> Naturally, we live in a fallen world, so miscarriages of justice can easily happen – even to the best of nations – So, Remember to pray for the welfare of the nation we live in so that we may live well ..... Jeremiah 29:7</li> <li>• <b>More Thots.</b> Jesus says we (as individuals) need to be wise as serpents but gentle as doves ..... Mat 10:16</li> <li>• Therefore, it seems OK to conceal the truth for a higher purpose – not to harm, not to achieve gain, not for convenience sake – but to protect lives from evil intent</li> <li>• Also, from a nation’s perspective, God gives nations considerable more liberty to safeguard their populace (“they don’t carry the sword in vain” – Romans 13:4) – YET, nations are to exercise restraint in war less they be judged with annihilation (see Amos 1:1 – 2:3)</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- God doesn’t always reveal all the information needed for success
  - ♦ Joshua needed to spy out the land
  - ♦ Joshua had to fight some tough battles and even suffer losses
  - ♦ In other words – Joshua and Israel had to work and to fight to eventually receive God’s intended promise for them
- Same with us – There is work for us to do while it is still Day

NEXT WEEK: **Joshua 7-12.** The Jews get their butts kicked for sin in the camp; they take the path of least resistance by failing to prove all things and have to live with the consequences; and they witness the Sun & Moon standing still for a whole day – Mythical or Miracle?

**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



**Joshua 2.** So the spies escaped with the help of Rahab the prostitute – but being saved by a prostitute was not an easy story to share with their wives.