

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Dec 2016 Joshua 1:1-18
- 2) **11 Dec Joshua 2:1 – 6:27**
- 3) 18 Dec Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
- 4) 25 Dec Joshua 13:1 – 22:34

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>Rahab – Harlot, Liar, Idolatress, Great...G'ma of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Joshua “secretly” sends 2 spies to Jericho • vv2-4. Rahab harbors 2 spies and lies to her king <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv9-12. In 4 verses Rahab acknowledged “the Lord” as the one true God – she’s a believer ♦ Rahab is addressed in 2 OT chaps (<i>Josh 2 & 6</i>), but in 3 NT chapters (<i>Mat 1:5; Heb 11:31; James 2:25</i>) ♦ Mat 1:5 “Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab” is where we learn Rahab was in the lineage of Jesus • Rahab’s family included Mom, Dad, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews – but she apparently had no kids
Was Rahab a Prostitute or an Inn-keeper or Both	<p>Rahab is introduced as a zōnāh, a word that means a “prostitute” or “harlot”.</p> <p>In all probability, since Rahab’s house was very near to the main entrance of the city, and would be frequented by many travelers with easy access in and out of the town, she could easily have been 1) a Madam of a house of ill repute, 2) an Inn-keeper, and 3) an entrepreneur as she possibly worked w/ flax (which she hid the spies with) to produce fine clothing</p> <p>See: https://claudemariottini.com/2010/03/19/rahab-a-prostitute-or-an-innkeeper/</p>
3:1-17	<p>Crossing the Jordan – Myth or Miracle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. The people were to keep about ½ mile away from the Ark of the Covenant – this distance became known as a Sabbath journey • This 2nd water crossing Miracle confirmed 4 things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God still does wonders after Moses’ deathv2 2. Joshua was God’s chosen manv7 3. The Living God was still with Israel 10 4. Israel will defeat 7 greater nationsv10
4:1-24	<p>Memorial Stones to Remind Israel of God’s Greatness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-day, God’s wonders will cease for a time • The stones would be a reminder to future generations that they could still rely on God for all their needs • ? Do we need signs and wonders to believe ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ More blessed are those who believe but have not seen
5:1-15	<p>Rededication – Manna Stops – Lord’s Commander</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-9. Circumcision performed to renew the covenant • vv10-12. Manna ceases – Food is plentiful in the land • vv13-15. Possible Christophany (OT appearance of JC)
6:1-27	<p>The Fall of Jericho – Myth or Miracle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did walking around the city in silence for 7 days accomplish? Obedience? Unconventional Warfare to intimidate the enemy? Mentally prepare the warriors? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Remember – The people of Israel were a bunch of complainers. God is basically telling them to “shut up and watch how I will deliver you” <i>Exodus 14:13; Ps 46:10</i> ♦ When should we keep silent and watch more? • v17. “But the city and everything in it are set apart to the Lord for Destruction” • v21. They completely destroyed everything – people and animals – but silver and gold went to the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall the 7 Nations practiced immorality, bestiality, child sacrifice, homosexuality, & were unrepentant (cf <i>Lev 18; Deut 7:16; 9:4; 12:31; 18:14 20:16,17; Josh 6:21; 11:20</i>) • v23. Rahab and family lived “outside the camp” – being foreigners, they were kept at a distance till “cleaned”

Passage	Comments
Spying & Lying: Right or Wrong?	<p>Are there biblical principles to justify spying and using “unconventional” or deceptive means?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God doesn’t divulge the wicked schemes of nations as He once did with Elisha (<i>2 Kings 6:8-12</i>) – so nations often have to conduct various forms of espionage to safeguard their people and interests from rogue nations bent on doing evil • Employing Deceptive Means. 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"> ♦ Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and reaped blessings from God <i>Exodus 1: 15-21</i> ♦ Rahab lied about the 2 spies, and she saved her family and became an ancestor of Jesus <i>Joshua 2</i> ♦ King David feigned insanity to protect his life – and was successful <i>1 Samuel 21:13</i> • Potential for Misuse & Abuse from Spying. Naturally, we live in a fallen world, so miscarriages of justice can easily happen – even to the best of nations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – So, remember to pray for the welfare of the nation we live in so we may live well <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i> • More Thots. Jesus says we (as individuals) need to be wise as serpents but gentle as doves <i>Mat 10:16</i> • Therefore, it seems OK to conceal the truth for a higher purpose – not to harm, not for convenience sake, not to achieve gain – but to protect lives from evil intent • Also, from a nation’s perspective, God gives nations considerable more liberty to safeguard their populace (“they don’t carry the sword in vain” – <i>Romans 13:4</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – YET, nations are to exercise restraint in war less they be judged with annihilation (see <i>Amos 1:1 – 2:3</i>)

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 and 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.