

## Josh 2:1-24 **Rahab and the Two Spies**

### Spies sent from Acacia Grove sought refuge in the house of Rahab the harlot

1 Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

### King of Jericho searching for the spies

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country." 3 So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

### Rahab lied to the king of Jericho

4 Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

### Spies Hidden

6 (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

### Men of Jericho Pursue to the Fords

7 Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

### The inhabitants of the Promised land know all God has done for Israel

8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

### The Country is in dread of Israel

11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

### Rahab's Request

12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

### Spies agree

14 So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

### Rahab let the spies down through the window with instructions

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. 16 And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

### Escape Clause

17 So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, 18 unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. 19 So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. 20 And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."

### Rahab agrees to their terms

21 Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

### Three Days in the mountain

22 They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought them all along the way, but did not find them.

### Spies return and report to Joshua – God Has Given The Land to Us

23 So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them. 24 And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us." NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Spies sent from Acacia Grove sought refuge in the house of Rahab the harlot

- ✧ Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there. [Joshua 2:1]
- ✧ Acacia Grove was the place in the plain of Moab Northeast of the Dead Sea, Israel's last encampment before crossing the Jordan River near Jericho.
  - ✧ It was at Acacia Grove that the Children of Israel committed harlotry with the women of Moab at the advice of Balaam, and 24,000 of the Children of Israel died of the plague. [Numbers 25:1-9, 31:1-18, Micah 6:5, Revelation 2:14]
  - ✧ At Acacia Grove the military force was numbered before entering the Promised Land, the Land of Canaan. [Numbers 26:1-51]
  - ✧ The Book of Deuteronomy was probably written at the encampment from Beth Jesimoth to Abel Acacia Grove because of the wording "On this side of the Jordan." [Numbers 33:48-49, 35:1, Deuteronomy 1:1, 5]
  - ✧ It was the encampment from which the Children of Israel set out to cross the Jordan River. [Joshua 2:1, 3:1]

#### King of Jericho searching for the spies

- ✧ And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country." So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying,

"Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country." [Joshua 2:2-3]

✧ There was no secret as to the purpose of the Children of Israel and the spies sent by Joshua.

✧ It was well known by the inhabitants of the Land of Canaan that the Children of Israel had been brought out of Egypt by God to dispossess the inhabitants of Canaan and take possession of the land. It was public knowledge from the day they left Egypt and for the 40 years they had been in the wilderness. Just as God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. [Genesis 15:17-21, 17:1-8, 21, 21:12, 26:2-5, 28:13-15, 35:9-12, 48:4, Exodus 3:7-10, 16-17, 6:3-4, 13:3-5, 15:14-17, 23:20-28, 33:1-2, 34:11, Leviticus 25:38, Numbers 33:50-54, 34:2, Deuteronomy 7:1-2, 20:16-18]

### Rahab lied to the king of Jericho

✧ Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "**Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them.**" [Joshua 2:4-5]

### Spies Hidden

✧ (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.) [Joshua 2:6]

### Men of Jericho Pursue to the Fords

✧ Then the men of Jericho pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate. [Joshua 2:7]

### The inhabitants of the Promised land know all God has done for Israel - And are in terror

✧ Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: [Joshua 2:8-11]

✧ **I know that the LORD has given you the land,**

✧ **The terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.**

✧ **For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.**

✧ **And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.**

✧ From the evidence of the reports that had come to Jericho, Rahab fully realized that Yehowah the God of Israel truly is God in Heaven and on earth, Just as God had intended from the beginning of delivering Israel from Egypt. [Joshua 2:10]

✧ It was God's intention that Moses, the Children of Israel, Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and the world may know that Yehowah the God of Israel is indeed God in Heaven and on Earth. [Exodus 6:7, 7:5, 17, 8:10, 22, 9:14, 29, 10:2, 11:7, 14:4, 18, 16:6, 12, 15, 18:9-11, 29:46]

### Rahab's Request

✧ Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD (Yehowah), since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death." [Joshua 2:12-13]

✧ Rahab acknowledged the God of Israel and even knew the name (Yehowah), God had given of Himself to Moses in Egypt, now seeks safety for her family. [Exodus 6:3]

### Spies agree

✧ So the men answered her, "**Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you.**" [Joshua 2:14]

### Rahab let the spies down through the window with instructions

✧ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

[Joshua 2:15-16]

✧ Rahab put action to her faith and let the spies down through her window with advice to hide in the mountain until the searchers return to Jericho.

### Escape Clause

✧ So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear." [Joshua 2:17-20]

✧ This agreement is valid only if the spies are not betrayed, and the people stay in her house.

### Rahab agrees to their terms

✧ Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And **she bound the scarlet cord in the window.** [Joshua 2:21]

✧ The Scarlet Cord hung by faith, is reminiscent of the scarlet cord that saves the people of the world through faith in the blood of Jesus.

### Three Days in the mountain

✧ They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought them all along the way, but did not find them. [Joshua 2:22]

### Spies return and report to Joshua – God Has Given The Land to Us

✧ So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them. And they said to Joshua, "**Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us.**" [Joshua 2:23-24]