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## Joshua 2

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Joshua 2.

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### Topics.

- Joshua sends two men as spies to view the land of Jericho.
- The king is told two men of Israel have come to search out Jericho.
- Rahab asks the two spies to swear they will save her and her family.
- The two spies swear to save Rahab and her family.
- Rahab is told to tie a scarlet cord on her window and she will be safe.
- The two spies flee, and Rahab ties a scarlet cord in the window.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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**INTRODUCTION:** the first five books of Moses anticipated the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham concerning the Promised Land. Moses is now dead. Joshua crosses the River Jordan (about 1400 B.C.) and after a string of military victories apportioned the land according to the twelve tribes. These battles shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God fights for His people when they are faithful and courageous and put their full trust in Him. (Josh. 1:6-9). At the close of the book Joshua says that he and all his house will serve the LORD and invites the people to choose whether they will serve the gods of their fathers or the gods in whose land they dwell or the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The people choose to serve their God. (Josh. 24:15). Although anonymous the book appears to contain eyewitness testimony, some of which may have been written by Joshua himself.

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### JOSHUA 2:1

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#### Joshua sends Two Men as Spies to View the Land of Jericho.

- **Joshua 2:1:** And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

**Rahab** was a prostitute, yet she feared the God of Jerusalem and protected Israel's spies and is listed with God's people of amazing faith in the great chapter of the Bible that is commonly known as the Hall of Faith (Heb. 11:31). Listed in this Hall of Faith are:

- Abel, Enoch Noah and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Sarah, Joseph and Moses and Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah.
- David, Samuel and the prophets.

And in amongst these great men and women of faith is it is written:

- By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (Hebrews 11:31).

It is almost certain that Rahab was a woman that most would have despised, yet God commends (praises and applauds) everyone listed in this chapter for their faith (Heb. 11:39). It is easy to judge and condemn a person by their outward lifestyle (especially prostitutes), but often the outward lifestyle is not a true reflection of the inward heart. Consider a

woman in a third world country, no husband, no income, no job, no social security, and two children to support and feed, the only way many of these woman are able to buy food for their children is to go against everything good in their heart and humble themselves just to earn enough money to buy a meal. It is true that in today's Western world many women willingly live such a lifestyle for the worldly riches and materialist gifts it brings to them, but it is equally true many live in such a manner just to survive which would certainly have been case with many women in ancient times. Rather than condemn such woman they should be shown great mercy and compassion since it is because of great poverty that they are forced to deny everything that is good within themselves and surrender it all for the survival of their children. Such woman though living a morally wrong lifestyle on the outside are not morally corrupt on the inside, in fact most would probably be suffering great emotional and mental pain as well as a sense of shame. Unless we are willing to support and provide food for such woman, we have no right to condemn them.

**Prostitutes and adultery:** it seems that at some level during the Old Testament era even though a prostitute woman lived a lifestyle outside of God's moral laws she was accepted as concubines were, but if a prostitute enticed married men into her bed she was seen as an evil woman and spoken of in the harshest of expressions (i.e., whorish, harlot and forbidden woman). This of course would be, because by her sensual enticements she is destroying a marriage and a family. In all the following verses of Proverbs:

(Prov. 2:16-18) (Prov. 5:3-20) (Prov. 6:24-32) (Prov. 7:5-19)  
(Prov. 23:27-28).

A prostitute is spoken of as an evil woman when she has sex with a married man or she is a married woman herself having sex with other men. It should be mentioned here that a married man who has sex with another woman and a single man who has sex with a married woman is equally as guilty as the woman and both are an offence before God.

**NOTE:** for those who have fallen into adulteries there is forgiveness in Christ, everyone is a sinner before God. Even the woman at the well who had five husbands the Lord Jesus Christ forgave because of her honesty toward him and no-doubt her broken spirit when she saw such a caring man without sin protecting her from her enemies and able to show her kind compassion and forgiveness (John 8:3-11). James the brother of Jesus wrote:

- The Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup>And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (James 2:23-25).

Here Rahab is exalted alongside Abraham as a woman of faith, because of her good works. Note this does not mean that she was saved by good works, even Abraham was not saved by his good works, but by faith, it means that her good works evidenced her faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. James in this chapter is teaching that without some type of outward works to evidence faith, faith is dead. Thousands in various nations worldwide claim to believe in God, but there is absolutely nothing in their lifestyle, behaviour or speech that evidences their confession or their belief.

For further information concerning faith and works see:

- James chapter two in Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## JOSHUA 2:2-7

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**The King is told Two Men of Israel have come to Search Jericho.**

- **Joshua 2:2-7:** And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." <sup>3</sup>Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." <sup>4</sup>But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. <sup>5</sup>And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." <sup>6</sup>But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. <sup>7</sup>So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

The king is aware Israel's spies have visited the home of Rahab and sends soldiers to capture them, but she hid the two men and told them that they had fled. The things to notice in these verses are:

- Rahab went to a lot of trouble to hide the two spies.
- Rahab took a huge risk, if the soldiers had found the spies it is certain she would have been killed.
- Rahab feared God more than she feared the king and the soldiers.

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### JOSHUA 2:8-13

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#### **Rahab asks two Spies to Swear they will Save Her and Her Family.**

- **Joshua 2:8-13:** Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof <sup>9</sup>and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. <sup>10</sup>For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. <sup>11</sup>And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. <sup>12</sup>Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup>that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."

The things to notice in these verses are:

- Not only did Rahab fear Israel's God, but so too did all the people of her nation.
- Rahab's great word of faith "I know that the LORD has given you the land for your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.
- The people had heard how the LORD had parted the Red Sea and that Israel's armies had destroyed Sihon and king Og powerful kings of the Amorites. This is amazing when it is considered they had no radio, mobile phones and internet and that it was only by word of mouth that news spread throughout the nations and the land. This is one of the reasons God did amazing miracles and wonders that stunned and shocked the mind, men and women would speedily spread the word of such things.
- The honesty of their word, Rahab a prostitute woman of Jericho fully trusted if the two men gave their word to protect her and her family they would and the two men of Israel valued their word so highly that they would rather die than break it.

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### JOSHUA 2:14-16

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## The two Spies Swear to Save Rahab and her Family.

- **Joshua 2:14-16:** And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you." <sup>15</sup>Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. <sup>16</sup>And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way."

The things to notice in these verses are:

- The honesty of their word, Rahab a prostitute woman of Jericho fully trusted if the two men gave their word to protect her and her family they would and the two men of Israel valued their word so highly that they would rather die than break it.
- The two spies were fully confident God would give them the land.
- Rahab gives the spies' detailed instructions concerning their escape.

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### JOSHUA 2:17-20

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#### Rahab is to Tie a Scarlet Cord on Her Window to be Safe.

- **Joshua 2:17-20:** The men said to her, "We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. <sup>18</sup>Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. <sup>19</sup>Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. <sup>20</sup>But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear."

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The two spies tell Rahab to tie a scarlet cord in the window of her home and when any warrior of Israel see it they will not destroy her or her family, but should any family member leave her house they most likely would be killed. It would be right and proper to say that the scarlet cord was a covering for Rahab's household in the same way that the blood on the doorposts protected Israel from the death angel and in the same way that Christ's blood covers and protect us.

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### JOSHUA 2:21-24

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#### The Two Spies Flee, and Rahab Ties a Scarlet Cord in the Window.

- **Joshua 2:21-24:** And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. <sup>22</sup>They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing. <sup>23</sup>Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them. <sup>24</sup>And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us."

The two spies escape and do as Rahab had told them to do and Rahab ties the scarlet cord to her window. The two men told Joshua all that had happened to them and said, "All the inhabitants of Jericho greatly fear us, truly the LORD has given the land into our hands."

It is interesting to notice that God did not use a good upstanding citizen of Jericho as we might expect to protect the spies and show them that all the inhabitants of Jericho greatly feared Israel's armies and their God, but a prostitute.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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