

Lesson 66 Rahab and the Spies

Story Elements

- Text: Joshua 2:1-24
- Setting: approx. 1404 B.C., near Shittim, and
- Characters God, Joshua, Rahab, and two Hebrew spies
- Plot: Two spies from Israel reconnoiter Jericho and escape capture with the help of Rahab the harlot.
- **Key word(s)** "): "...the LORD hath given _____ the land..." (v 9) "...the LORD hath given _____ the land..." (v 14) "...Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land..." (v 24)
- Climax Joshua 2:5 ... whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

Ka	hab Foils Jericho's King
1.	v 1) Joshua wisely sent two spies into Jericho to discover their defenses – Jericho was one of the most cities of its day.
in t pro God	ICATION→ If God promised Joshua that he would be successful, why did Joshua take precautions by sending vo spies? Why didn't he commence the invasion immediately? Matthew Henry answers: "Faith in God's nise ought not to supersede but encourage our diligence in the use of proper means. Joshua is sure he has with him, and yet sends men before him. We do not trust God, but tempt him, if our expectations slacken
2.	The two spies crept into Jericho unnoticed and sought refuge in a harlot's house for several strategic reasons: ² a. They would not be in such a setting.
	 A house on a (vs. 15) would provide an excellent place to recon the surroundings. A house in such a location would also provide a convenient
3.	vv 3-7) Despite their strategy, the spies are discovered by Jericho's authorities and the king commands Rahab o surrender the spies. Rahab admitted the two men came to her house but denied knowing their origin and claimed they left the city and could be overtaken if pursued
(Jar	ICATION→ Was Rahab's lying to protect the spies a sin? The works for which her faith was evidenced 2:25) was that she sought to help the spies not in how she helped the spies. God cannot lie and neither do e who pursue holiness. But true faith is recognized even in an impure setting.
Ra	hab's Faith in Israel's God
4.	vv 8-11) After fooling their pursuers, Rahab shared her belief in Jehovah with the two Hebrew spies: a. She confessed that all of Canaan is terrified of the Hebrews after receiving the news of the miraculous
	 She believed that Jehovah had given Canaan to, and that Israel's victory was inevitable. She confessed that Jehovah is God "in above and beneath." This is a profound confession of faith from one who was a polytheistic idolater. Not surprisingly, Rahab is mentioned along with others of great faith:

¹ Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 292.

² John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005) 258.

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

5.	(vv 12-21) Rahab's faith in God's promises caused her to strike a deal with the spies: she would help them escape the Jericho authorities if they would help her escape the Hebrew invasion.			
		The spies pledged their lives to protect Rahab and her family.		
		But she must do her part: she must hang a cord from her window so that the Hebrew army would know which house to spare.		
COI	ning	ATION→ The scarlet cord is a wonderful picture of salvation: the protection of a Gentile sinner from the wrath of God. Rahab herself is a wonderful picture of God's mercy and grace: a lowly Gentile prostitute as a believer and part of the lineage of the		
Mo	it 1::	5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;		
	c.	The spies rappelled down the city walls by a rope let through Rahab's window. Then, according to her directions, they fled to the hill area and hid for three days.		
6.	say	22-28) After the spies safely returned to base camp, they relayed all that had happened to Joshua, ing, "Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country because of us."		
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An	wer	Key: Key word(s): "you: us" • 1, fortified: → endeavors • 2, a, conspicuous: b, city wall: c, escape route • 3,		

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the Story Elements section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the Answer Key. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. (Note: some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the Notes section.

immediately; → yes • 4. a. Red Sea crossing; b. Israel; c. heaven, earth • 5. b. scarlet → Messiah • 6. faint