

PREPARING FOR CONQUEST

JOSHUA 2

INTRODUCTION

A. **REVIEW: NEW LEADER**

APPOINTED

CHP. 1:1-9)

1. GOD'S SERVANT MOSES IS DEAD (1:2)

2. GOD SPEAKS TO JOSHUA (1:1-9)

a. GOD'S COMMAND:

"Arise, go over this Jordan" (1:2)

b. GOD'S PROMISE:

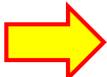
"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you." (1:3)

c. GOD'S ENCOURAGEMENT:

"No man shall be able to stand before you . . . I will be with you . . . be strong and of good courage." (1:5, 6)

d. GOD'S WORD:

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it." (1:7-8)

 **B. JOSHUA TAKES CHARGE** (1:10-18)

 **1. JOSHUA'S COMMAND:** (1:10, 11)

"PREPARE"

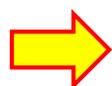
¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, ¹¹ "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'PREPARE provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'" NKJV

 **2. JOSHUA'S CHALLENGE TO THE 3 1/2 TRIBES** (1:12-15)

"REMEMBER"

¹² And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, ¹³ "REMEMBER the word which Moses

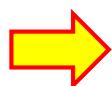
the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.' NKJV



3. TRIBES'S COMMITMENT TO JOSHUA (1:16-18)

"OBEDIENCE"

"All that you command us **we will do**, and wherever you send us **we will go.**"



C. SPIRITUAL WARFARE ANALOGY

1. Just as like Joshua and the Israelites faced a river to cross; mountains to be climb; battles to be fought; cities to be taken, and enemies to be defeated – SO DO WE IN OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AND PILGRIMAGE

2. BACK IN EXODUS GOD MADE PROMISES TO THE ISRAELITES

EXODUS 23:22-24, 27-33

²² But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. ²³ For My Angel will go before

you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and **I will cut them off.** ²⁴ You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their *sacred* pillars.

²⁵ "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. ²⁶ No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

²⁷ **"I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn *their* backs to you.** ²⁸ **And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.** ²⁹ I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.

³⁰ **Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.** ³¹ And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River.

For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

²⁴ You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their *sacred* pillars.

³² You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. ³³ They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For *if* you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you." NKJV

*****NOTE IN THESE VERSES: 6 PROMISES; 6 CONDITIONS; 1 WARNING**

4. SIX PROMISES:

- a. **Promise 1:** (v. 22)
I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.
- b. **Promise 2:** (v. 23)
I will cut them off.
- c. **Promise 3:** (v. 27)

**I will send My fear before you,
I will cause confusion among
all the people to whom you
come, and will make all your
enemies turn their backs to
you.**

- d. Promise 4: (v. 28)**
I will send hornets before you.
- e. Promise 5: (v. 30)**
**Little by little I will drive them
out from before you.**
- f. Promise 6: (v. 31)**
**I will deliver the inhabitants of
the land into your hand.**

 **5. SIX CONDITIONS IN EXODUS 23:**

- a. CONDITION 1: (v. 24)**
²⁴ You shall not bow down to their
gods, nor serve them,
- b. CONDITION 2: (v. 24)**
nor do according to their works;
- c. CONDITION 3: (v. 24)**

but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their *sacred* pillars.

d. CONDITION 4: (v. 32)

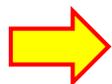
³² You shall make no covenant with them,

e. CONDITION 5: (v. 32)

³² You shall make no covenant . . . with their gods.

f. CONDITION 6: (v. 33)

³³ They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me.



6. ONE WARNING EXODUS 23:33

For *if* you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you." NKJV

I. PRELUDE TO INVASION— Joshua 2

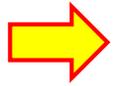
A. THE SPIES (2:1)

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. NKJV

1. SECRET MISSION [Mission Impossible Music?]

- a. **Contrast to Moses'** sending 12 spies—but only two came back with a "faith" report!
- b. **LEARN FROM THE PAST --**
Joshua sent them out secretly
 He did not want a recurrence of the Kadesh Barnea rebellion ([Num 13-14](#)).
 "He had learned by experience that spy reports should be brought to the leaders only, for the people did not have sufficient orientation or experience to properly evaluate such a

report." Expository Notes on the Bible, by Thomas L. Constable



2. HUMAN ACTION--GOD'S PROMISES DO NOT PRECLUDE HUMAN ACTION

a. Joshua had received a promise from the Lord of His almighty help in the conquest of Canaan, he still thought it necessary to do what was requisite on his part to secure the success of the work committed to him, as the help of God does not preclude human action, but rather presupposes it. Keil and Delitzsch Commentary on the OT

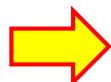
b. Illustration / Quote:

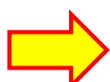
"Faith and holiness are inextricably linked.

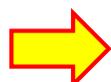
Obeying the commands of God usually involves believing the promises of God."

J. Bridges, [The Pursuit of Holiness](#), p. 145.

3. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE--FAITH & ACTIONS WORK TOGETHER!

 a. **James 2:18**--But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. NKJV

 b. **James 2:22**--Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? NKJV

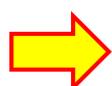
 c. **2 Corinthians 6:1**--We then, as workers together with Him . . . NKJV

4. MILITARY INFORMATION

a. **QUOTE:** China's Sun Tzu [*The Art of War*] famously advised in the 6 century B.C

"If you know the enemy and know yourself you need not fear the results of a hundred battles."

- b. **GO VIEW THE LAND:** Their mission was to explore the area Israel would enter, especially Jericho. Jericho is possibly the lowest city on earth, lying about 750 feet below sea level.³⁹ (Thomas Constable's Notes on the Bible.)
- c. But before attacking it [Jericho] Joshua needed complete information about this fortress - its gates, fortified towers, military force, and the morale of its people. --BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY
- d. **NOTE: THIS WAS BEFORE GOD SPOKE TO JOSHUA ABOUT "MARCHING AROUND THE WALLS OF JERICHU."**



B. THE CITY--**JERICHU** (2:1-2)

- ¹ "Go, view the land, especially **Jericho**." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.
- 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." NKJV

➔ **1. DEFINITION = “place of fragrance; the moon”**

Fausset’s Bible Dictionary

➔ **2. LOCATION**

a. Jericho was 5 or 6 miles west of where the Israelites were to cross the Jordan River.



Nelson’s Bible Dictionary

b. Jericho is possibly the lowest city on earth, lying about 750 feet below sea level.³⁹

(Thomas Constable's Notes on the Bible.)

c. **Jericho was two hours' journey to the west of the Jordan**, situated in a plain that was formerly very fertile, and celebrated for its palm trees and balsam shrubs, but which is now quite desolate and barren.

Keil and Delitzsch Commentary on the OT

3. DESCRIPTION

- a. Jericho was one of many "city-states" in Canaan, each one ruled by a king (see [Josh 12:9-24](#)).
- b. The city covered about eight or nine acres, and there is archeological evidence that double walls about fifteen feet apart protected the city.
The Bible Exposition Commentary: OT
- c. It was a fenced [walled] city in the midst of a vast grove of palm trees, in the plain of Jordan.
- d. **Deut 34:3--and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees,** NKJV

4. IMPLICATION

- a. Jericho was the most important city in the Jordan valley ([Num 22:1; 34:15](#)), and the strongest fortress in all the land of Canaan. It was the key to Western Palestine. Easton's Bible Dictionary

b. Jericho was a strategic city in Joshua's plan for conquering Canaan. After taking Jericho, Joshua could then cut straight across and divide the land; and then it would be much easier to defeat the cities in the south and then in the north. The Bible Exposition Commentary: OT

c. A MAJOR CHALLENGE

1.) Jericho loomed large just across the Jordan River—a double walled city.



2.) It would be the first obstacle & objective in Israel's conquering Canaan.

3.) Victory or Defeat at Jericho would spell either success or failure!

4.) God does not reveal to Joshua the strategy of defeating Jericho until Joshua 6—and a most unique strategy it was!



C. THE HARLOT--RAHAB

["proud, large, extended, spacious"]

2:1--So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there. NKJV



1. LOOKING FOR LODGING

a. HOW THE SPIES CHOSE THE HOUSE OF A PROSTITUTE NAMED RAHAB IS NOT REVEALED.

1.) **BY CHANCE:** While some suggest they saw her walking the streets and followed her,

2.) **BY PROVIDENCE:** it seems better to believe that in the providence of God the men were led there. .

Bible Knowledge Commentary

3.) **Moreover, a prostitute's or innkeeper's house was the accustomed place for meeting with spies, conspirators, and the like.** Thus, for example, we read in Hammurabi's Code: 'If scoundrels plot together [in conspiratorial relationships] in an innkeeper's house, and she does not seize them and bring them to the palace, that innkeeper shall be put to death.

(law § 109). Moshe Weinfeld, *The Promise of the Land: The Inheritance of the Land of Canaan by the Israelites*, pp. 141-43. (from Thomas Constable's *Notes on the Bible*.)

4.) **GOD'S BUSINESS--A SOUL TO SAVE:**

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE VISIT OF THE SPIES TO JERICHO included more than securing military information. A sinful woman was there whom God in His grace purposed to spare from the Judgment soon to fall on the city. So the Lord, moving in a mysterious way, brought together two secret agents of the army of Israel and a harlot

of Canaan who would become a proselyte to the God of Israel.

Bible Knowledge Commentary

2. LOOK WHO GOD USED

- a. The word "**harlot**" translates the Hebrew word for a common prostitute (*zah-nah*), . . .
- b. Josephus called Rahab an innkeeper, which she may have been.⁴² The writer recorded Rahab's name because she became an important person in Israel's history. She was an ancestor of David as well as Israel's helper on this occasion (cf. [Matt 1:5](#)). (Thomas Constable's Notes on the Bible.)
- c. **WE HAVE NO ROOM TO FEEL SUPERIOR TO RAHAB . . .**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** **And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.** NKJV

d. RAHAB THE HARLOT –

- 1.) **BEFORE:**
HER NAME IS A REMINDER OF WHAT SHE WAS BEFORE SHE PUT HER FAITH IN JEHOVAH GOD!

- 2.) **AFTER:**
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS NOT WHAT WE WERE BUT WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST NOW!

- 3.) **LISTEN TO JESUS IN Matthew 21:31-32**

³¹ Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it*, you did not afterward relent and believe him. NKJV

3. GOD'S GRACE TO RAHAB:

a. FOUR THINGS RAHAB HAD GOING AGAINST HER:

 1.) RAHAB WAS CONDEMNED MORALLY--OT Law called for harlots to be stoned to death.

 2.) RAHAB WAS CONDEMNED RELIGIOUSLY—she was not a Jew, therefore she was outside of God's covenants and blessings.

 **3.) RAHAB WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH AS A CANAANITE, which called told the Israelites not to make covenant with.**

• **Exodus 23:31-33**

³¹ . . . For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. ³² You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. ³³ They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. NKJV

 **4.) RAHAB WAS CONDEMNED SHE COULD NOT MARRY AN ISRAELITE.**

1 Kings 11:2-- . . . the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." NKJV

 **4. FOUR THINGS RAHAB HAD GOING FOR HER:**



a. **FIRST: GOD'S LOVE OF THE LOST**

1.) **God Has Always Been and Still Is In the Business of Transforming Sinners into Saints!**

2.) **No one is too far gone that God cannot save him/her!**

3.) **WHOSOEVER/ANYONE**

- **John 7:37-38**--³⁷ On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "**IF ANYONE THIRSTS, let him come to Me** and drink. ³⁸ **HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME**, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." NKJV
- **John 3:16**--For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. KJV
- **Revelation 22:17**--And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **WHOSOEVER WILL**, let him take the water of life freely. KJV

 **b. SECOND: RAHAB WAS A WOMAN OF FAITH**

Hebrews 11:31

BY FAITH the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. NKJV

 **c. THIRD: RAHAB'S WORKS DEMONSTRATED HER FAITH**

James 2:25--Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way? NKJV

 **d. FOURTH: GOD HAD A PLAN FOR RAHAB'S LIFE**

IN THE LINEAGE OF THE MESSIAH:

Matt 1:4-6: ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. NKJV

****Some scholars think that Salmon was one of the two spies!****

c. WE HAVE NO ROOM TO FEEL SUPERIOR TO RAHAB . . .

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ **AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU. BUT YOU WERE WASHED, BUT YOU WERE SANCTIFIED, BUT YOU WERE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD. NKJV**

➡ 5. RAHAB THE HARLOT

➡ a. Rahab the Brave (2:2-7)

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."

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." 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.) 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. NKJV

b. Rahab the Wise (2:2-7)

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.

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.** NKJV

c. **Rahab the Intercessor** (2:12, 13)

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."**

NKJV

 **d. Rahab the Covenant Maker**
(2:14)

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." NKJV

 **e. Rahab the Deliverer** (2:15, 16)

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." NKJV

 **D. ROPE—THE SCARLET CORD**
(2:17-21)

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."

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. NKJV



1. SCARLET--COLOR OF BLOOD

a. **The color scarlet is the same color as blood.** Just as the scarlet cord was necessary to save Rahab, so the blood of Jesus is necessary to save you and I.

b. **Hebrews 9:22**

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. NKJV

c. **Matthew 26:27-28**

• • • them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new

covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. NKJV



2. SCARLET CORD OF REDEMPTION



a. TRAIL OF BLOOD

- **“Trail of Tears” of the Cherokee Indians**
- **“Swamp Rabbit Trail”**
- There is a trail of blood through the pages of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation!

b. THE TRAIL THROUGH SCRIPTURE:

- 1.) **Trail Begins in Garden of Eden—** where God sheds the blood of animals to “cover” Adam & Eve.
- 2.) **Trail Leads through Egypt with Passover Lamb** slain and the blood on doorposts!

- 3.) **Trail Continues through O.T. and the Sacrificial System!**
 Hundreds of thousands of animal were sacrificed and their blood was shed to cover the sins of Israel.
- 4.) **Trail crosses through Jerusalem and Mt. Calvary on the Cross** where Jesus shed his blood "**once for all.**"
- 5.) **Trail is remembered in Heaven.**

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; for You were slain, And have redeemed us to God **BY YOUR BLOOD OUT OF EVERY TRIBE AND TONGUE AND PEOPLE AND NATION,** NKJV

E. THE RETURN & REPORT

(2:22-24)

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*. 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

1. CAME TO JOSHUA [SECRETLY]

2. THE REPORT:

a. Report on Jericho & Rahab

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.

b. Report on Canaanites

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."