

**GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED**  
A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

**Rahab and the Spies**

**Joshua 2**

*"When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."* Joshua 2:11

**Read Joshua 2:1–12.**

1. God has already assured Israel the victory over Canaan.
  - a. Why, then, should Joshua bother to send spies to survey the situation? (v. 1)
  - b. How does God's sovereignty work with man's responsibility?
2. Why might the spies have chosen a prostitute's house rather than some other?
3. Why do you suppose the appearance of two spies from a ragtag army of nomads was news important and alarming enough to reach the king right away and to warrant his direct attention? (vv. 2, 3)

Why were these people so scared? (vv. 9-12)

4. What stories had Rahab and all the Canaanites heard about God's deeds on behalf of his Name and his people? (vv. 10, 11)
5. A mysterious terror or sense of dread has fallen upon Jericho—and has been known to fall on unbelievers when they see the faith and fearlessness of God's people.
  - a. How do Philippians 1:28 and 2 Corinthians 2:15, 16 explain the sense of fear?
  - b. How was this an encouragement to the spies? How is it an encouragement to you?

**Read Joshua 2:13–21.**

6. Hollywood's take on Joshua 2 would be the classic "good-hearted prostitute" comes to the rescue of a couple of men. How would YOU describe Rahab, her motives, her actions? (vv. 12-13)
7. What declaration does Rahab make that reveals her faith in God? (v. 11)

8. What are some of the “creative” actions taken by Rahab to lay hold of salvation in Joshua 2?
9. How is the scarlet cord in the window (v. 21) like “the lamb’s blood over the door on Passover night” (Ex. 12:7,13)?

**Read Joshua 2.**

10. Who was not ashamed to take Rahab as his great-great-great-great grandmother? (Matt.1:5, 16)

What does the salvation of a Gentile prostitute, even at this early stage of salvation history, show about God’s long-range plans? (Gen.12:1-3)

11. Rahab may have been a little rough around the edges in her moral strategy, but for what is she highly commended in Hebrews 11:31?

12. Of what does James 2:25 use Rahab as an example? (James 2:20–25)

Can you give an example of some “work” expressing your faith?

13. In Abraham’s day, God was not yet ready to destroy Canaan because their sin had “not yet reached its full measure” (Gen.15:16). Now, evidently, the time was ripe. What did Canaan look like when its sin had “reached its full measure”? (Deut.18:9–12)

14. When God postpones his judgment on a nation or an individual, and holds back his wrath a little longer, how should that nation or individual regard that delay? (Romans 2:4)

15. a. In chapter 1, what great encouragement did God give Israel for the battle ahead? (1:9)

b. In chapter 2, what additional encouragement does he give to further strengthen their arms for battle? (2:24)

c. What timely encouragement has the Lord given you in your struggles?