



MAY 14th, 2023

JOSHUA 2:1-24

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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.

Joshua 2:1 (ESV)

SHITTIM = SETS THE TONE. AT SHITTIM ISRAEL WHORED AFTER THE MOABITES.

¹ While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. ² These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

Numbers 25:1-3 (ESV)

JERICO = ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT CITIES IN THE WORLD. 6 MILES NORTH OF THE DEAD SEA, 750 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL. 10 ACRES RAISED 65 FEET ABOVE THE SURROUNDING PLAIN. WATERED BY THE SPRING “AIN ES-SULTAN” MAKING JERICO AN OASIS AND IS CALLED THE CITY OF PALM TREES. JERICO HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE BECAUSE OF IT’S LOCATION. IT SERVES AS AN EAST/WEST BORDER AND A NORTH/SOUTH BORDER.

CAME INTO AND LAY THERE ARE BOTH EUPHEMISMS FOR SEX.

PROSTITUTE:

¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them.

Deuteronomy 31:16 (ESV)

RAHAB. A CONTRAST IS BEING PRESENTED BETWEEN RAHAB AND THE SPIES.

GENDER/RACE/ROLE OR PLACE IN SOCIETY

RAHAB IS THE HEBREW ADJECTIVE FOR WIDE OR SPACIOUS WHICH IS ONLY USED TO DESCRIBE THE LAND
RAHAB ALSO MEANS ARROGANT, RAGING, TURBULENT, AFFLICTER AND IS REFERENCED IN THE SCRIPTURE AS THE PRIMEVAL SEA MONSTER OF CHAOS

² And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” ³ 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.” ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

Joshua 2:2-7 (ESV)

KNOW = EUPHEMISM FOR SEX

⁸ Before the men 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, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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 ¹³ 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.”

Joshua 2:8-13 (ESV)

IN THIS SPEECH RAHAB IS PRESENTED AS A MODEL ISRAELITE.

She knows the songs Israel sings, can recount Israel’s history, and acclaims Israel’s God.¹

RAHAB’S REQUEST IS FRAMED AS A COVENANT. SHE SHOWS HESED SO THEY MUST SHOW HESED.

PROBLEM:

³² You shall make no covenant with them and 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.”

Exodus 23:32–33 (ESV)

¹⁴ 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.”

Joshua 2:14 (ESV)

LIT: OUR LIVES IN PLACE OF YOURS FOR DEATH
SO MUCH FOR:

¹⁷ Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!

Joshua 1:17 (ESV)

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.” ¹⁷ The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.” ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.”

Joshua 2:15-24 (ESV)

THERE IS A PROFOUND FORESHADOWING HERE THAT POINTS TO CHRIST. IN JUDGMENT GOD BRINGS SALVATION. THIS IS A THEME THAT HAS BEEN REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN. THE STRUCTURE OF THIS NARRATIVE IS IDENTICAL TO THE STRUCTURE OF SODOM & GOMORRAH IN GENESIS 19. THE THREE DAYS. THE SCARLET THREAD. THESE STORIES BUILD AND FIND THEIR FULFILLMENT IN JESUS ON THE CROSS.

Episode 1: Two Strangers Enter the City

SODOM

JERICHO

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| 1. Strangers enter Sodom, intending to sleep in the city plaza, but lodge with Lot (vv. 1–3). | 1. Strangers enter Jericho and lodge with Rahab (v. 1b). |
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Episode 2: The Strangers Are Sought

SODOM

JERICHO

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| 1. Citizens demand the strangers be brought out (vv. 4–5). | 1. The king’s men demand the strangers be brought out (vv. 2–3). |
| 2. Lot offers his daughters, who order to save his guests (vv. 6–8). | 2. Rahab claims “not to know” in “have not known men,” in order to save her guests (v. 4). |
| 3. The men are blinded and sent away (vv. 9–11). | 3. The men are fooled and sent away (vv. 5–7). |

Episode 3: Destruction Is Announced

SODOM

JERICHO

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| 1. Visitors announce the destruction of Sodom. | 1. Rahab anticipates the destruction of Jericho. |
| 2. Lot is told to gather his family (vv. 12–14). | 2. Rahab negotiates the deliverance of her family (vv. 8–14). |

Episode 4: Protest and Escape

SODOM

JERICHO

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| 1. Lot is told to flee to the hills (v. 15–17). | 1. Rahab tells the spies to flee to the hills (v. 16). |
| 2. Lot protests and requests shelter at Zoar (vv. 18–20) | 2. The spies attempt to modify their agreement (vv. 17–20) |
| 3. The angels agree to modify the command (vv. 21–22) | 3. Rahab agrees to the modification (v. 21). |
| 4. Lot arrives at Zoar (v. 23) | 4. The spies return to Shittim (vv. 22–24). |

Episode 5: Destruction and Deliverance

SODOM

JERICHO

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| 1. Sodom & Gomorrah are destroyed (vv. 24–25). | 1. Jericho is destroyed (vv. 15–21) |
| 2. Lot and his family are spared—except for his wife (v. 26). | 2. Rahab and her entire family are spared (vv. 22–24). ² |

¹ Hawk, L. D. (2000). [Joshua](#) (D. W. Cotter, J. T. Walsh, & C. Franke, Eds.; p. 45). The Liturgical Press.

² Hawk, L. D. (2000). [Joshua](#) (D. W. Cotter, J. T. Walsh, & C. Franke, Eds.; pp. 36–37). The Liturgical Press.