

## **THE SPIES AND THE HARLOT (Joshua 2:1-24)**

Water of Life

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### **Review of Joshua 1: Steve Walkup**

#### **Background for Joshua 2**

Those occupying the land of Canaan in Joshua's day

The southern region (the hill country) was controlled by the Amorites

**A point of access**

The northern region (in Galilee) was controlled by the Canaanites

**A point of access**

#### **Joshua's Strategy**

##### **Preliminary 1: The Jordan River**

##### **Preliminary 2: Jericho**

## **Joshua 2**

**Two spies go from the Acacia Grove to Jericho (2:1)**

**While the spies were at Rahab's home, she hid the men under stacks of flax and told those questioning her that the men came but left after nightfall, about the time the gates were closing (2:2-6)**

**A party was sent to the fords of the Jordan River; then the gate was shut (2:7)**

**After the questioners left, Rahab stated her belief that God who is over all had given Israel the land of Canaan, based on the Red Sea Crossing and Israel's defeat of Sihon and Og—a belief that struck fear into all of Jericho (2:8-11)**

**Why did she mention these three events?**

**The Red Sea Crossing was recorded in Exodus 14**

**The defeat of Sihon and Og was recorded in Numbers 21:21-35**

**Sihon ruled over the Amorites between the Arnon and Jabbok rivers,  
east of the Jordan River**

**Rahab believed that God would deliver Israel. What else did she believe?**

**Rahab asserted that she showed *hesed* (covenantal loyal-love) so she requested *hesed* in return, by sparing her family's lives (2:12-13)**

**The spies agreed to reciprocate *hesed* on the condition of secrecy (2:14)**

**Rahab let them down a rope from her window (her home was on the wall), urging them to hide three days in the mountain (west of town) (2:15-16)**

**The spies required Rahab to mark her home with a scarlet cord from the same window and pledged the safety of all in her home, if she kept this secret (2:17-20)**

**Rahab agreed, sent them away, and bound the scarlet cord in the window (2:21)**

**The spies hid for three days until the soldiers stopped searching, went down from the mountain, crossed the river, and debriefed Joshua (2:22-23)**

**They reported that God had delivered the land to Israel, because the inhabitants of the land are faint-hearted (2:24)**

**Jericho: Going to Jericho (Mat 20:29; Mark 10:46) or leaving Jericho (Luke 18:35)**

**Rahab 1: Matthew 1:5 (cf. Ruth 4:21, a genealogy which only names fathers and sons)**

**Rahab 2: The comments about Rahab in Hebrews 11:30-31**

**Rahab 3: The comments about Rahab in James 2:25**

**Background to James 2:25 in James 2:23-24**

**The proper translation of James 2:24:**

You see then that a man is justified by works and not only by faith ~~only~~.



**What about Rahab's lying and her (apparent) continuance of her profession for a time after believing? (Joshua 2)**

**Separating justifying faith from post-justification issues**

**Conclusion**