

# Sermon Outline

## “AND THE LORD GAVE THEM REST”: A CHRISTIAN READING OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

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### RAHAB OUR MOTHER, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH (JOSHUA 2:1-14)

#### I. Even the Prostitute Can Become a Mother

#### II. Three Lessons of Joshua 1

- A. **1:1:** We received a brief introduction to the person of Joshua Ben-Nun.
- B. **1:2-9:** We saw God addressing Joshua directly—evidence that Joshua is the new supreme leader of Israel.
- C. **1:10-18:** Joshua issues his first executive order as Israel’s new supreme leader. —And the people respond with rousing obedience.

#### III. Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho (Joshua 2:1)

#### IV. The Spies Arrive at Rahab’s House (Joshua 2:1)

- A. The spies make their way to the home of Rahab the prostitute.
- B. The clue as to why the spies came to Rahab is in 2:15: Rahab actually lived *in* the wall of the city.
- C. Why would Rahab be living in the wall?
  - 1. The wall of Jericho may have been a thriving economy all its own.
  - 2. The wall housed soldiers and hosted merchants from afar.
  - 3. In such a place, brothels would have been commonplace.
- D. By going into Rahab’s house, the spies of Israel were blending into the crowd.

#### V. The King of Jericho Sends His Agents (Joshua 2:2-3)

#### VI. Rahab’s Tactical Move (Joshua 2:4-7)

- A. Surprisingly, Rahab doesn’t do as she is told. —She takes the tactical approach and deceives the king’s men.
- B. When the king’s men arrived, Rahab had already “taken the two men and hidden them” (v 4). This tells us two things:
  - 1. Rahab knew the real agenda of the Israelites—they were not tourists!
  - 2. Rahab sympathized with the cause of Israel.
- C. Rahab tells the king’s men that the Israelites had left.
- D. What are we to make of Rahab’s dubious actions—lying and treason?
  - 1. We must look at the context: This is *wartime*.
  - 2. Rahab’s situation was similar to situations in World War II where good Germans and Poles tried to protect their Jewish friends from arrest by deception and concealment.

3. Ordinarily speaking, 99.9% of the time, lying is sin.
4. But during war, deception (along with killing) is part of combat.
5. Rahab's lie and treason may **NOT** be applied outside the unique confines of war. If we do, we sin!

## VII. The Rahab Confession of Faith (Joshua 2:8-13)

- A. The question: *Was Rahab's action really motivated by fear of God or was she blackmailed by the Israelite spies?*
- B. Rahab herself explains why she hid the spies.
  1. She knows that the Lord YHWH had given Jericho into Israel's hands.
  2. She sees that her own people are afraid of YHWH's power.
- C. Rahab explains how her people had come to fear YHWH.
  1. They have heard "how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea" (Ex 14)
  2. They have heard what YHWH enabled the Israelites to do to two hostile kings—Sihon and Og (Num 21).
- D. Rahab confesses that the Lord YHWH "is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath." He is the supreme God above all gods.

## VIII. The Treaty between Israel and Rahab (Joshua 2:12-14)

- A. After the kings' men had gone away, Rahab pleads with the Israelites for mercy (vv 12-13).
- B. The Israelites respond with a solemn promise: If Rahab does not betray them, they will spare her family when the invasion begins (v 14).

## IX. Rahab, a Mother of the Church (Joshua 2:12-14)

- A. It is testimony to God's immense mercy that Rahab gains a highly esteemed place in salvation history.
  1. She is amongst the great heroes of the Church: Noah, Abraham, Sarah, etc. (Heb 11:31).
  2. She is an example of living and genuine faith (Jas 2:25).
  3. She becomes an ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 1:5).
- B. But the real hero of the story is not Rahab but the Lord God himself.
  1. It was the Lord who turned Rahab away from her evil civilization.
  2. From there, Rahab was able to do good for God's Church.
  3. Interpreting this story under the rule of **Ephesians 1:5**, Rahab was predestined for adoption through Jesus Christ.

## X. Even the Sinner Can Become a Saint

*By his grace, God continues to turn sinners into saints. Fear of God's judgment is a legitimate reason to turn back to God. Unless we repent and turn to the Lord God, we will be destroyed with the rest of the rebellious world. But when we turn to God, we find that he makes us one of his holy and righteous people. As Rahab discovered, true dignity comes only when God is our Lord. As we ourselves must discover and continue to discover, true life can only be found in Jesus Christ the Son of God.*