

## e-concepts

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### A Study of Joshua 2

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**Verse 1**—Joshua sent two spies secretly from Shittim. Secret not from Jericho, but secret from the Israelites because he doesn't want the problems they had at Kadesh-Barnea. Joshua did not want people to vote on whether they would go or not based on what these spies said.

**Verse 2**—They came to the house of Rahab the harlot. From God's perspective, there is no military value to send spies to Jericho because of the way He captured Jericho. It didn't make any difference what these spies learned. The only value was to identify and save Rahab. She was a believer in the midst of unbelievers. It's like Noah at the time of the flood and Lot in Sodom and believers at the Rapture of the church. God took out the believer before He destroyed the city. Rahab was in God's plan to be in the lineage of the Messiah.

**PT:** There's no such thing as a long-term secret. But both Joshua and the spies kept short-term secrets, with the idea that they would eventually be known.

**Verses 2-3**—The king of Jericho sends word to Rahab to bring out the spies. He thinks they are there to search out the whole land, not just Jericho.

**Verses 4-7**—Rahab had hidden the spies and lied to the king's men. Secrets, to bring about some good, are okay:

- (1) If they are about morally right things (preserving a life, giving an anonymous gift, war strategy). It's never right to keep a secret about a morally wrong thing (adultery, etc.).
- (2) If the secret is short-term. Be sure you understand that the secret will be made known. Never have a secret which you want to never be made known.

**Verses 9-13**—Why Rahab is remembered and mentioned two times in the New Testament:

- (1) I know God has given you the land.
- (2) The terror of you has fallen on the land. The hearts of the people melted in fear.
- (3) She knows the history of what God did (drying up the Red Sea, defeating Sihon and Og).
- (4) Israel's God is God of the heavens and earth. She asked that the spies would take an oath to save her family.

#### Observations about Rahab's statements:

- Most of the statements are about Rahab's fear of God.
- She understood what God was doing at that time—giving the land to Israel.
- Her information did not come from a mystical experience or a revelation from God, but from what God had done in the past.
- Her works were directly connected to her theology. James said there is no gap between our faith and our works and used Rahab as an example (James 2:25).

**Verses 15-21**—Rahab used her advantage to preserve herself and her family. It's also assumed that she will become part of Israel. So what she was doing was consistent with what God was doing. After the spies left Rahab, she kept her promise, when she could have turned them in to the king. So her faith in God was real. She let them down by a rope. Before they leave, they say they'll be released from this oath unless:

- She ties a scarlet cord from the window.
- She gathers herself and family into the house.
- Anyone who goes out of the door and into the street, their blood is on their own head.
- If she tells anyone about this, then the deal is off.

**Verses 22f**—God used the testimony of the spies to encourage Joshua to go against Jericho as God had told him.

#### APPLICATIONS

1. There is no such thing as a secret which will not be told. All secrets are always short-term (2:1).
2. Never attempt to lie—a deception which one assumes the truth will never be known. A short-term deception where the truth is expected to be known is not the same as a lie, which assumes the truth will never be known. Nevertheless, a direct intentional falsification of information is always wrong (2:2-7).
3. Base your actions on the fear of God (2:8, 11). We promise according to our intentions, but we perform according to our fears.
4. Aim your efforts in the direction of what God is doing in our age [learned from the Bible] (2:9).
5. Place your faith in what God has done throughout history rather than mystical experiences (2:10).
6. Since there is no inconsistency between your faith and your works (James 2:14f), work on what you believe as well as what you do (2:11).
7. Make your desires align with God's desires (2:12-21).
8. Keep your word—even if you don't have to (2:22-24).