

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES FOR

PERILOUS¹ TIMES

2 Timothy 3:1-5

JERICO: A CITY DESTROYED

INTRODUCTION

The children of Israel had been enslaved for four hundred years in Egypt. Moses, God's chosen deliverer, led Israel out of bondage and forty years through the wilderness.

Standing on the brink of entry into the land that God had promised them, Joshua, Moses' successor, and the weary children of Israel are faced with the idolatrous and fortified city of Jericho.

THEME SCRIPTURE

And as soon as we [Rahab and the inhabitants of Jericho] heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you [the children of Israel], for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath (Joshua 2:11).

¹ PERILOUS - Greek *chapelos* reducing strength: difficult, dangerous, furious, fierce, savage.

SECTION I - The Spies Meet Rahab

READ Joshua 2:1-7.

1. Who was Joshua² (v. 1a)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ Joshua 1:1-9.

What else is said about Joshua (v. 1)? _____

What did God promise the children of Israel (vv. 2-4)? _____

What personal promise did God give to Joshua (v. 5)? _____

How did God encourage Joshua and Israel? What did He command them (vv. 6-9)? _____

² Joshua - Hebrew *Yhowshua* saved; Jehovah is Salvation.

2. Joshua sent out two men from Acacia Grove³ to spy the land that God promised to the children of Israel. Where did the mission take them? Where did they lodge (Joshua 2:1b)?

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3. What did the king of Jericho demand of Rahab? Why (vv. 2, 3)? _____

4. What did she do in response to the king's demand (vv. 4-6)? _____

5. Rahab diverted the king's men away from her home. Where did they go (v. 7)? _____

SECTION II – The LORD⁶ is God

READ Joshua 2:8-14.

1. Where did Rahab meet with the spies (v. 8)? _____

2. What had Rahab and all the inhabitants of Jericho heard about the LORD and His people (vv. 9, 10)?

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³ Acacia Grove - Hebrew *Shittim*: a place east of the Jordan River.

⁴ Jericho - Hebrew city of the moon: a fragrant place; a city in the plain of Jordan over against the place where the Israelites crossed over the Jordan River; a walled city in the midst of a vast grove of palm trees.

⁵ Rahab - Hebrew wide: large, broad, insolent; pride.

⁶ LORD - *YHWH* Self-Existent or Eternal: name of God JEHOVAH; the Existing One.

⁷ terror - Hebrew *eymah* fright: dread; fear, horror; to cause terror.

3. What did the deeds of God and His people produce in the people of Jericho (v. 11a)? _____
4. What did Rahab declare about the God of Israel (v. 11b)? _____
5. Since Rahab had shown the spies kindness, what did she make the spies swear by the LORD (vv. 12, 13)? _____
6. In return, what did the spies require? What was their promise to her (v. 14)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

In the following Scriptures we learn that God is the God of Battles. In what ways does He fight for us? What are His names?

Exodus 14:14 _____

Exodus 15:3, 4 _____

⁸ King Sihon and Og: Read Numbers 21:21-35.

Deuteronomy 1:30 _____

Deuteronomy 3:22 _____

I Samuel 17:47 _____

II Chronicles 20:17 _____

II Chronicles 20:22 _____

II Chronicles 20:29 _____

II Chronicles 32:8 _____

Nehemiah 4:20 _____

Psalms 24:8 _____

Psalms 44:5-7 _____

Psalms 144:1, 2 _____

SECTION III – The Scarlet⁹ Cord

READ Joshua 2:15-21.

1. Where did Rahab live? How did she help the spies escape? What were her instructions to them (vv. 15, 16)?

2. How did the spies respond? What was their instruction to Rahab to ensure that the spies would keep their oath to protect her and all of her household (vv. 17-21)?

3. When the spies returned from Jericho, to whom did they report? What conclusion did they form regarding the land of Jericho (vv. 22-24)?

PERSONAL

Knowing who the LORD God is, Rahab undertook a plan of action in her battle against the destruction of Jericho to protect herself and her family. What plan of action has the Lord directed you to undertake when in a fierce battle with the enemy?

⁹ Scarlet - Hebrew *saniy* crimson: the insect coccus ilicis worm or its color; the female is crushed to make the dye.

The scarlet cord is a type of the blood of Christ in the Old Testament. For the spies it represented a way of escape from the destruction of Jericho. It was a sign to those outside of Jericho of one who believed in God. The scarlet cord offered a shelter and protection for those within Rahab's house. For believers, the blood of Christ saves us from the destruction of sin. It is a sign that we are believers, and it offers eternal protection to those who believe.

SECTION IV - The Commander of the Army of the LORD

READ Joshua 5:13-15 and Joshua 6:1-27.

1. DESCRIBE who Joshua encountered on the eve of the conquest of Jericho (Joshua 5:13a).

2. Did Joshua recognize the Man? What did he ask Him (v. 13b)?

3. How did the Man refer to Himself (v. 14a)?

4. How did Joshua humbly respond (v. 14b)?

5. What did the LORD command? Why (v. 15)?

RE-READ Joshua 6:1-27.

6. What was the state in Jericho (v. 1)?

7. What all did God deliver into the hand of Joshua (v. 2)? _____

8. What were the divine commands for the destruction of Jericho (vv. 3-5)? _____

9. SUMMARIZE Joshua's obedience to the commands of the LORD (vv. 6-14). _____

10. DESCRIBE what happened on the seventh day (vv. 15-17a). _____

11. Joshua gave further instructions to the people. Who would be spared from destruction? Why? What were they not to take? What could they take? Why (vv. 17-19)?

12. What caused the walls of Jericho to fall down (v. 20)? _____

13. Every living thing in the city was destroyed by the edge of the sword. In keeping with their promise to Rahab and by Joshua's commands, who did the two spies spare (vv. 21-25)?

14. What divine curse did Joshua pronounce on the city that stands to this day (v. 26)? _____

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15. WRITE out verse 27. _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE out the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Joshua 2:11)

¹⁰ lay its foundation with his firstborn: See I Kings 16:34.

*And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had.
So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers
whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.*

Joshua 6:25

NOTES _____

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