

## THE SPIES REPORT

We divided Joshua 2 into two studies.

- The first study was Josh.2:1-14 entitled, Spies Reconnaissance.
- The second study is Josh.2:15-24 entitled, Spies Report.

We will examine Josh.2:15-24 by the following four homiletical points

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|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| • Josh.2:15    | City walls      | House of Rahab   |
| • Josh.2:16    | Country hills   | Hiding for spies |
| • Josh.2:17-21 | Cord of scarlet | Honor sign       |
| • Josh.2:22-24 | Canaanites      | Hearts melted    |

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**This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of what the spies might have reported on their spying on Jericho.**

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### **1. Jericho was not a very large city nor heavily populated.**

It is estimated that population ranged from 1800-2500 people. Scholars estimate 200 people normally per acre.

It is believed that the upper city was six acres (1200) and the lower city of Jericho had another 900 based on 3 additional acres. It is also believed that the population may have been larger because of the fear of the Canaanites outside the walled fortification of Jericho.

### **2. The walled fortification of Jericho plays an important part in the study of this lesson.**

A stone retaining wall of 12-15 feet and six feet thick went around the entire city. On top of the retaining wall, was a mudbrick wall of 20-26 feet and 6 feet thick that went around the lower city?

There was a community and embankment between the lower wall and the upper wall that went around Jericho. The real estate of the lower city was cheaper because of the risk in wartime. Rahab's house was located in the lower city.

At the crest of the embankment, was a similar 20-26 feet mudbrick wall circling the upper city.

### **3. Biblical archaeologists believe that Rahab's house was located on the north wall of the lower city of Jericho. Her house was incorporated into the lower wall fortification.**

They discovered that a certain stretch of the northern wall did not fall. They also discovered that it was a short distance from here to the hill country where the spies hid (Josh.2:16, 22).

**“Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall, so that she was living on the wall.” (Josh.2:15)**

**4. The Hebrew spies had agreed to protect Rahab's house and family if she put a scarlet cord in the window (Josh.2:18).**

It was the spies who suggested a scarlet cord. It was symbolic of the Passover blood of Christ on the doorpost of the houses in Egypt (Ex.12:12-30; 1 Cor.5:7; 1 Pet.1:19; John 1:29).

**5. The Hebrew spies and Rahab swore an oath to protect one another (Josh.2:19-21). They seemed like unlikely people to enter into a trust covenant.**

There were three conditional clauses in this covenant.

Josh.2:18 –Scarlet cord in same window (everyone in that house)

Josh.2:19 – Stay in house with family (blood on head)

Josh.2:20 – Security breach clause (nullified if tell)

What was the common binding factor between these national enemies that would allow them to enter a trusted covenant?

**6. Rahab's testimony and the Hebrew's demand for a scarlet cord in her window suggest that it was Christ.**

“By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.” (Heb.11:31)

“That they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each of us.” (Acts 17:27)

“For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the one who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (2 Cor.4:6)

“You, who seek God, let your heart revive.” (Ps.69:32b)

**7. Moses announced a SHEMA doctrine to Israelites pertaining to crossing the Jordan and dispossessing the occupying nations (Deut.9:1-6).**

“Hear, O Israel! You are crossing over the Jordan today to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, great cities fortified to heaven.” (Josh.9:1)

This was 1 of 6 SHEMA (Josh.4:1; 5:1; 6:3; 6:4; 9:1; 20:3) doctrines given by Moses to the Israelites just prior to his death (Deut.1:3-4; 3:27-28) (Mark 12:29-31).

“Know therefore today that it is the Lord your God who is crossing over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and he will subdue them out and destroy them quickly, just as the Lord has spoken to you.” (Deut.9:3)

It contained a warning to the victors of the danger of a self-righteous mentality (Deut.9:4-6; Luke 16:15).

It also contained a warning of a historical spiritual problem of Israelites: “Know, then, it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn (qesheh-oreph) [stiff-neck] people.” (Deut.9:6; Ex.32:9; 34:9; Deut.10:16-22; 2 Chron.30:8; 36:13-14; 2 Kings 17:14; Prov.29:1; Jer.7:24-29; 17:23; 19:15).

“You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.” (Acts 7:51) [Stephen]