



Study Guide: Joshua – Chapter 2

Divine Providence and Protection: The chapter illustrates how God orchestrates events to protect His people and those who align themselves with His purposes, as seen in the spies' safe escape and Rahab's covenant.

Covenant Loyalty: The mutual agreement between Rahab and the spies reflects the seriousness of covenant commitments and the blessings that come from faithfulness to God's promises.

God's Sovereignty Over Nations: Rahab's acknowledgment of Israel's God as the true God who controls the land and its inhabitants emphasizes God's supreme authority over all peoples.

Cross-References

Hebrews 11:31 references Rahab's faith as an example of righteous belief that leads to salvation, clarifying the significance of her actions in the broader biblical narrative of faith.

James 2:25 highlights Rahab's deeds as evidence of faith working through actions, reinforcing the inseparability of faith and works demonstrated in Joshua 2.

Deuteronomy 7:1–2 provides background on God's command to dispossess the Canaanites, setting the covenantal and historical framework for the spies' mission and Israel's conquest.

Exodus 12:21–30 recounts the Passover, where the blood of the lamb protected Israel's firstborn, paralleling the scarlet cord in Rahab's window as a sign of protection and deliverance.

Joshua 6:17–25 later records the fulfillment of the promise to Rahab, showing the faithfulness of God to His covenant and the reward of Rahab's faith and courage.

Application

Joshua 2 challenges modern believers to trust God's promises even when facing uncertain or hostile environments. Rahab's example encourages believers to act courageously in faith, demonstrating that God's grace extends beyond ethnic and cultural boundaries. The chapter invites reflection on how obedience and faithfulness to God's covenant bring



protection and blessing. It also calls for discernment in recognizing God's sovereignty over all circumstances and the importance of aligning our actions with His purposes. The scarlet cord symbolizes the power of Christ's blood to save, reminding believers of the necessity of faith in God's provision for deliverance.

Summary

Joshua Chapter 2 narrates the espionage mission into Jericho and the remarkable faith of Rahab, who shelters the spies and aligns herself with Israel's God. The chapter highlights the themes of faith, divine protection, and covenant loyalty, setting the stage for Israel's conquest of the Promised Land. Through Rahab's courageous actions and the spies' report, the narrative demonstrates God's sovereign hand guiding His people and fulfilling His promises. This chapter underscores the importance of trusting God's guidance, acting in faith amid danger, and recognizing God's authority over all nations.

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Joshua Chapter 2 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Joshua Chapter 2 serves as a pivotal moment in the book of Joshua, marking the transition from preparation to action in the conquest of Canaan. This chapter introduces the espionage mission into Jericho, highlighting themes of faith, divine providence, and covenant loyalty. Readers should watch for the interactions between the spies and Rahab, a woman whose faith and courage become instrumental in Israel's success. The chapter sets the tone for God's involvement in Israel's conquest and the importance of obedience to His commands.

Context

Joshua 2 follows the commissioning of the spies by Joshua, who has taken over leadership after Moses. The immediate literary context is the preparation for Israel's entry into the Promised Land, fulfilling the covenant promises made to the patriarchs. The chapter is set in the city of Jericho, a key Canaanite stronghold. The key figures are Joshua, the new leader of Israel, the two spies sent to scout the land, and Rahab, a resident of Jericho who



shelters the spies. The narrative reflects the ongoing covenant relationship between God and Israel, emphasizing divine guidance and protection as Israel steps into its God-ordained inheritance.

Outline

The chapter begins with the sending of two spies from Shittim to Jericho to gather intelligence about the land and its inhabitants. Upon entering Jericho, the spies seek refuge in Rahab's house, which is strategically located on the city wall. The narrative then shifts to the king of Jericho's response to the spies' presence, ordering a city-wide search. Rahab's courageous decision to hide the spies and her negotiation for protection in return for her assistance forms the central portion of the chapter. The chapter concludes with the spies' escape and their report back to Joshua, including the promise to spare Rahab and her family when the city is taken.

Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1–3: Joshua sends two spies secretly from Shittim to Jericho to explore the land and the city's defenses. Their mission is to gather information that will aid Israel in its conquest. The spies enter Jericho and lodge in Rahab's house, which is notably situated on the city wall, providing a vantage point and a place of concealment.

Verses 4–5: The king of Jericho learns of the spies' presence and commands that they be captured. The king's officials search the city, demonstrating the tension and danger surrounding the spies' mission. This highlights the hostile environment Israel faces as they prepare to enter Canaan.

Verses 6–7: Rahab hides the spies on her roof under stalks of flax and misleads the king's men by claiming the spies had already left. Her quick thinking and faith in the God of Israel are evident as she protects the spies despite the risk to her own life.

Verses 8–11: Rahab reveals her knowledge of Israel's God and His mighty deeds, including the crossing of the Jordan and the defeat of Amorite kings. She expresses faith that the Lord has given the land to Israel and acknowledges the fear that Israel's God has instilled in the inhabitants of Canaan. This confession is significant as it shows a Gentile recognizing the power of Israel's God.

Verses 12–14: Rahab negotiates a covenant with the spies, requesting protection for herself and her family when Israel invades. The spies agree, instructing her to tie a scarlet



cord in her window as a sign to spare her household. This agreement underscores the theme of covenant faithfulness and divine protection extended through human obedience.

Verses 15–16: The spies instruct Rahab on how to avoid detection during the city’s imminent attack, emphasizing the importance of secrecy and trust. The scarlet cord becomes a symbol of salvation and divine mercy, foreshadowing later biblical motifs of blood and protection.

Verses 17–21: Rahab helps the spies escape by lowering them from her window with a rope, allowing them to evade the king’s men. The spies reiterate their promise to spare her family and instruct her to keep their mission confidential. This section highlights the practical outworking of faith and the risks involved in aligning with God’s purposes.

Verses 22–24: The spies return to Joshua and report that the Lord has given the land into Israel’s hands, encouraging him and the people to proceed with confidence. This report serves as a divine confirmation of Israel’s impending victory and God’s faithfulness to His promises.

Key Themes

Faith and Trust: Rahab’s belief in the God of Israel and her willingness to act on that faith demonstrate the power of trusting God even in hostile circumstances. Her faith contrasts with the fear and opposition of Jericho’s king and people.

Divine Providence and Protection: The chapter illustrates how God orchestrates events to protect His people and those who align themselves with His purposes, as seen in the spies’ safe escape and Rahab’s covenant.

Covenant Loyalty: The mutual agreement between Rahab and the spies reflects the seriousness of covenant commitments and the blessings that come from faithfulness to God’s promises.

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