

Joshua 2

Old Testament Jericho

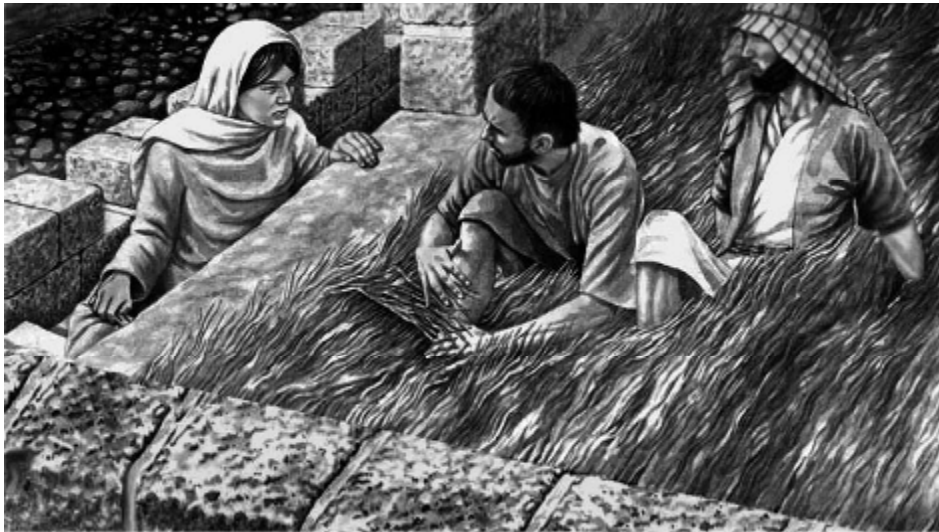
- May be the oldest city on earth
- c.5 miles west of the Jordan River
- c.10 miles north of the Dead Sea
- c.825 feet below sea level
- Tropical climate, sheltered
- Known as the City of Palms
- Has springs of water, thus an oasis
- Controlled access to central Canaan



Shittim = Acacia Grove



The men left. Pursue them quickly.



Rahab's Character

- Brave, not easily intimidated (2:3-5)
- Resourceful (2:6, 12-13, 15-16)
- Aware of current events (Sihon & Og, 2:10)
- Knows about the Red Sea crossing 40 years earlier (2:10)
- Concludes that the LORD (Yahweh) has given the land to His people (2:9)
- Doesn't despair like those around her (2:9)

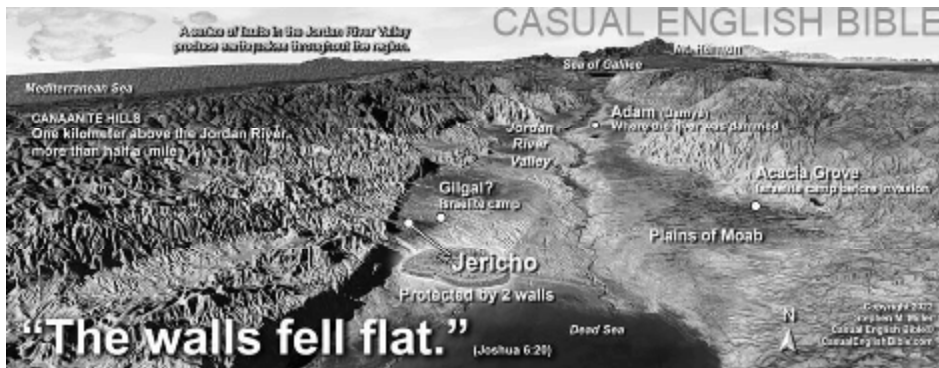
Rahab's Character

- Has faith that Yahweh is God of heaven & earth (2:11)
- Has the courage to ask for mercy (2:12-13)
- Cares about her family (2:13)
- Keeps the spies' secret & helps them escape (2:14-15)
- Ties the scarlet cord in faith (2:21)

Rahab's Character

- She has been a prostitute (2:1).
- She lies to protect the spies (2:4-6).
- She's a pragmatic person who knows how to survive.
- Just like you and me, she's not perfect.

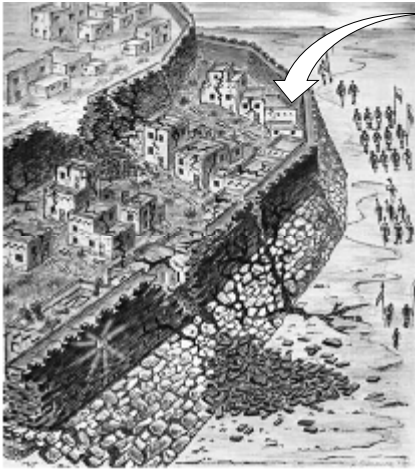
The Terrain around Jericho



And they went up into the hills, and stayed there three days, until the pursuers returned.



Jericho and the hills where the spies fled (aerial view from the east)



A portion of the north, lower wall didn't collapse. (Rahab's house?)

What the New Testament Says about Rahab

- She was the great-great grandmother of David
 - Rahab m. Salmon
 - Boaz m. Ruth
 - Obed
 - Jesse
 - David
- Thus, she is also an ancestor of Jesus (Mt. 1:5)

What the New Testament Says about Rahab

- Hebrews 11:31 includes her among the heroes of the faith because she chose to ally herself with God and His people. Rejecting the false gods of Jericho, she didn't remain among the disobedient.
- James 2:25 uses her as an example of someone who showed her faith by her works. She was convinced in advance that God had condemned her city and chose to put Him first for her own sake and her family's. True faith produces works.

Was Rahab right to lie?

- No!
- "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal faithfully are His delight" (Prov. 12:22).
- "You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another" (Lev. 19:11).

Was Rahab right to lie?

- Paul said, “But,” someone might still argue, “how can God condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty highlights his truthfulness and brings him more glory?” And some people even slander us by claiming that we say, “The more we sin, the better it is!” Those who say such things deserve to be condemned (Romans 3:7-8, NLT).
- The end doesn’t justify the means.

Was Rahab right to lie?

- The Bible honestly presents people warts and all.
- Rahab is praised in the NT for her faith, not for her sin.
- She courageously aligned herself with the true God and His people.
- If she was already a believer at the time she lied, she was a young one with much to learn.

Was Rahab right to lie?

- “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure” (1 Cor. 10:13, NLT).
- We don’t need to sin to help God out.
- Example: Corrie ten Boom’s niece who told Nazis the truth but wasn’t believed

Two Different Meanings of “Justify”

- Romans 3:28—For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.
- James 2:24—You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.
- Justified (Rom. 3) = without guilt before the law; declared just and acceptable before God—because Jesus paid the debt I could not pay with His blood.
- Justified (James 2) = shown to be just by works

Two Different Meanings of “Justify”

- Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15).
- James said, “I will show you my faith by my works” (2:18b).
- “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit” (Matthew 7:16-17).

Rahab was a woman of radical faith who risked everything to be right with God.