

Joshua: Chapter 2

Chapter 2

- SC: 1:18, if you don't use it, you lose it. Once again, it's about taking action.
- V. 1 – Then Joshua the son of Nun sent (SC: Action) two men as spies (SC: Sounds devious) secretly from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went (SC: Out in my margin I wrote, "They went into the inner bowels of that society") and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there.
 - SC: Now, why'd they go to the house of a harlot, the lower end of society? Why didn't they go to a dignitary or religious figure, a leader, a politician, or a successful business man or merchant? I mean, they went the *lowest* end of society.
- V. 2 – And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land."
 - SC: It's always been interesting to me that they went and they went *secretly*. And they went to a harlot's house, of all places, to lodge, so *somehow*, the *king* finds out.
- V. 3 – And the king of Jericho sent ~~word~~ to Rahab (SC: Just cross out "word" because that's something that humans added *later* – italicized words were *added*.), saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land."
 - SC: See, how did he *know*? That's the big question. How'd he find out if they went *secretly*. It's just *huge*.
- V. 4 – But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.
- V. 5 – "And it came about when it was time to shut the gate (SC: That is, shut the gate of the walls of Jericho, the city), at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them."
- V. 6 – But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof.



- SC: So *thatch* roof is the best way to think about it.
- V. 7 – So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan to the fords; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate.
- V. 8 – Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,
- V. 9 – and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all (SC: The key word is, “all”) the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you.
 - SC: In my margin it says “melted away” means, “become demoralized”)
- V. 10 – “For we have heard (SC: And in my margins I circled “heard,” I wrote, from 40 years ago, “ from 40 years ago”) how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.
 - SC: This is powerful *stuff*. They *heard* it, they *heard* of it. So parting the Red Sea *happened*, because lots of people heard about it. And it happened 40 years ago at this point.
- V. 11 – “And when we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.
 - SC: And how to my margin I wrote, “Even a *harlot* recognizes God is God.” Y’all remember, this is a *harlot*.

- V. 12 – “Now therefore, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father’s household (SC: So not with *me*, with my *father’s* household), and give me a pledge of truth (SC: Or faithfulness),
- V. 13 – and spare my father (SC: In other words, let my father live and let my mother live, and let my brothers and sisters live, literally, is what it means. Spare them, let them live. And all who belonged in it.) and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them (SC: That is, the children and the grandchildren.), and deliver our lives from death.”
- So she was making a *deal* with them.
- V. 14 – So the men said to her, “Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the LORD gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully (SC: Truly) with you.”
- V. 15 – 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. They would use the city wall as one of the 4 walls of their house or their homes.
- SC: Very common in that day.
- V. 16 – And she said to them, “Go to the hill country, lest the pursuers happen upon you, and hide yourselves there for three days (SC: Key word, “three”), until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way.”
- V. 17 – And the men said to her, “We shall be free from this oath to you which you have made us swear,
- V. 18 – unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down (SC: In other words, we need a sign. Almost like a fleece), and gather to yourself into the house your father and your mother and your brothers and all your father’s household.
- V. 19 – “And it shall come about that anyone who goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be free; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if a hand is laid on him.
- V. 20 – “But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be free from the oath which you have made us swear.”
 - SC: An oath is a commitment. Remember that.
- V. 21 – And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” So she sent them away, and they departed; and she tied the scarlet cord in the window.
 - SC: And there’s nothing wrong with having secret signals. As a matter of fact, it’s the right way to operate.
- V. 22 – And they departed and came to the hill country, and remained there for three days until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had sought them all along the road, but had not found them.
- V. 23 – Then the two men returned and came down from the hill country and crossed over (SC: They probably crossed over the Jordan River) and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they related to him all that had happened to them.
- V. 24 – And they said to Joshua, “Surely the LORD has given all the land into our hands, and all the inhabitants of the land, moreover, have melted away before us.”
 - SC: There’s that word “melted away” again. In other words, “became demoralized”.) So write “V. 9-11” under “melted” in V. 24. What’s interesting here is, up to V. 1. “Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly...”
 - In other words, they were supposed to gather intelligence. That’s what spies *do*. They gather *information*. They collect information, collect intelligence, so that the manager or the leaders can make better decisions.)
 - “...from Shittim, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.”
 - That was their order. Could’ve said, “Go gather intelligence.” Now, their way of fulfilling what they were told to do was... “So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there.”

- I mean, it's the most fascinating story in the world. Why *there*? Why not anywhere else in the world? Why not just sleep in a *stable*, because you didn't know anybody, you were a stranger? It would've been the *safe* thing to *do*. And keep out of sight.
- So this begs the question, "how do you gather intelligence?"
 - Because in V. 1, it says, "Go *view* the land." So do you gather intelligence by *observation*? Because the rest of the chapter clearly tells us they gathered intelligence by *interaction*.
 - V. 9, 10, 11, and 24. That was the intelligence they gave from doing what Joshua told them to do. That the people of the city knew about them crossing the Red Sea 40 years ago years earlier. It was *legend*. And *legendary*. And so when the *king* of the city found out that they're there, it *demoralized* him.
 - So the point is, #1 **do what you're told to do**.
 - #2 - when you gather intelligence, is one way the best way, by observation, or by interaction? Maybe it's *both*. But the fact of the matter is, because they *somehow* selected, of all the places and people, a harlot. So you *know* it was in the *worst* part of the city, where all the poor live and all the danger is. And they find out that these people are demoralized at the thought that the children of Israel are coming into their land.
- Now, what's interesting is any good *leader* or *manager* knows that if you want to find out what's going on within your town, your city, your company, whatever, *the people to talk to are the people closest to the ground or to the business*. The higher up you go in the food chain, the less they *know*. So they go to the *lowest end* of society, these two men, these two spies, because the lowest end of society, really, is in the middle of the heartbeat of that city.