

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

January 16, 2022

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Mary Balbach*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:1-11

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Virginia Grosskurth

Message: *The Token of A Promise* (Joshua 2:12-24)

Announcements

Ed Ostrowski is still in Ingalls Hospital in Harvey battling Covid pneumonia, so please keep him and Sue in prayer.

Thornton Harrison is recuperating at home after a few days in Franciscan Hospital in Olympia Fields.

Faith Bible Bowling: We're going bowling at the *Stardust Bowl* in Dyer on January 30th from 1 till 4. The price is \$16 per person. Pizza and pop will be provided.

Prayer Requests: Please remember to write them out and give them to Pastor Kurth before the service.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone.

Joshua 2:1-11 *Spies Who Came In From the Wilderness*

Rahab “received” the two spies Joshua sent into Jericho (2:1; Heb.11:31). They probably figured two men entering the house of a “harlot” wouldn't arouse suspicion. But they didn't know she was a *retired* prostitute. So entering her house *did* arouse suspicion, and the king heard about it (2:2).

But how did the king's informants know the strangers were Jews, as they told the king in verse 2? The answer is: they wore distinctive hair and sported no tattoos (Lev.19:26). But how did the informants know they were there to search the country, as they *also* told the king in verse 2? The answer is: the Canaanites heard God had given the Jews the land of Canaan (2:9), so they knew the Jews were coming. And when they only saw *two* of them instead of *all* of them, it wasn't hard to figure they were there to spy out the land.

When the king's storm troopers arrived at Rahab's house, she claimed she didn't know her guests were Jews, and said they left (v.3-5). That doesn't mean it's okay to lie, for that's not technically what she was doing. The precise dictionary definition of the word “lie” is to utter a falsehood *for an immoral reason*. Another definition is to say something designed to deceive another, *when the other has a right to know the truth*. The king's soldiers had no right to know if she was hiding the spies. God gave Israel that land *long* before the Canaanites got there, so they had no legal right to that land—and no right to know the truth about the spies! We see other famous examples of not telling the truth in Exodus 1:15-20; I Samuel 20:6, and I Samuel 21:2,8.

We know Rahab was a retired prostitute because she had stalks of flax laid out in order on her roof (2:6), something only virtuous women had (Pr.31:10,13). Flax was used to make linen for clothing, so we know Rahab was a seamstress now. But her dark past as a hooker equipped her to be good at telling untruths, for the soldiers bought her story and went chasing after the spies toward the Jordan (2:7), knowing they would head back toward their people on the other side of the river. “Fords” were places they could wade across.

How’d Rahab know God had given Israel the land (2:9)? He gave it to them *500 years earlier* (Gen.15:18-21). And after Moses wrote that down in the Bible, God made sure copies of His Word were circulated far and wide. That means the Canaanites *also* knew God promised to drive them out (Ex. 23:31), which explains their terror (Josh.2:9). They figured if God could part the Red Sea (2:10), He could topple their walls. God predicted their fear (Ex.15:1,4,14-16;23:27).

But if that’s why they were scared, why does Deuteronomy 2:24,25 say their fear would “begin” the day Israel conquered Sihon and Og? The answer is: those kings were *giants* (Deut.3:3,4,11), and so were the Canaanites (Num.13: 33). So it wasn’t until Israel conquered those two giants that God’s fear fell on Canaan, for they knew “no man” could stand before Israel’s God—not even *giant* men like them!

These two spies are types of saved Jews will go forth *two by two* in the Tribulation (Mark 6:7,12; Luke 10:1), as lambs a-mid wolves (Luke 10:3). Since more fallen angels will produce more giants in the Tribulation (Dan.2:43), there will be a new crop of giants to “wolf down” that new crop of saved Jews. The Lord told those Jews to stay with any who received them with peace (Luke 10:5,6), as Rahab did in this type (Heb.11:31). It’s even possible the spies

asked who in town was a believer, as they will in the Tribulation (Mt.10:11).

God *saved Rahab’s soul* for misleading the king’s soldiers (James 2:25). All this makes her a type of Tribulation Gentiles who will hide saved Jews (Ps.83:1-4) as the Lord recommends for Gentile nations like Moab (Isa.16:4). Taking in the Lord’s “brethren” in Israel is what will save their souls (Mt.25:31-40).

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

January 16, 2022

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

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