

RAHAB

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JOSHUA 2:1-20

Vol. 4 Num. 5

BY KEVIN MCGILL

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker: Pastor Candidate, Kevin McGill

Kevin McGill was born at Merced Castle Air Force Base in California and was raised in Merced, CA. He graduated from Grace Christian Academy and attended Point Loma Nazarene University to study theology and ministry. He earned his Masters of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary in 2006 and currently lives in Dallas with his wife, Jenny.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in this passage.

Read Joshua 2:1-20 (ESV)

¹ And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

² And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.”

³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.”

⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.”

⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.

⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof

⁹ and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.

¹⁰ For we have heard 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 devoted to destruction.

¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign

¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.”

¹⁴ And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall.

¹⁶ And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.”

¹⁷ The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear.

¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.

¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head.

²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.”

2 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

(1) Rahab – “Sign Right Here”

Ancient Near East cultures commonly invoked covenants, which we would call contracts today. They usually required several elements:

- a) Recognition of a deity’s power.*
- b) Statement of terms agreed on.*
- c) An oath made by both parties in which a deity is considered the witness.*
- d) A curse invoked if either person should break the covenant.*
- e) A sign/symbol of the covenant (such as a signature).*

Take a few minutes as a group to read chapter 2:9-20. Identify some of the contractual/covenantal language that Rahab and the spies used.

A recognition of the deity/deities’ power. Verses? _____

A statement of terms agreed on. Verses? _____

An oath made by both parties in which God is considered the witness. Verses? _____

A curse invoked if either person should break the covenant. Verses? _____

A sign of the covenant/contract. Verses? _____

(2) A Dangerous Grace

Read Deuteronomy 7:2-5 (ESV)

²and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.

³You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons,

⁴for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

⁵But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

According to Deuteronomy 7:2-5, what are some pragmatic reasons Rahab the prostitute and her family would have been a negative influence on Israel?

God offers a dangerous grace by honoring Rahab and the spies' agreement. He risked Rahab's and her family's influence on the new Israelite nation. Why does He allow it? Consider Hebrews 11:31.

"By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies."

(3) Faith – It's Unbelievable

Although we are no longer under the law but grace, we sometimes fall into thinking that God saves people according to their pedigree and not their faith in Him. Why is that?

More importantly, although I am no longer under the law but grace, I still believe God saves me according to my pedigree and not my faith in Him. Why is that?

You choose:

EVEN THEM? *During this week, consider one person you have had a hard time believing would put their trust in God. Take time to pray especially for them in light of this Rahab study.*

EVEN ME? *During the week, consider one area in your life that you still have a hard time believing God would fully forgive. Take time to pray with God about this issue in light of this Rahab Study.*

*Close with the public reading of **Hebrews 12:1-2***

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

④ LIVE His Word

Summarize your thoughts on the passage.

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO.

Sermon Notes: