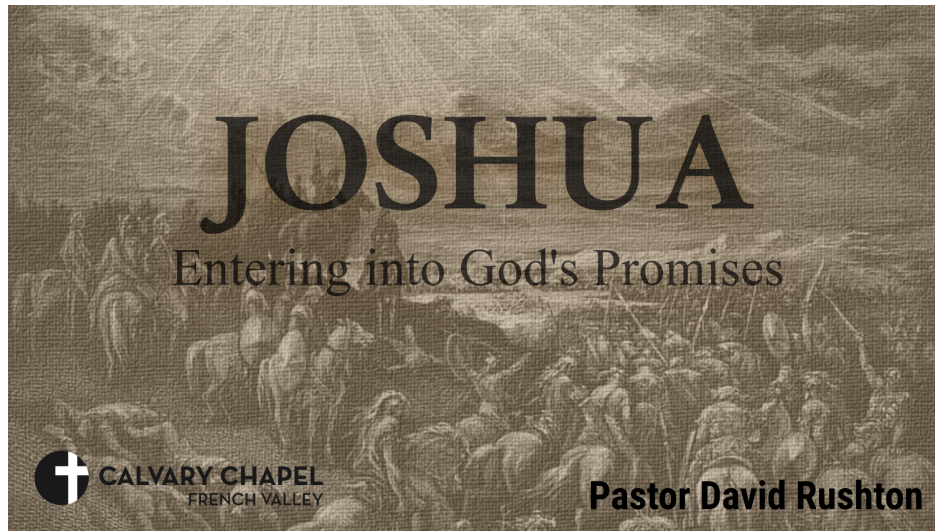


**JOSHUA: Entering into God's Promises**  
**Rahab and the Spies**  
Joshua 2:1-24



**August 10, 2025**  
**Message 2 of ???**

1. Intro
  - 1.1 Continue in study **Joshua: Entering into God's Promises**
  - 1.2 Let's first open to **Matthew, Chapter 1**
  - 1.3 Today's text in Joshua is an important account
    - 1.3.1 A foreign woman, in a foreign nation, with a questionable background, acts on her faith in the God of Israel, and finds her name in the lineage of King David, and ultimately Christ
    - 1.3.2 Read **Matthew 1:1-5**
    - 1.3.3 Turn to **Joshua 2**
  - 1.4 Let's pray, and get into it
2. Message
  - 2.1 **Joshua 2:1a**
    - 2.1.1 Acacia Grove - Shittim
      - 2.1.1.1 Been camped here for about a year, since Numbers chapter 21
        - Defeated two Amorite kings in that year
      - 2.1.1.2 Now that Joshua is in charge, this will be the place from which they enter the land
    - 2.1.2 Two men - rather than twelve
    - 2.1.3 "Especially Jericho"
      - 2.1.3.1 God promised the whole land, Jericho is the gateway - more in ch.6
    - 2.1.4 **Maps**
  - 2.2 **Joshua 2:1b**
    - 2.2.1 Rahab - very important woman as we will see
    - 2.2.2 At least as early as Roman times, some have insisted inn-keeper
      - 2.2.2.1 Inns often served double-purpose
      - 2.2.2.2 An inn of low reputation may have been a good hideout for spies
  - 2.3 **Joshua 2:2-3**
    - 2.3.1 "Come here tonight"
      - 2.3.1.1 Spies identified very quickly, why?
      - 2.3.1.2 As we will see in a minute, people were on "high-alert"
    - 2.3.2 Followed spies to Rahab's house, probably identified on entrance into the city
    - 2.3.3 King's men don't enter her house
      - 2.3.3.1 Cultural boundary - we might not want to either
  - 2.4 **Joshua 2:4-7**
    - 2.4.1 Rahab makes two claims
      - 2.4.1.1 "I did not know where they were from"
      - 2.4.1.2 "Where the men went, I do not know"
      - 2.4.1.3 She definitely knows where they are, we will see in a moment she knows where they're from
    - 2.4.2 Poses a moral dilemma - one that people have argued over
    - 2.4.3 Is it ever okay to lie?
      - 2.4.3.1 Are there circumstances that allow for it?
        - Spies dilemma; Nazis looking for Jews; etc.
    - 2.4.4 We are called to imitate God's perfection

## **1 Peter 1:15-16**

...<sup>15</sup> but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

2.4.5 Does God lie?

2.4.5.1 The author of Hebrews encourages us to trust in God because He cannot lie

## **Hebrews 6:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, <sup>18</sup> that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

2.4.5.2 One of the Ten Commandments commands us not to - God’s moral law

## **Exodus 20:16**

<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

2.4.5.3 We can see time and again throughout the Word that God hates lying

## **Proverbs 12:22**

<sup>22</sup> Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.

2.4.5.4 Hebrews ch.4 tells us Christ was tempted in all ways as we are, yet without sin

2.4.5.5 If there was an acceptable situation to lie, could God lie? Obvious answer

2.4.6 People have used passages in the bible, like Rahab’s, to purport biblical support for lying

2.4.6.1 No where in scripture do you find God blessing lying

2.4.6.2 Just cause the account has it, doesn’t mean God approves of it

2.4.7 This account with Rahab, Hebrews and James both talk about it

## **James 2:25**

<sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

## **Hebrews 11:31**

<sup>31</sup> By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

2.4.7.1 Notice what’s missing - neither commend lying

2.4.7.2 They honor Rahab’s faith, and the fact that her faith led her to act to receive the spies and send them out another way

2.4.7.3 “If she didn’t lie they would have been caught!”

- Maybe? Could God have protected them?

2.4.8 This is food for thought

2.4.8.1 Rationalization of sin is a slippery slope

- If we do the mental exercise to rationalize sin in hypothetical situations
- Not that far off from rationalizing sin in our day-to-day circumstances



2.8.4.1 God describes Himself as abounding in *hesed*

2.8.5 Daniel describes God this way

**Daniel 9:4b**

**<sup>4</sup>...O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments...**

2.8.6 In context of God and His chosen people - God's *hesed* is His steadfast faithfulness to Israel, even when Israel is unfaithful

2.8.6.1 Read the prophets - Israel will be judged for their sin, but always followed by promises of hope and restoration

2.8.6.2 God always maintains a remnant

2.8.6.3 These are truths that result from the *hesed* of God

2.8.7 Israel is supposed to be the witness of God - bringing people to God

2.8.7.1 The nation's faithfulness to this promise is important

2.8.7.2 It shows, right from the beginning, that God cares about all people

2.8.7.3 If people will repent of their sin and turn to Him, He is merciful

2.9 **Joshua 2:15-16**

2.9.1 Dwelt on the wall, come back to this at the battle of Jericho in ch.6

2.10 **Joshua 2:17-21**

2.10.1 Very practical, it's going to be a battle

2.10.2 She didn't wait to put the cord in the window - she was prepared, she was obedient

2.10.3 Her belief in Israel's God resulted in action again

**James 2:26**

**<sup>26</sup>For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

2.10.3.1 Proof that Rahab's faith was real, it changed her

2.11 **Joshua 2:22-24**

2.11.1 Their report is similar to that of Joshua and Caleb's so long ago

2.11.2 God has prepared the land, and He has shown them that He goes before them

2.11.3 I love seeing how God prepared the way - we should be encouraged by this to know that God has prepared the way in all things

**Ephesians 2:10**

**<sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

3. Conclusion

3.1 As we close, I want to go back to the idea of *Hesed*

3.1.1 *Hesed* is at the core of God's covenant with Abraham and Israel

3.1.2 He is faithful, and His love and mercy endure forever

3.2 But we identify more with Rahab than Israel

3.2.1 She was a foreign woman, in a foreign land

3.2.2 She was not part of the chosen people - yet God had drawn her in

3.2.3 God's relationship to all mankind is rooted in *hesed*

**Genesis 3:15**

**<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.**

3.2.4 From just after the beginning, before the line of Seth, before the distinction of Jew and Gentile

3.2.5 God had determined to make a way to restore mankind to Him

3.2.6 He would send the Savior

3.3 His *hesed* extends to all people

3.3.1 Not in a covenant of the Law, but through the Covenant of grace

**John 3:16**

**<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

3.3.2 His mercy, kindness, goodness is at the root of the gospel

3.3.2.1 Mankind is unable to save himself, the Law made that clear

3.3.2.2 My sin will be judged and the consequences executed in perfect justice

3.3.2.3 “The wages of sin is death.”

3.3.2.4 We have all sinned, and there is no one that is good

3.3.3 God sent His Son, who offered His life willingly to bear the consequence of our sin

3.3.4 Perfect justice and mercy meet at the cross, in the death of Jesus

3.3.5 His resurrection is the proof that God accepted His sacrifice on our behalf

3.4 Pray

4. Communion

4.1 **Luke 22:19-20**

5. Last song