

# Joshua

The Story of  
The Promise-Keeping God

**<sup>1</sup> Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from the Acacia Grove, saying, "Go and scout the land, especially Jericho." So they left, and they came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there. <sup>2</sup> The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelite men have come here tonight to investigate the land." <sup>3</sup> Then the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab and said, "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they came to investigate the entire land."**

...



**4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. So she said, "Yes, the men did come to me, but I didn't know where they were from. 5 At nightfall, when the city gate was about to close, the men went out, and I don't know where they were going. Chase after them quickly, and you can catch up with them!" 6 But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among the stalks of flax that she had arranged on the roof. ...**





**7 The men pursued them along the road to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as they left to pursue them, the city gate was shut.” 8 Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you. ...**





**<sup>10</sup> 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 Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan. <sup>11</sup> When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below. ....**



**<sup>12</sup> Now please swear to me by the LORD that you will also show kindness to my father's family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death." <sup>14</sup> The men answered her, "We will give our lives for yours. If you don't report our mission, we will show kindness and faithfulness to you when the LORD gives us the land."**

....



<sup>15</sup> Then she let them down by a rope through the window, since she lived in a house that was built into the wall of the city. <sup>16</sup> “Go to the hill country so that the men pursuing you won’t find you,” she said to them. “Hide there for three days until they return; afterward, go on your way.” <sup>17</sup> The men said to her, “We will be free from this oath you made us swear, <sup>18</sup> unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother, brothers, and all your father’s family into your house. ...





**<sup>19</sup> If anyone goes out the doors of your house, his death will be his own fault, and we will be innocent. But if anyone with you in the house should be harmed, his death will be our fault. <sup>20</sup> And if you report our mission, we are free from the oath you made us swear." <sup>21</sup> "Let it be as you say," she replied, and she sent them away. After they had gone, she tied the scarlet cord to the window. ...**



**<sup>22</sup> So the two men went into the hill country and stayed there three days until the pursuers had returned. They searched all along the way, but did not find them. <sup>23</sup> Then the men returned, came down from the hill country, and crossed the Jordan. They went to Joshua son of Nun and reported everything that had happened to them. <sup>24</sup> They told Joshua, "The LORD has handed over the entire land to us. Everyone who lives in the land is also panicking because of us."**



## **MAIN IDEA**

**In Joshua 2:1–24, we see four expressions of covenant mercy in Rahab's story, showing how God brings outsiders into His people to display His wisdom through the church.**





## **LOYALTY TO GOD (vv.1-7)**

**<sup>1</sup> Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from the Acacia Grove, saying, "Go and scout the land, especially Jericho." So they left, and they came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there.**



## **LOYALTY TO GOD (vv.1-7)**

### **Echo of Exodus – The Spies**

Back in Numbers, Moses sent twelve spies, but only two—Joshua and Caleb—brought back a faithful report. (Num. 13:1-3) But now, as if learning from that, Joshua only sends two.



## **LOYALTY TO GOD (vv.1-7)**

<sup>2</sup> The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelite men have come here tonight to investigate the land.” <sup>3</sup> Then the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab and said, “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they came to investigate the entire land.” ...

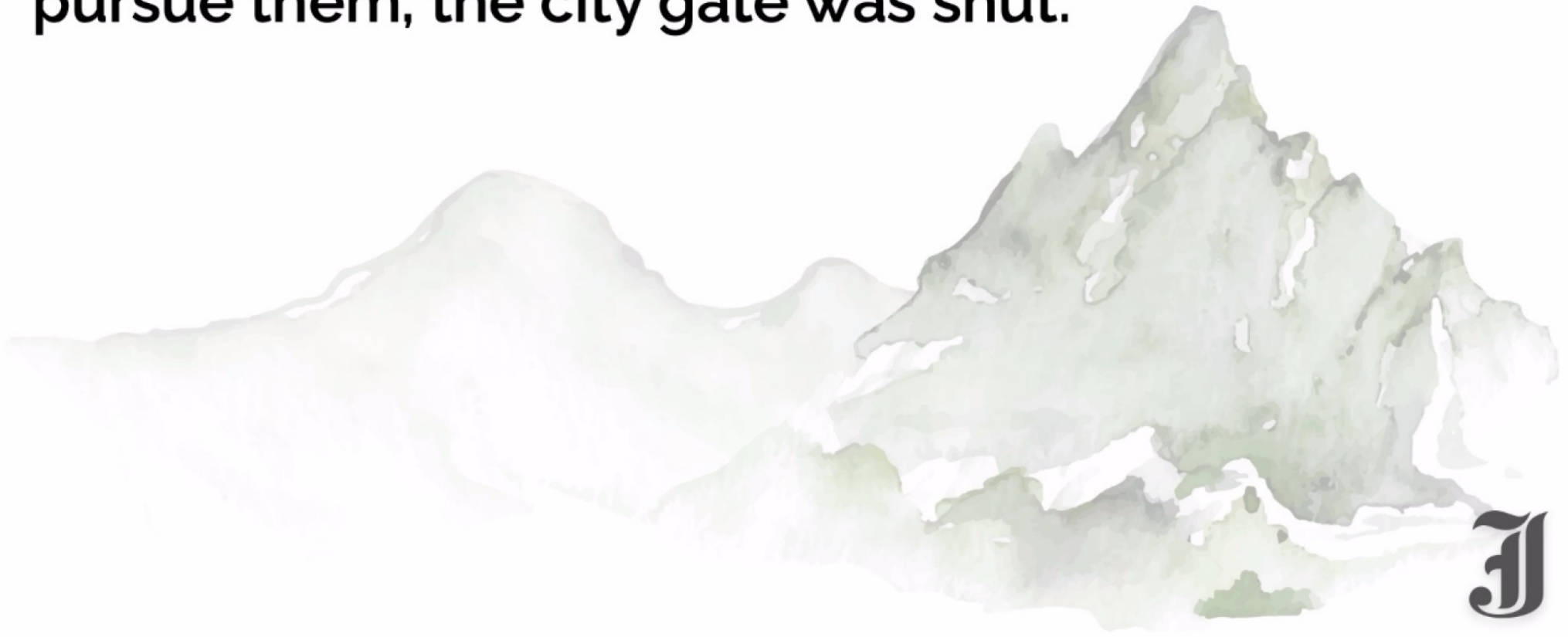




**4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. So she said, "Yes, the men did come to me, but I didn't know where they were from. 5 At nightfall, when the city gate was about to close, the men went out, and I don't know where they were going. Chase after them quickly, and you can catch up with them!" 6 But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among the stalks of flax that she had arranged on the roof. ...**



**7 The men pursued them along the road to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as they left to pursue them, the city gate was shut."**



## LOYALTY TO GOD (vv.1-7)

### Joshua 2:12

“Now please swear to me by the LORD that you will also show kindness [*hesed*] to my father's family, because I showed kindness [*hesed*] to you.”

In Hebrew, this word is *hesed*. It carries the idea of loyalty or faithful love.





## **LOYALTY TO GOD (vv.1-7)**

**“...wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route?”**

**— James 2:25**



## **LOYALTY TO GOD (vv.1-7)**

**“By faith Rahab the prostitute welcomed the spies in peace and didn’t perish with those who disobeyed.”**

**— Hebrews 11:31**



## **CONFESSION OF FAITH (vv.8-13)**

**<sup>8</sup> Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof <sup>9</sup> and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you.**





## **CONFESSION OF FAITH (vv.8-13)**

**<sup>10</sup> 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 Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan. <sup>11</sup> When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.**



## **CONFESSION OF FAITH (vv.8-13)**

Rahab's Confession: "...the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below." (Josh 2:11)

Notice Two Components:

1. She calls God "the LORD"—all caps. That's Yahweh, God's personal covenant name.
2. She confesses Yahweh's complete sovereignty.



## CONFESSION OF FAITH (vv.8-13)

<sup>12</sup> Now please swear to me by the LORD that you will also show kindness [*hesed*] to my father's family, because I showed kindness [*hesed*] to you. Give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death."





## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

<sup>14</sup> The men answered her, “We will give our lives for yours. If you don’t report our mission, we will show kindness and faithfulness to you when the LORD gives us the land.”



## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

<sup>15</sup> Then she let them down by a rope through the window, since she lived in a house that was built into the wall of the city. <sup>16</sup> “Go to the hill country so that the men pursuing you won’t find you,” she said to them. “Hide there for three days until they return; afterward, go on your way.”



## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

### **Echo of Exodus – Saving Israelites**

In Egypt, it's Hebrew midwives who defied Pharaoh to save Israelite boys (Exodus 1:15–17). But now, it's a Gentile prostitute who defies her king to save Israelite men.





## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

**<sup>17</sup> The men said to her, “We will be free from this oath you made us swear, <sup>18</sup> unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother, brothers, and all your father’s family into your house. ...**



## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

**<sup>19</sup> If anyone goes out the doors of your house, his death will be his own fault, and we will be innocent. But if anyone with you in the house should be harmed, his death will be our fault. <sup>20</sup> And if you report our mission, we are free from the oath you made us swear."**



## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

### **Echo of Exodus – The Scarlet Cord of Protection**

In Egypt, Jewish families who painted the lamb's blood on the doorframes were "passed over" when the destroyer came through (Exod. 12:21–23). But now, it's a Gentile family with a scarlet cord in the window who will be passed over when the LORD comes through. This is a "Gentile Passover."





## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

<sup>21</sup> “Let it be as you say,” she replied, and she sent them away. After they had gone, she tied the scarlet cord to the window.



## **SALVATION THROUGH PROMISE (vv.14-21)**

**“...death doesn't pass over them on the ground of the intensity of their faith nor in the confidence of their obedience, but on the ground of the blood of the lamb.”**

**— D.A. Carson**



## **TESTIMONY OF MERCY (vv.22-24)**

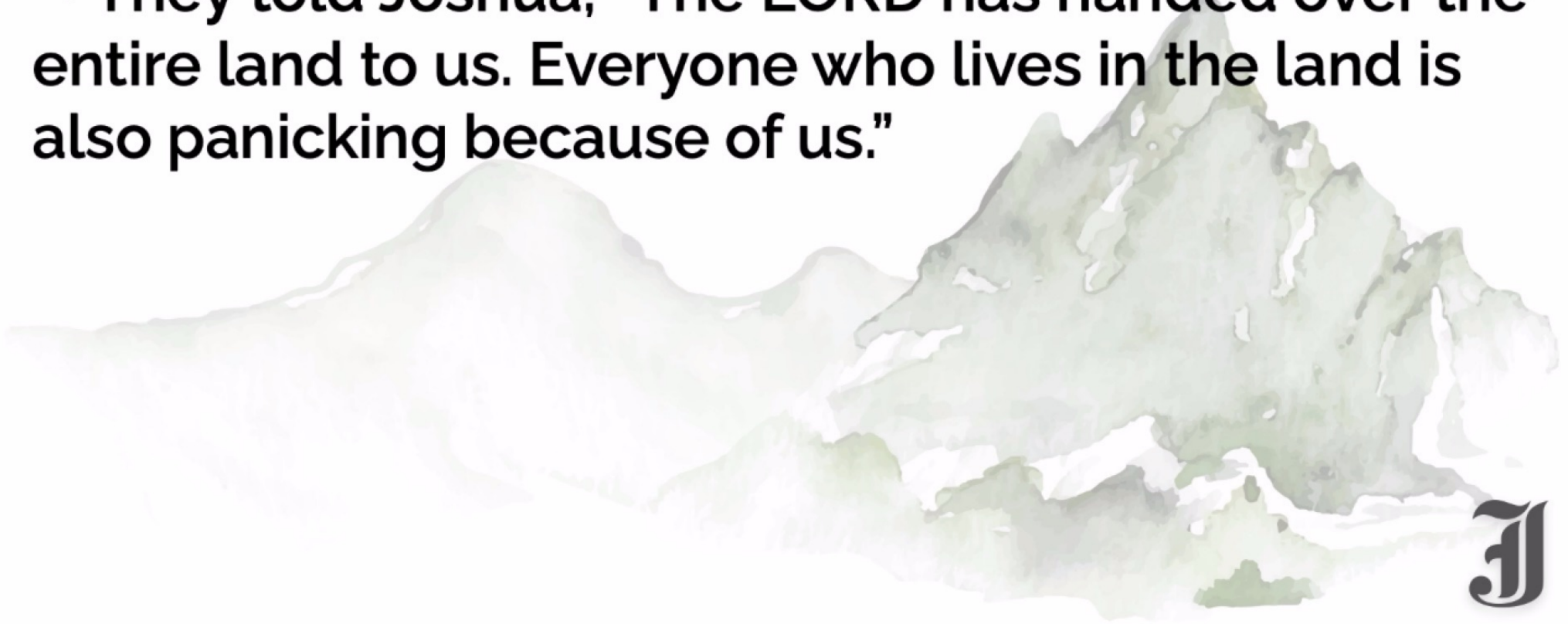
**<sup>22</sup> So the two men went into the hill country and stayed there three days until the pursuers had returned. They searched all along the way, but did not find them. <sup>23</sup> Then the men returned, came down from the hill country, and crossed the Jordan. They went to Joshua son of Nun and reported everything that had happened to them. ...**





## **TESTIMONY OF MERCY (vv.22-24)**

**<sup>24</sup> They told Joshua, “The LORD has handed over the entire land to us. Everyone who lives in the land is also panicking because of us.”**



## **TESTIMONY OF MERCY (vv.22-24)**

...Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, her father's family, and all who belonged to her, because she hid the messengers Joshua had sent to spy on Jericho, and she still lives in Israel today.

— Joshua 6:25

