



Church of God Sunday School

THE RED CORD IN THE WINDOW

Joshua 2:1-24

Joshua had been chosen as the new leader of the Israelites. God said to him: "Be strong and of a good courage: for

unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them" (Joshua 1:6). God promised Joshua that He would be with him wherever he went, just as He was with Moses. So, Joshua went about preparing the people to cross the Jordan River and to enter into the land of Canaan—the land promised to them by God.

Jericho was the first city the Israelites would come to in the land of Canaan. Joshua wanted to learn all about it. So, he sent two spies to the city of Jericho to view it secretly.

The spies came to Jericho and went to the house of a woman named Rahab. Rahab was willing to let the strangers stay there, but the men had been recognized as Israelites when they came into the city. The people of Jericho were very afraid of the Israelites. They had heard of what the Israelites had done to other nations.

When the king of Jericho was told that Israelite spies had come to search out the land, he sent men to Rahab's house to capture the spies. But when the men came to her house, they could not find the spies. The spies were hiding on the roof. The roof was flat and was used for living space. On the roof were orderly bundles of flax (a plant used to make clothing). Rahab had hidden the men among the bundles of flax.

When the king's men did not find the spies at the house of Rahab, they believed the spies had left the city. So, they left the city and hurried toward the river, hoping to catch them.

Sometime after the king's men had left, Rahab went to the roof to talk to the spies. Rahab told the men that the people of Jericho knew of the great deliverance God had given Israel from Egypt and how He dried up the Red Sea for them. The people of Jericho also knew of the destruction Israel had brought on the two kings of the Amorites (*AM-uh-rights*): Sihon (*SAI-hone*) and Og (*AHG*). Rahab said that as

soon as the people had heard of those things, they became fearful and had no courage.

Rahab confessed that God was the Lord of all. She asked the men to promise her that they would show kindness to her and to her whole family by sparing their lives and all that they had.

The spies told Rahab not to tell anyone about them, and they would see that she and her family were spared. The spies said: "Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee."

Rahab promised that she would obey them. She said, "According unto your words, so be it."

Now, the city's wall was wide enough for houses to be built on it, and Rahab's house was on the town wall. When the spies got ready to leave the city, Rahab helped the spies escape by putting a red cord (a red rope) through a window and letting it down the side of the wall. The spies climbed out the window and went down the side of the wall on the red cord.

The men had told Rahab to tie the red cord in the window after they were gone and to gather her mother and father and the rest of her family into her house. They were all to stay inside Rahab's house and await the return of the spies. If they disobeyed and went out, they would risk losing their lives. Rahab wanted her family to be safe, so she hung the red cord in her window and gathered her family together.

The spies went to the mountains to hide for three days. Then, they returned



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to Joshua and told him everything that had happened. They said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us."

The red cord was very important. For the spies, it was a way of escape from their enemies. Rahab trusted that the red cord would help save her and her family from being destroyed when the spies saw it, because they would rescue her and her family. In turn, the spies

looked for the red cord in order to keep their promise to rescue Rahab and her family.

The red cord may be seen as a type of Jesus' blood. Trusting in His blood is the way out of sin for us. We ask God to forgive us, and we trust in Jesus' blood to save us from sin, just as Rahab trusted in the red cord. Jesus sees our faith in His blood, and He forgives our sins and rescues us from sin, just as the spies saw the red cord and rescued Rahab and her family.

MEMORY VERSE:

"By faith . . . Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."

—Hebrews 11:31
