

do over

read *or* listen

J o s h u a 2

do over

Joshua chose two men for an assignment that made almost no strategic sense. God had already promised them the land. He had already guaranteed victory. He had already melted the hearts of their enemies. And to top it off, the spies themselves would prove terrible at their job—discovered almost immediately, forced into hiding, completely dependent on a Canaanite prostitute for protection.

SO WHY *send* THEM?

Perhaps Joshua remembered all too well the last time twelve men walked this road. He remembered the weight of the cluster of grapes, the vastness of the land, the thrill of seeing God's promise with his own eyes... and the heartbreak that followed when ten voices drowned out faith with fear.

Joshua knew what it felt like to stand in the minority, clinging to God's Word while an entire nation shrank back. He knew how costly unbelief had been—forty years of wandering, forty years of funerals, forty years of waiting for a generation willing to trust God.

So this time, he sent two—

THE NUMBER OF *faith*
NOT *fear*

This mission was never about gathering intel. It was about redemption. It was a do-over for a nation standing on the same ground where their fathers had once retreated. These two spies were stepping into a story larger than reconnaissance—they were stepping into God's restoration of Israel's faith.

do over

remember

Crossing the Jordan is a choice everyone must make.



answer the question

Which tribes chose to settle before crossing the Jordan?

- _____
- _____
- _____

homework

Why send the spies?

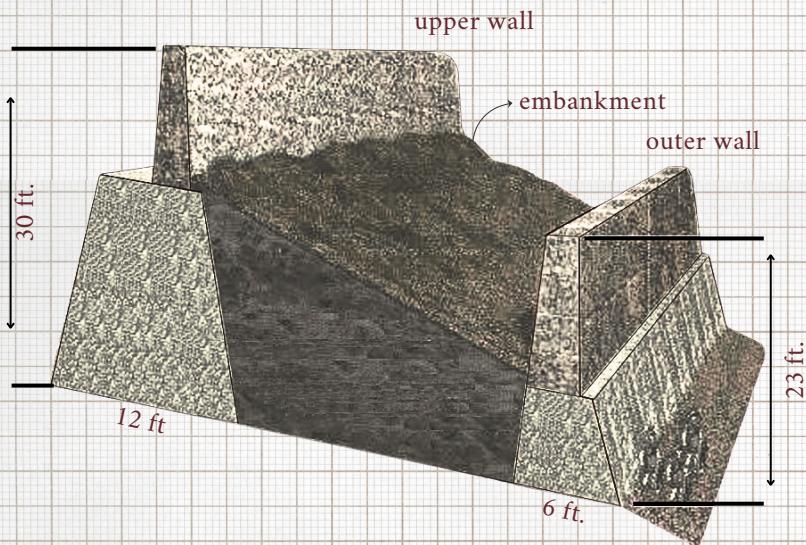
This is the question we will do our best to answer in the next few lessons. On the wilderness side of the Jordan River, Joshua selected two men from the multitude for a quiet, deliberate assignment. What followed was not merely reconnaissance, but a moment that would test trust, obedience, and the unseen work of God.



JERICHO JERICHO J

Jericho was on high alert. From its elevated position, the city could see Israel camped across the Jordan—an encroaching presence too large to ignore. The stories had already reached its gates: a people delivered from Egypt, victories east of the river, a God who fought for them. Fear moved faster than messengers, and the city braced for what seemed inevitable.

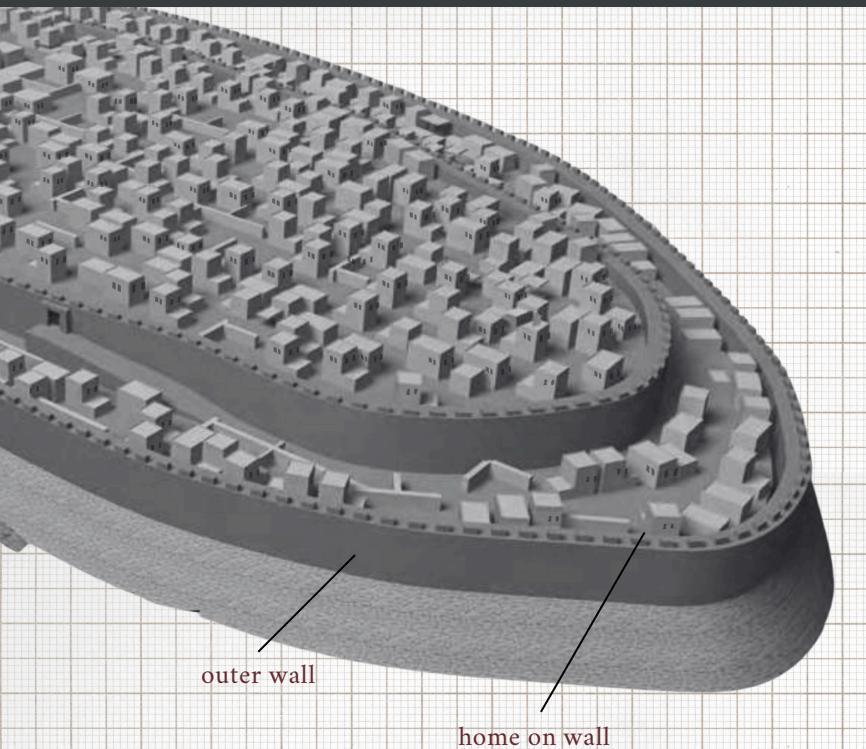
Archaeology reveals just how formidable the city was. One of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world, Jericho was protected by a sophisticated dual-wall system. Excavations at Tell es-Sultan reveal a massive stone retaining wall at the base of the mound, topped by a mudbrick wall, with a second wall rising above it on the crest. Together, these fortifications formed a steep, imposing barrier—designed not only to repel enemies, but to control movement and access. Entry points were limited. Strangers stood out immediately.





JERICHO JERICHO JERICHO

inside the city



Inside the inner city lived those with status and authority—soldiers, officials, priests, and landowners. Narrow streets wound upward toward administrative buildings and storehouses. This was a tightly watched space, where guards monitored the gates and neighbors monitored one another. Unknown men wandering freely would have drawn suspicion. Access to the inner city, especially for foreigners, was extremely dangerous.

The outer wall, however, told a different story. Homes built directly into the wall overlooked the plains below, their windows opening outward rather than inward. These dwellings occupied the margins—both structurally and socially. Often used as inns or brothels, they housed travelers and merchants and served as places where news, rumors, and whispered reports passed freely. They were close enough to feel the pulse of Jericho, yet distant enough to escape its tight control.

This is where Rahab lived.

So, the spies set off. Rather than intentionally choosing the location,
they may have simply gone where travelers went.
Yet whatever obscurity they hoped for proved short-lived.

Read | Joshua 2:2-6

What immediately happened according to verse 2? _____

Go boots on the ground here with the spies. In the silence of that hidden room, every second felt like a lifetime. Imagine what they would feel, would they would hear.

Read | Joshua 2:7

Royal intelligence brought the king's soldiers straight to Rahab's house—yet they took her word and departed. This is unbelievable Read Proverbs 21:1. What does this moment reveal about God's providence, and how is it displayed here?

The spies were not exactly ninjas. The terrifying truth is... they could have ended up anywhere in Jericho—any inn, any brothel, any dangerous situation. But God led them straight to this house, to Rahab. No question: they were safe because of her.

Rahab risked everything—her life, her home—to protect them. Once the soldiers had gone and the coast was clear, she came up to the roof to speak with the spies. Her words of faith were stunning, and revealed the favor the spies were shown.

Read | Joshua 2:8-13

What information did Rahab give to the spies that told of the spiritual and emotional condition of the city? (Note the tenses in verse 9.)

Read | Exodus 15:14–16 and Deuteronomy 2:25

What had the Lord said long, long before? According to verse 11 of our text, when did Jericho melt in fear?

Why was Rahab's reaction to the news about Israel so radically different from her city's?

remember this!



Fear is the enemy of faith
Faith is the antidote to fear

Read | Joshua 2:14-21

Rahab's window opened onto the outer wall. The only hills in the region were to the north—full of caves. It was the safest place for the spies to escape and hide.

Before the men left, they made an agreement—a covenant—with Rahab. What was the agreement, and what stipulations were included? Summarize in your own words.

Read | Joshua 2:22-23

The two men returned safe and sound—thanks to the Lord’s divine protection through Rahab the prostitute—told Joshua the entire wild story, and concluded with their official assessment.

Write | Joshua 2:24

wield the sword

Why send spies at all?

If God already promised the land...

If Jericho was already trembling...

If no battle tactics were gained...

What was the point?

Reason #1 | The Redemption of Many

Forty years earlier, fear kept Israel out of the land. Now they stand in the same place.

Read | Hebrews 3:7-19

How many spies had a good report last time? _____

What disqualified the nation from entering the first time? _____

At the edge of familiar ground—where fear once dictated the outcome—

Israel faced the chance to step forward with a different response.

The setting had not changed, but their choice could.

Our God is the God of second chances and more and more. He is also a Covenant-Keeping God. There is nothing we can do to mess up His faithfulness to us. The Promised Land was promised land, and God would keep that promise.

consider

Micah 7:18-19

&

Psalm 78:5-11

<hr/>	<hr/>

Why send spies at all?

FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE NATION

and

FOR THE REDEMPTION OF *one*

That's next time...

stepping forward



Sometimes God leads us back to the very places where fear once won—not to shame us, but to give us a new victory. Before Israel ever faced the walls of Jericho, the real battle was fought in their hearts, where faith had to rise and replace fear. The spies' quiet mission into Jericho whispered something of God's larger heart: He is always working redemption, both for a people and for a single soul like Rahab.

This generation stood on the same soil where their parents faltered, but this time God offered a holy do-over. On the banks of their past failure, where fear once stole their courage, the Lord invited them to choose faith instead. Here, redemption opened wide its door. Here, tests became testimonies, mistakes became ministry, and shame lost its grip. This time, they trusted Him—and a nation stepped into a new beginning.

Our God is the God of second chances, and then more still. He is patient, kind, and fully aware of the blessing waiting on the other side of our obedience. He wants us to walk in it..

So don't be surprised if you find yourself standing again in a familiar place where your faith once wavered. That ground is not a reminder of failure—it is an invitation. There, He offers you the chance to trust Him anew, to watch beauty rise from ashes, and to let Him

rewrite YOUR story