

God's Secret Agent
Joshua 2
August 3, 2025

Joshua 2 is one of the greatest spy stories ever told.

I. Uncovering God's Secret Mission

Joshua has been commissioned by the Lord to lead Israel to take possession of the land of Canaan. 500 years earlier the Lord promised this land to Abram. Now the time has come to take possession of the land.

Joshua prepares for the invasion by sending two spies into the land, particularly to Jericho, to gather information that will assure a successful campaign.

The mission of the two spies is top secret. Only Joshua knows of their mission.

There is a high sense of drama contained in this story as these two spies are sent to uncover information that will play a crucial role in determining the success or failure of this invasion.

II. Uncovering God's Secret Agents

The spies cover, "They went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there."

The spies are uncovered:

Entering Rahab's house of ill repute provided the spies "cover" and an easy way to escape detection. Unfortunately, what seemed like a clever idea, turned out not being very clever at all. The spies were quickly found out. They and their mission are compromised as the king of Jericho is told of their presence. "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land" vs. 3. The spies cover is blown and "Mission Impossible" is now an impossible mission.

Rahab is uncovered:

Rahab took the two men, hid them on her roof, and then told the soldiers the spies had left. "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from ... Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them" verses 4,5. In a very strange twist to the story, we discover that Rahab is God's secret agent and reveals valuable information to the two Israelite spies that their mission is not impossible. In the strange providence of God, a prostitute becomes a prophet of the one true God. "I know that the Lord has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us ..." verses 9-11.

The Holy Spirit is uncovered:

Rahab confesses belief in the Lord God of Israel. "The Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below" vs. 11. Her conversion is a result of God's secret agent at work in her life, the Holy Spirit. This work of the Holy Spirit is not fully revealed to us until his outpouring at Pentecost.

Christ's life-giving death is uncovered:

The scarlet cord by which Rahab let the spies down and later hangs in her window, functions like the blood of the Passover lamb when the Lord struck down the firstborn of Egypt. Down through history, the church has seen this scarlet cord as a secret code pointing to Christ's life-giving death on the cross, signifying it's only by the blood of Christ we are saved!

III. Uncovering God's Lessons

- We can succeed in God's calling as individuals and as a church because God's Secret Agent, the Holy Spirit, is at work preparing the way for us to move into the future. Living in this knowledge provides motivation and strength to carry out God's calling.
- God uses unholy people to accomplish his saving purposes. This includes others and ourselves. All of us have some "Rahab" in us where we have prostituted ourselves to other gods, and so need God's salvation and need to change from our sinful ways and to the way of life God gives. God's calling providentially guides and forces change on us so that we give up the life we were living with its sinful behaviors and habits, and embrace the life God gives that calls us into God's mission to redeem this world.

Rahab married Salmon and had a son named Boaz. Boaz married Ruth and had a son named Obed who was the father of Jesse who was the father of David from whom came Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God.

- God's calling involves ministering to people regardless of who they are and embracing them with his love.

Knowledge is power; and in this story, we uncover knowledge that is crucial to the success of taking up God's calling. God's Secret Agent, the Holy Spirit, is at work preparing the way for us to carry out the Lord's calling. He is also directing us to the one thing that can save us, the life-giving blood of Jesus Christ.