

After Moses died, Joshua became the leader of the children of Israel. Joshua was a very good man. He was faithful to God just like Moses had been. It was time for God to help the Israelites go into the Promised Land. God had been with Moses and helped him. Now God would be with Joshua. God told Joshua many times to “Be strong and courageous”. God told Joshua two things to remember. He told him to always remember the law that had been given to Moses. And God told Joshua to think about the laws every day and night. These laws were written to help all of the people.

Then Joshua told the leaders to tell all the people they would be crossing the Jordan River in 3 days. They would start their journey into the Promised Land.

Joshua and the children of Israel were on the east side of the Jordan River. This land on the east side of the river had been given to Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. Joshua told these men they would still need to cross the river with the other Israelites to help fight for the land God had promised them. They were told to leave their wives and children there. When the fighting was over, they would return to live with their families on the east side of the Jordan River.

The people trusted Joshua because they knew God was with him. They told Joshua they would do all the things he asked them to do. They told Joshua they would listen to him just like they had listened to Moses. (Joshua 1:17) The Israelites told Joshua to “be strong and of good courage”. (Joshua 1:18)

Joshua chose two men to go across the Jordan River and spy secretly on the new land of Canaan. Right across the Jordan River was the city of Jericho. Joshua told the two spies to look at the city of Jericho. Jericho was a wicked city. It had a big wall all the way around it.

The two spies went into the city of Jericho. They went to the house of a lady named Rahab to find a place to sleep. They stayed at Rahab's house.

Someone in the city saw the two spies and knew they did not live in Jericho. They went to the king and told him about seeing them at Rahab's house.

The king of Jericho sent guards to Rahab's house to find the two men.

Rahab told the two spies to lay down on the roof of her house. She spread flax over them to hide them. Rahab told the guards the men had been there, but she did not know where they had come from. Rahab told the guards the two spies had already escaped over the wall of the city. She told the guards to hurry after them and try to catch them before they got away. The guards believed her and went after the two spies.

Rahab told the two spies she was afraid because she knew how strong the Israelites were. She had heard how God dried up the water and led the people out of Egypt. She knew God had led the Israelites through the wilderness. Rahab told the spies that she knew God was the God of the heaven and the earth. (Joshua 2:13)

Rahab had helped the spies by hiding them from the guards. Now she wanted them to save her and her family. The spies told Rahab to bring her family into her house and they would save them. The spies told Rahab they were going to destroy the city. All of her family in her house would be saved. Any family who left the house would die. The spies asked Rahab not to tell anyone about them.

Rahab lived on the edge of the city. Her window was on the outside wall of the city. Rahab put a rope out of her window. She helped the two spies escape by going down the rope. (Joshua 2:15)

The two spies told Rahab to mark her house by hanging a red rope from the window. Rahab told the spies to go into the mountains for three days until the guards stopped looking for them. The spies went to the mountain and hid for three days so the king's men could not find them. Rahab did what the spies asked and placed a red rope out her window. She wanted to be ready when the Israelites came to destroy the city.

After three days, the two spies crossed the Jordan River and went back to Joshua. They told him everything that had happened. They told Joshua they knew it was true that God had given them the land. They told him that all of the people in the land of Canaan were afraid of the Israelites.