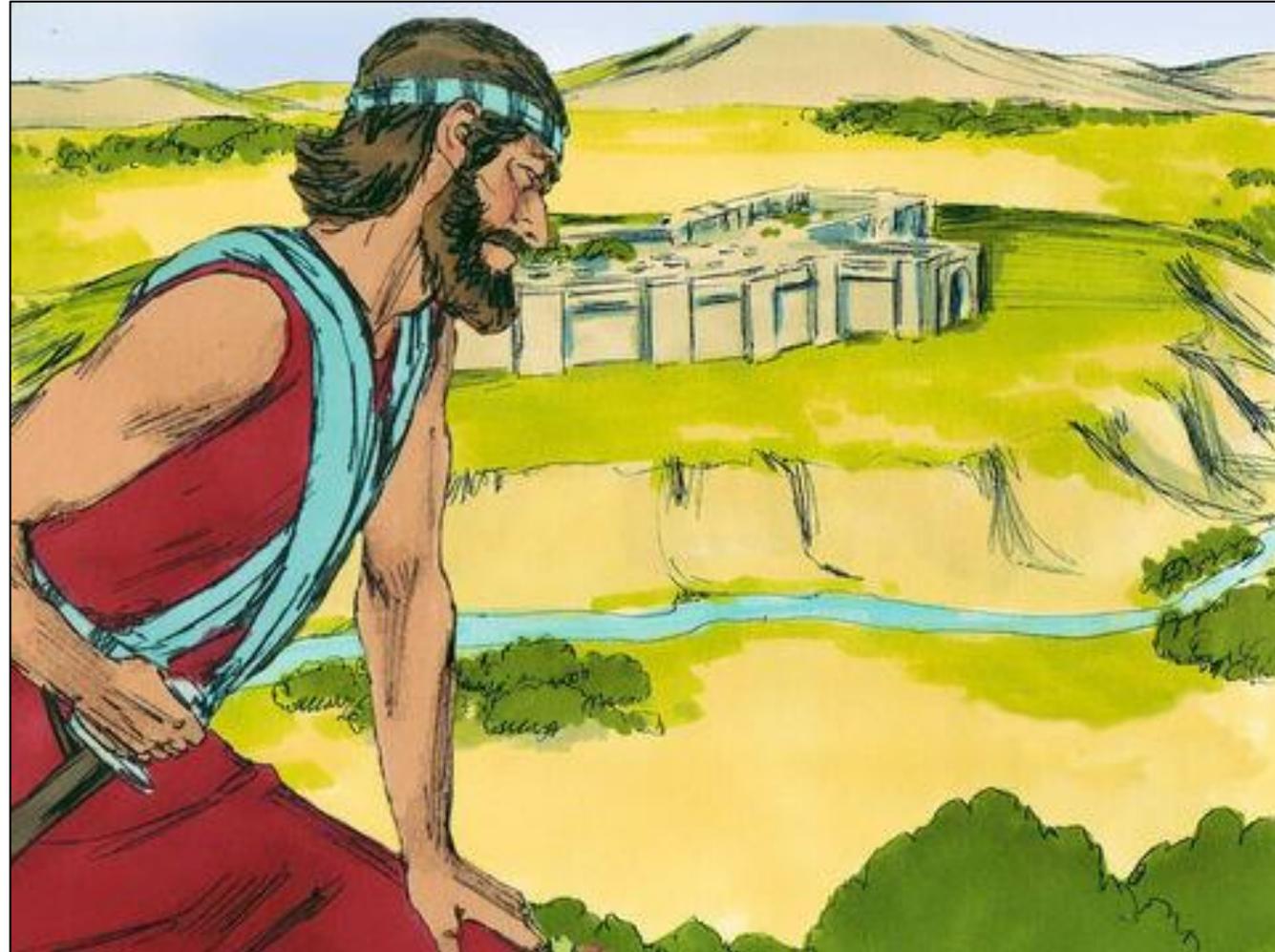


What is it like over there?

Joshua Chapter 2

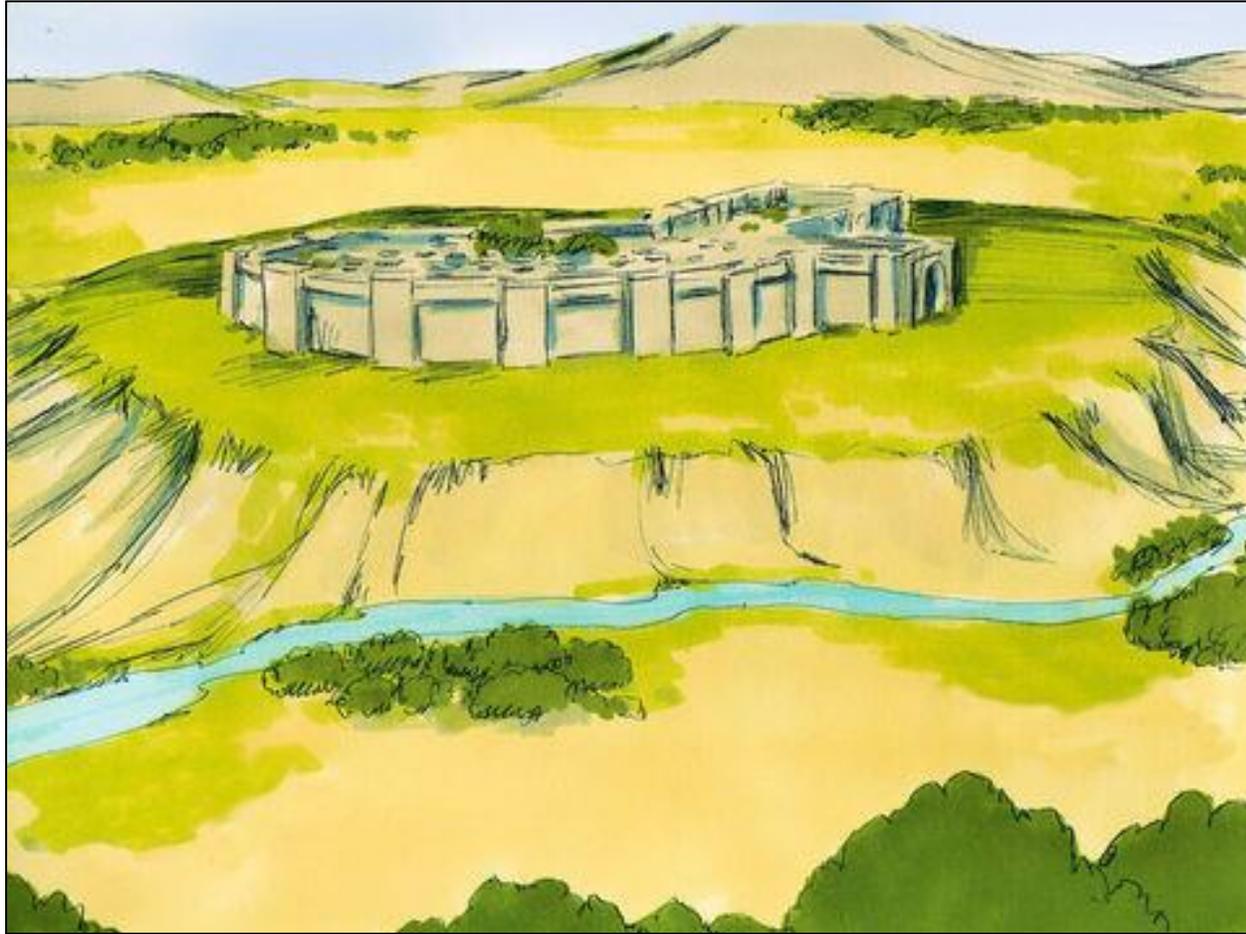


Then Joshua son of Nun **secretly** sent two spies from Shittim (Acacia Grove).



He didn't tell everybody. What was their mission? gather information

Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho."



First and strategic location

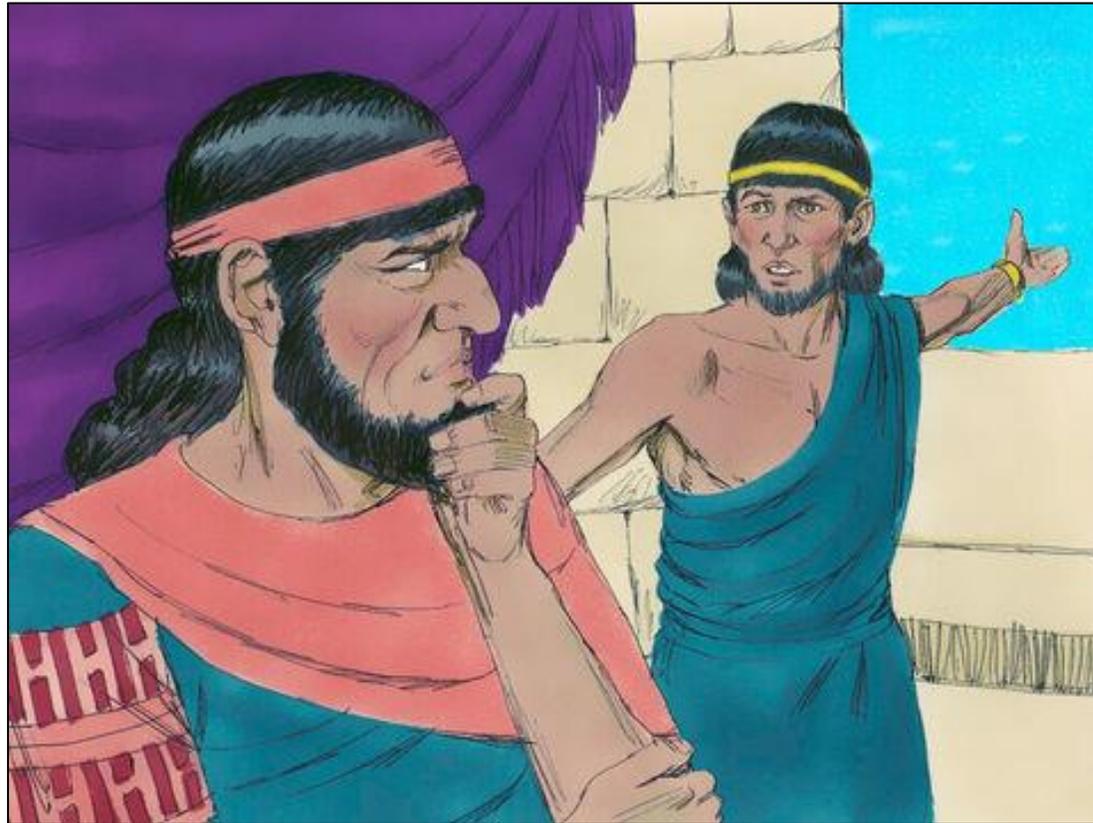


So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.



Not to raise suspicion

The king of Jericho was told, "Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab..



Word gets out : How did they know? – part of test for Rahab

So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab.. "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."



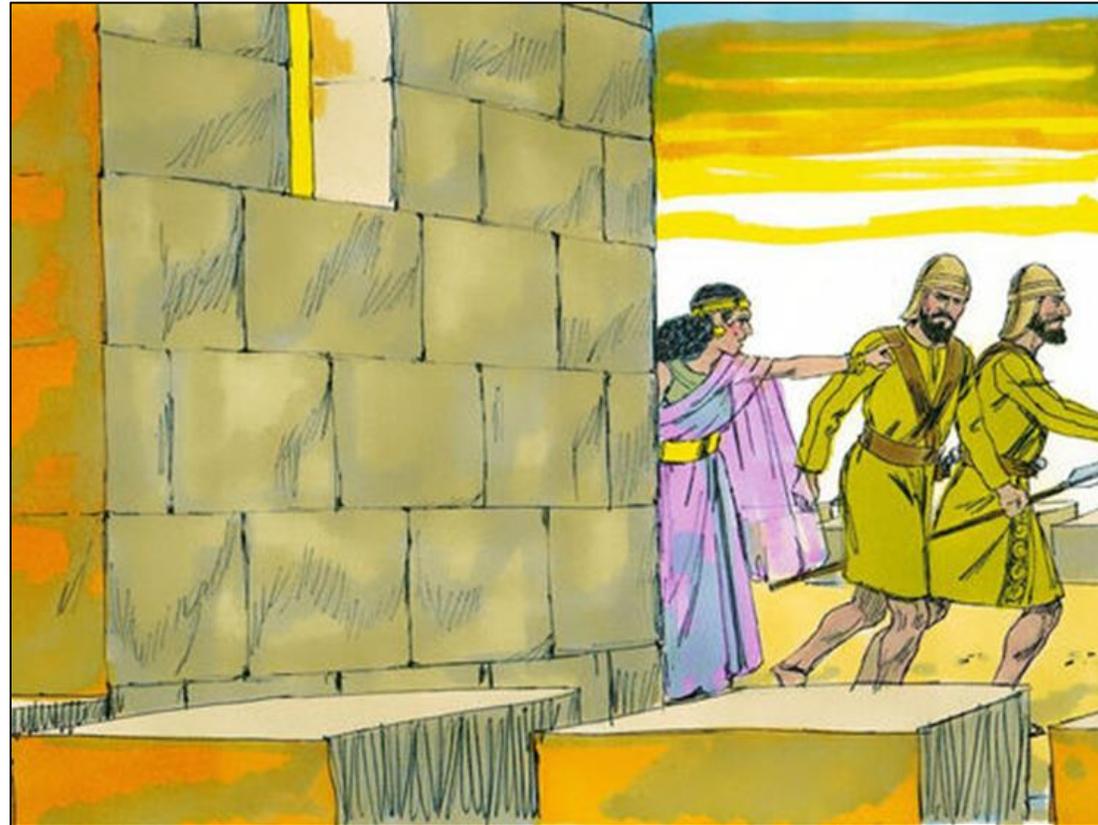
Their demand – turn them in! (a choice to make)
What time did the guards come?

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them.



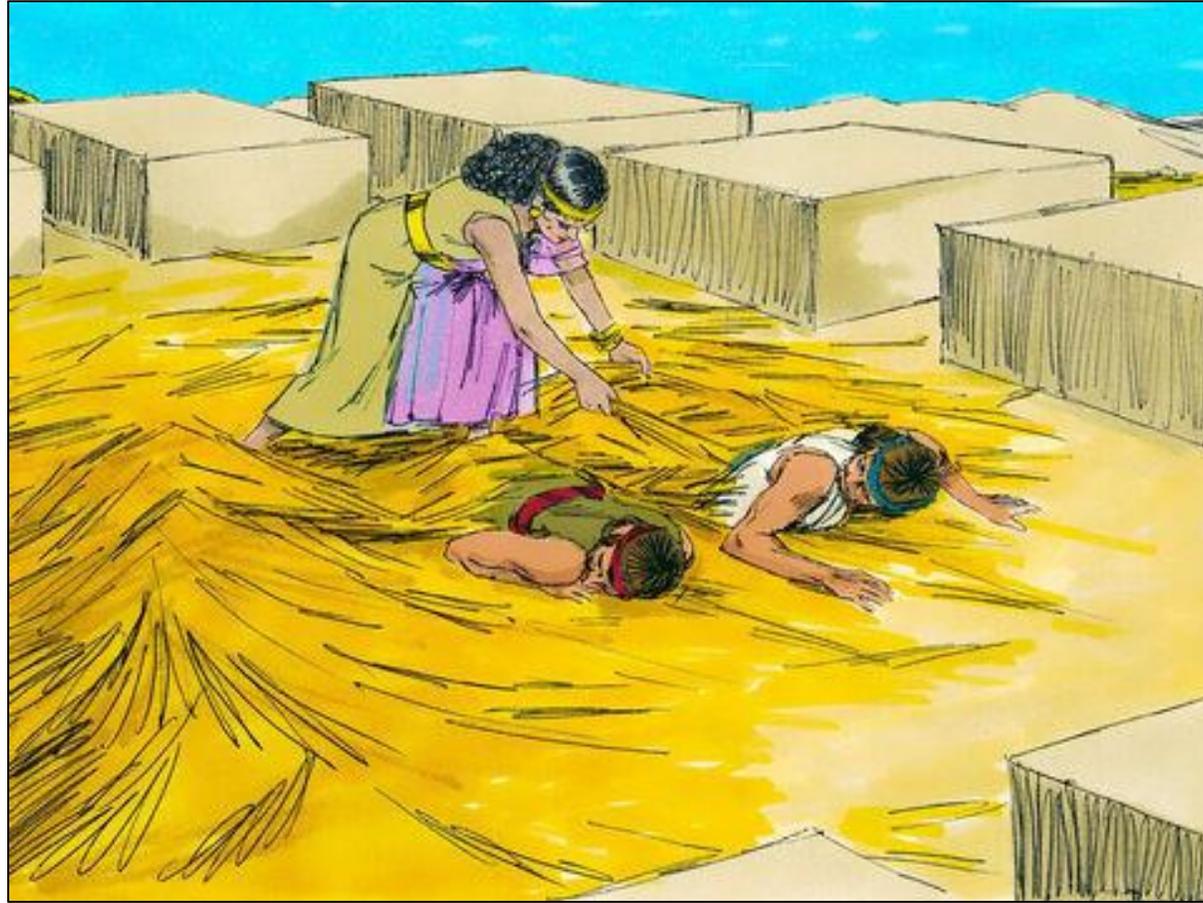
Already prepared ?

She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them."



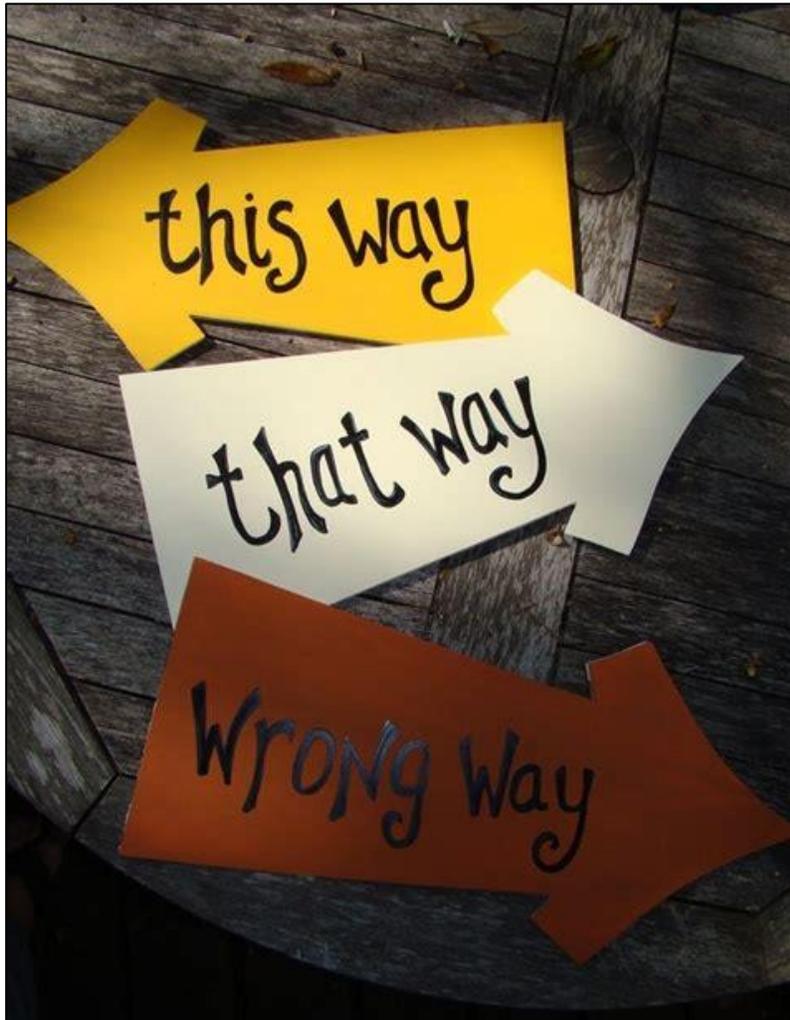
A bit of a tale!

(But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)



Flat roof – observable by others?

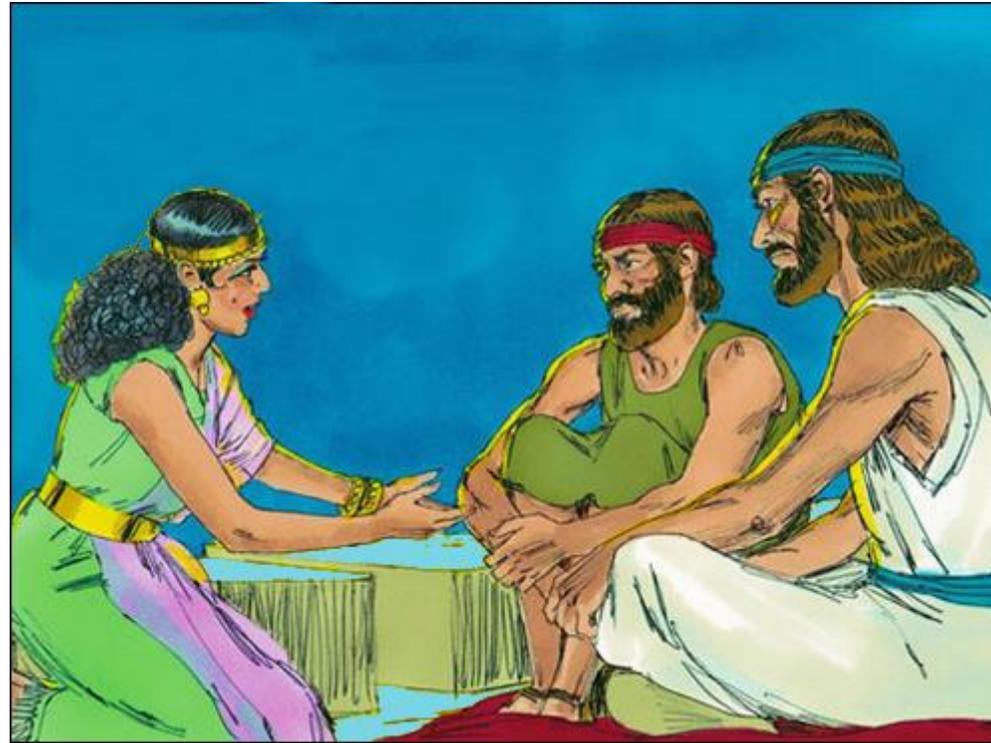
So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.



Assume they are heading back to camp

Locked in ! Do they suspect they are still in the city?

Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you.



How did she find out about them?
Fear of God or fear of consequences?

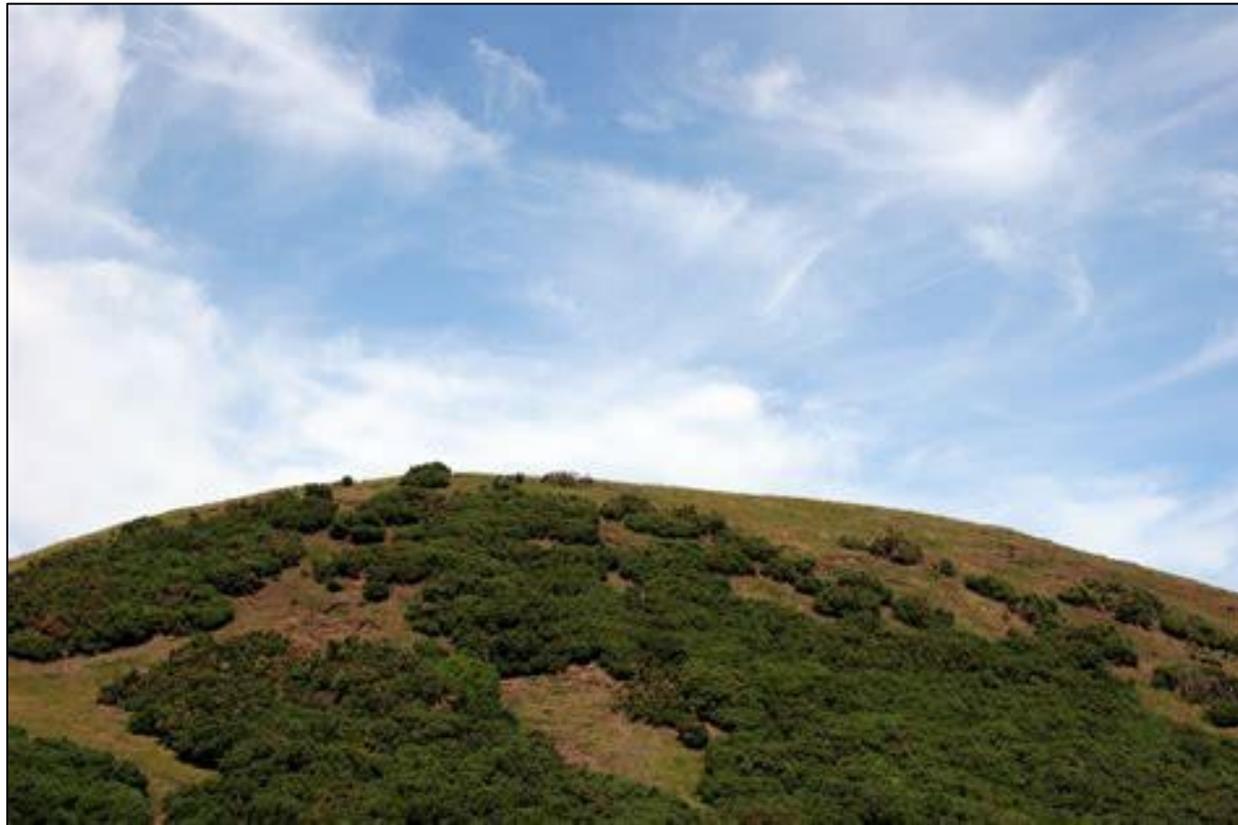
We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.



Word got round (40 years before and recently)
She acknowledges the Lord's hand in it

When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone`s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

He is the big God - no local deity



Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you.

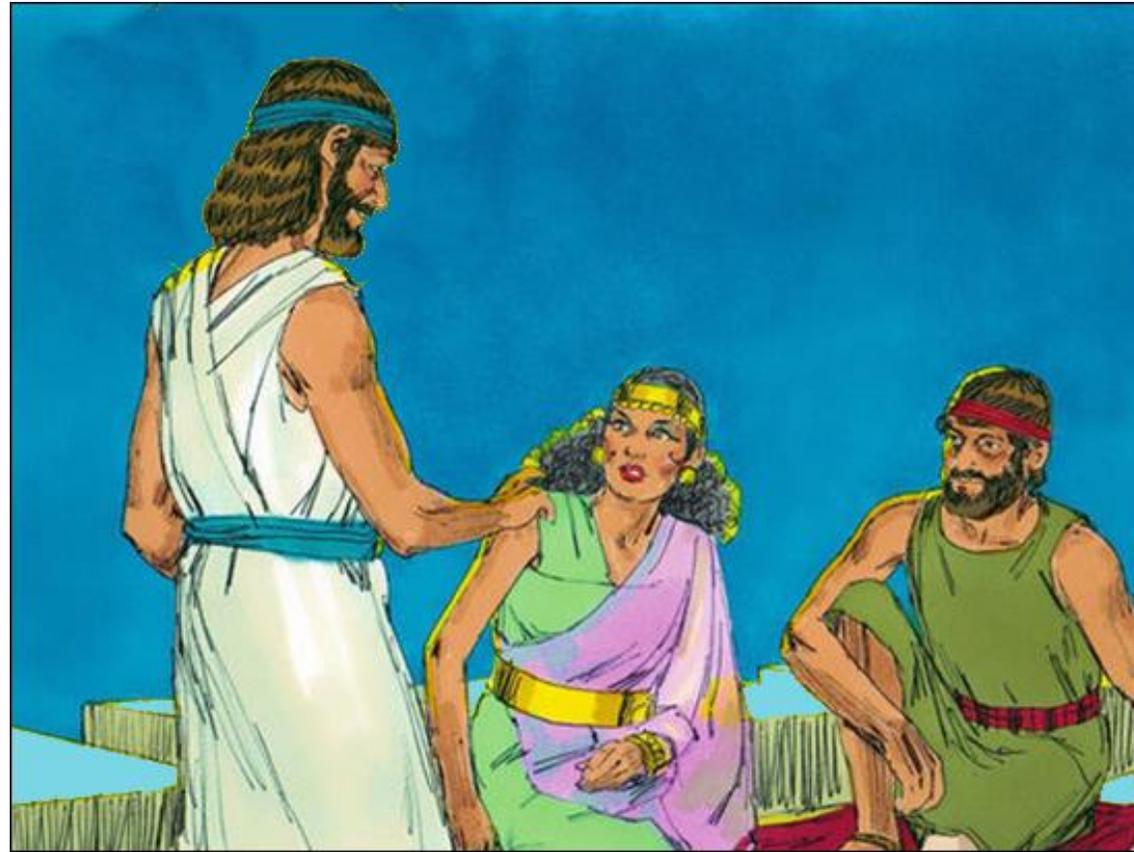
A binding promise (by the LORD)
Plea for others as a return favour



Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death."

What sign(guarantee) does she want?

"Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land."



OK if No word! (certainty of outcome – not like previous spies)

So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.



Gate locked

Outside wall – just by chance? Strong-walled city

Now she had said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way."



Her advice – good (not the expected direction or time)
vs. 'Get out as fast as you can'.

The men said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down,

Here is the sign condition



It's only your house – outside is death

and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.



outside

inside

If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible.

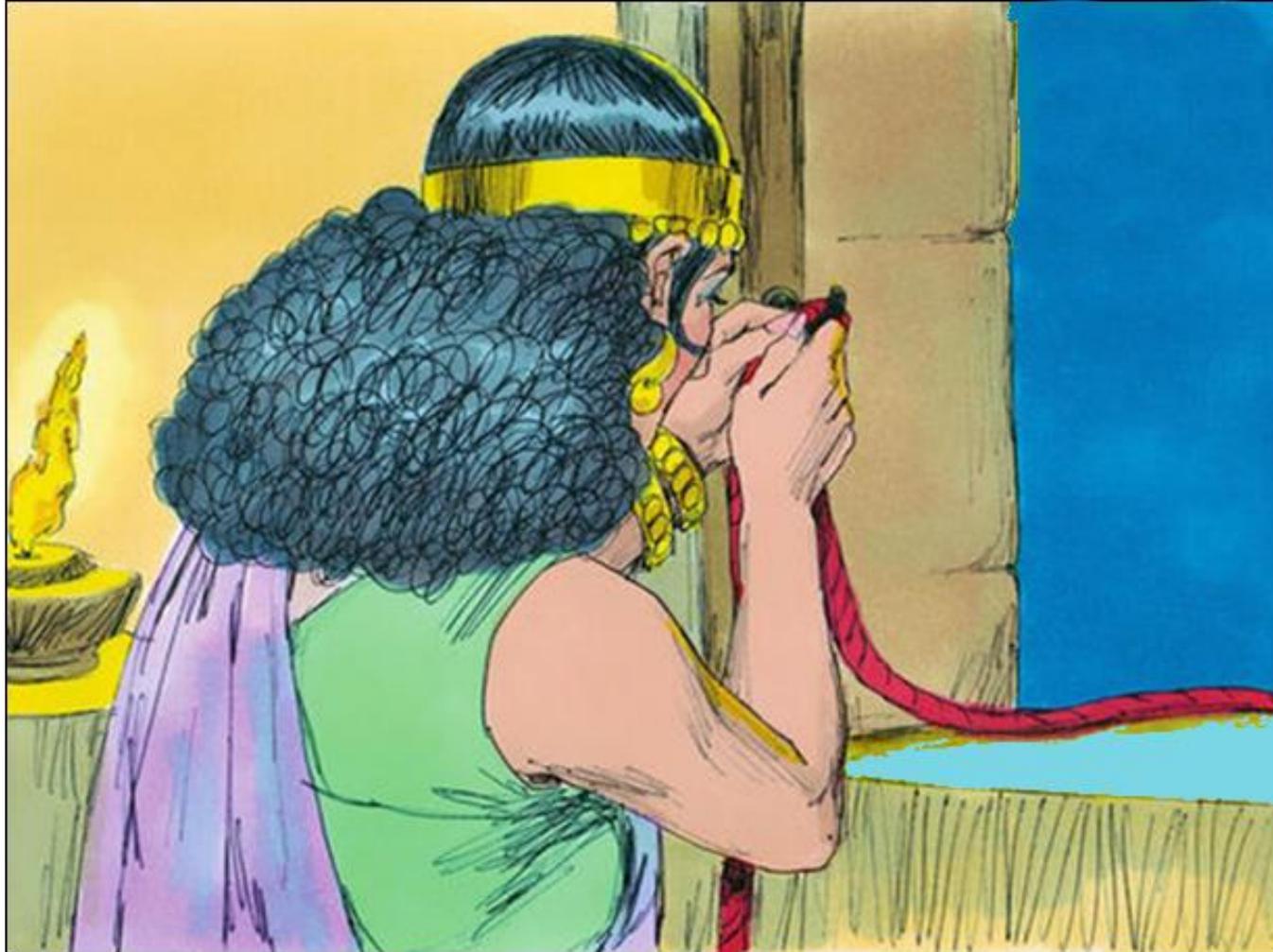
It's only your house – inside is our responsibility



As for anyone who is in the house with you, his blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on him. But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear." "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say."

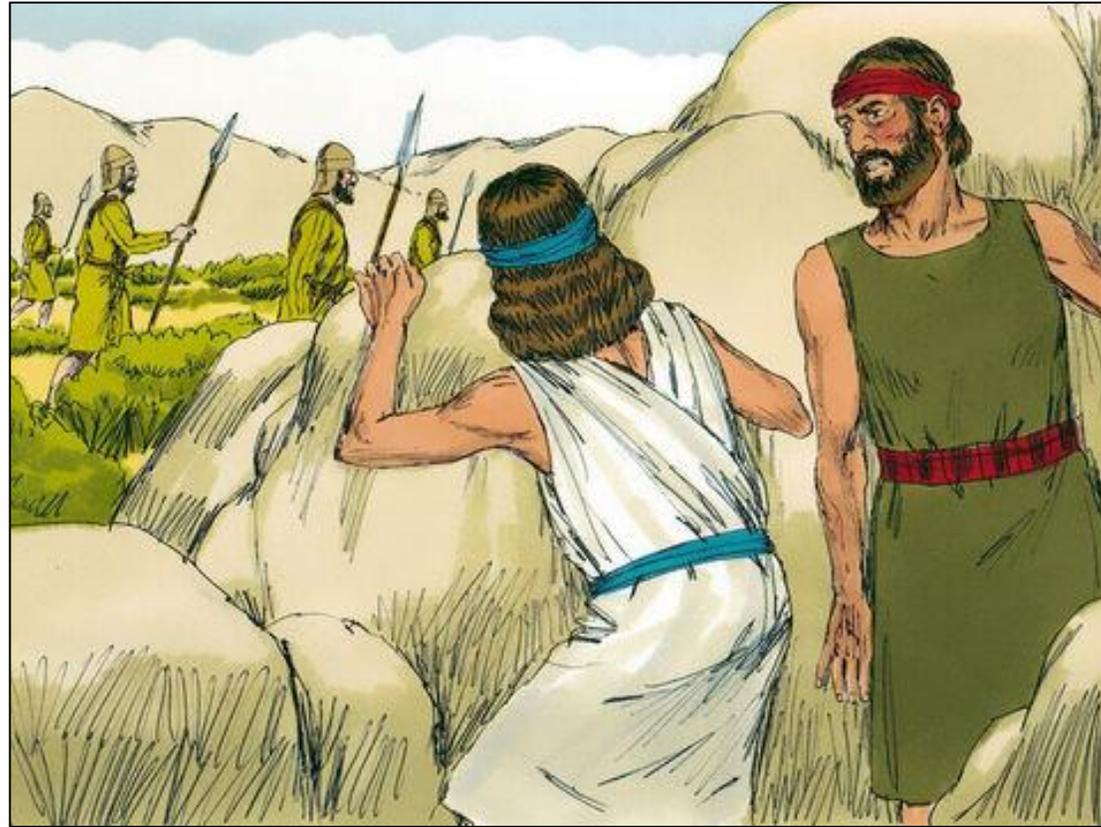
We take responsibility for all inside – if ...
no talk. agreed. To your terms

So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.



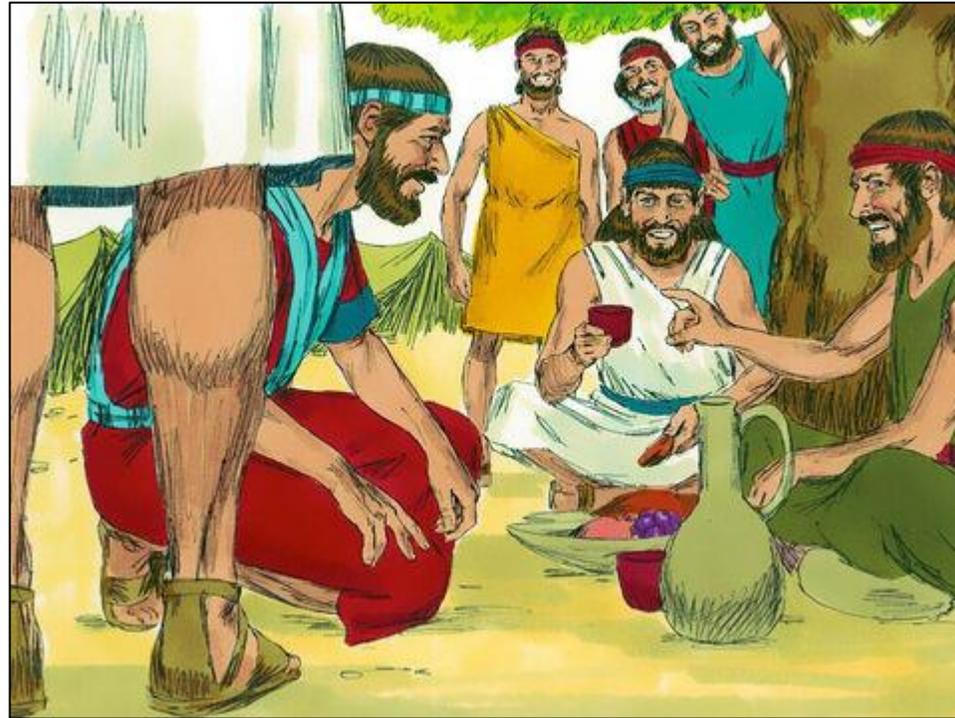
Straight away (made sure every day?). Would it raise suspicions ?

When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. Then the two men started back.



The plan worked

They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. They said to Joshua, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."



Back to camp with good news – lay of land info?

Why did God get Rahab involved?

Rahab had come to believe that the God of Israel, the LORD, was the creator of the heavens and the earth.



How will she escape from the city doomed to destruction.
God will make a way.

An Example of faith

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

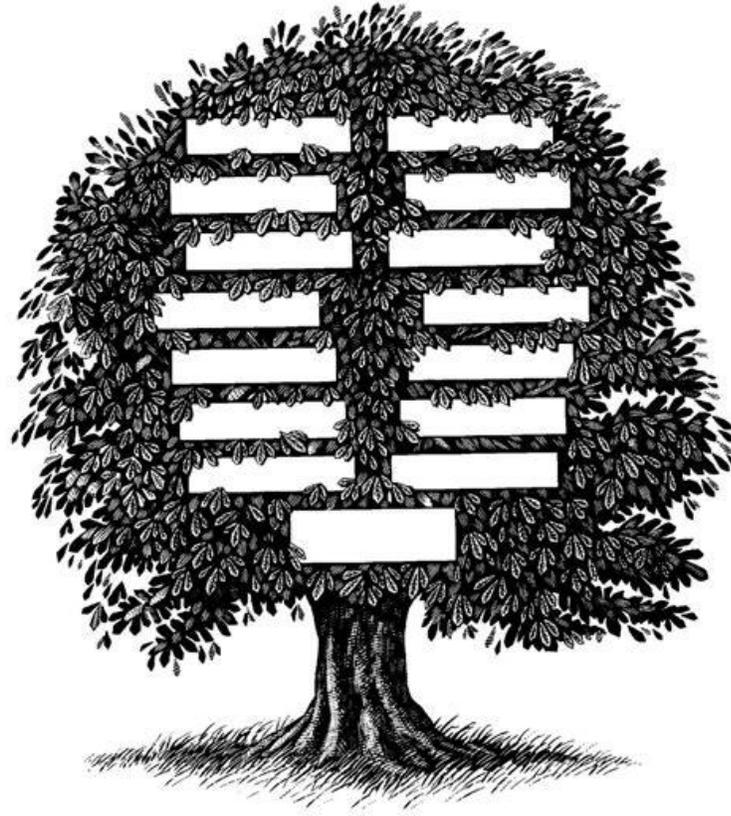
James 2:25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

Hope for rejects



Matthew 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

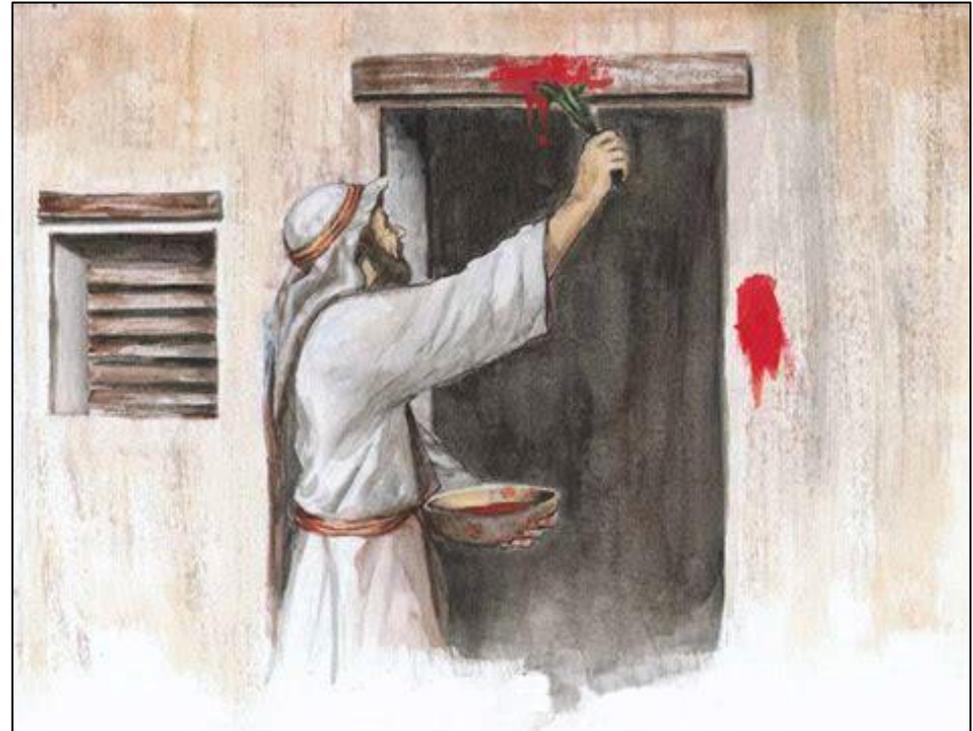
The Ancestry of Messiah



Matthew 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,

No hope without the rope

An Exodus reminder



1 Corinthians 5:7 Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.