

Grace

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Joshua 2

Grace, so often only associated with the New Testament and the coming of Jesus, is on full display in Joshua. To what effort will God go to save a people who will believe? We shall see that the God of the cross is the God of the conquest.

Chapters 1 and 2 form the foundation of the book of Joshua. These chapters establish a vital principle of theology. Blessing is received, not a success to be earned. **James 1:17**, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Let's look at the emphasis of the gift that God is giving in Joshua: the land itself.

1. God declared He has given Israel the gift (**Joshua 1:1-3**)
2. A Canaanite prostitute confesses God has given Israel the gift (**Joshua 2:9**)
3. Israel's spies report that God has given them the Land (**Joshua 2:24**)

What was withheld for 40 years in judgment is now being given to Israel by grace. In Chapter 2, that gift, that grace, is extended freely and fully to this Canaanite city of Jericho, and yet only a few will receive it.

That raises a harder question. If the gift is offered freely, why doesn't everyone receive it? The invitation was offered to the whole city of Jericho, and no one was turned away who came – but no dead heart has ever made itself alive. The one who received the gift did so because grace went in ahead of her and gave her a new heart to receive it.

I. When Grace Arrives, What Do the People of Jericho Do? (Joshua 2:8-11)

- A. The Revealed Truth – Jericho knew! (Joshua 2:9)
- B. The Undeniable History – Jericho heard! (Joshua 2:10).
- C. The Confession – Jericho melted but didn't bow! (Joshua 2:11)
- D. The Disastrous Fortification – Jericho's problem (Joshua 6:1). Jericho's problem was not that they didn't know. They knew the truth, but they would not bow — and a heart that knows God and will not bow does not stay still; it builds. Their dread didn't drive them out to mercy. It drove them deeper behind the wall, and the wall they trusted became the tomb they died in (**See Romans 1:21; James 2:19**).
 1. Jackman, “*The truth of who God is and what he has done for his people has already penetrated Jericho, and when the word of God gets into enemy territory, only two reactions are possible. Either there is faith in the greatness of the Lord and a casting of oneself entirely on his mercy (vv. 12, 13), or there is fear, which determines to resist God's supremacy, challenge his will, and continue to fight against his purposes.*”¹

II. Why was Rahab Saved and Not Jericho? (Joshua 2:12-14)

- A. Same evidence and the same dread but opposite direction (**Joshua 2:11**)
- B. Locked gates or open windows? (**Joshua 2:12-14**) The difference was not Rahab it was God: she had the least, she was a pagan, a prostitute, with no claim or covenant with God.
- C. The Faith response of Rahab (godly fear, belief, disarming/welcome, peace; **James 2:25**)
 1. She risked her life and the life of her family.
- D. The question is not, “Have you felt afraid of God,” but “What was your response to fear?”

III. What Does Grace Require of the One Being Saved? (Joshua 2:17-21)

- A. The Place - Noah's ark – one appointed place of refuge (**Genesis 7:16**, “The LORD shut him in”)
- B. The Door – The Passover door – the blood was the appointed sign (**Ex 12:13, 22-23**)
- C. The Window – Rahab's window is the place, the scarlet cord is the sign and salvation reaches all who are under the sign and inside the house. No one outside the house is saved.
- D. Salvation is personal. The appointed sign is what saves — but each person must come under it himself, and faith is how he comes. Personal belief brings a person inside the place of refuge God appointed;

¹ Jackman, David. 2014. *Joshua: People of God's Purpose*. Edited by R. Kent Hughes. Preaching the Word. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

your father's faith won't save you (**Joshua 2:19**, "*if anyone goes out... his blood shall be on his own head*").

IV. What Does Grace Ask of Us Now?

- A. God's grace is no respecter of persons – if He can save Rahab, He can save you.
 - 1. Jericho and Rahab had the same information.
 - 2. Knowing the gospel is not the same as having received the gospel
- B. Grace is never neutral in the heart it lands on — it produces either the faith that moves or the hardening that fortifies. (**2 Cor 2:15-16**)
- C. God's grace, His gift, is the unearned blessing, not the product of our belief or achievement.

