

# REDEEMED

God can turn anything around

## The Lord Can Rewrite Your Story

Pastor Doug Heisel – April 7, 2019

After 40 years in the wilderness, and after the death of Moses, God appoints Joshua to lead the people to cross the Jordan River and begin to take possession of the Promise Land.

### An Amazing Story of Redemption (Joshua 2)

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies to Jericho. So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there.

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: "Bring out the men who came to you because they have come to spy out the whole land."

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

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.

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. 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.

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

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, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible..." "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say." So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

## **What "His-Story" Tells Me:**

### **1. There are certain things that LORD is going to do, and I want to be on His SIDE.**

Genesis 15:13-16 – Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

### **2. My current circumstances are not too big for His GRACE to overcome.**

Joshua 6:24-25 – Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house. But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho...

### **3. Redemption goes way beyond salvation, and provides for me new BLESSINGS, a new IDENTITY and a new LEGACY.**

...and she lives among the Israelites to this day.  
Joshua 6:25

Matthew 1:5-6 – "...Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of King David."

This is a record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ...  
Matthew 1:1

### **4. Fully SURRENDERING to the LORD and choosing to wholeheartedly SERVE Him, is the best decision I will ever make.**

Joshua 24:14-15 – (Joshua said) "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

## **Life Group Discussion & Questions**

**BREAKING THE ICE:** Too often our culture puts negative labels on people. To confront some of that, put at least one positive “verbal label” on each person in your group. Share something you appreciate, admire, or see in them.

**DIGGING IN:** Read Joshua chapter 2

1. In a book about “possessing the promise land,” it is interesting that God starts out with a personal story about one foreign woman with a messed up life. What does that say to you about what God really cares about?
2. Review point number 1, from these notes, along with reading Genesis 15:13-16. What comes to your mind when you read that there are times when God sovereignly declares that certain things will happen?
3. Review the 2-4 from the Sunday message. Which one stands out most to you and why?

**BRINGING IT HOME:** Read 2 Corinthians 5:15-17, one of the great redemption passages that reminds us who we are in Christ. Let His new “labels” of who you are in Him, rule your heart and mind.

Live as examples of God’s grace and goodness. Live in the victory, freedom and blessing of God’s will and ways!