

Famous Chapter 2's Of the Old Testament

Joshua 2

Some chapters of the Bible are famous because of wise verses. Others are epic like the opening of Genesis one “in the beginning.” Joshua two is famous for two reasons, but I think there is more to tell. In the lineage of Jesus there is the curious name of Rahab. This is found in the Gospel of Matthew. Who is she? Rahab could be famous for being in the line of Jesus. She could be famous for being in the line of King David. Yet, we find her origins in the book of Joshua, chapter 2. She is a famous prostitute.

It’s stunning that Jesus line goes through a prostitute. Is it really? Some of the lineages of Jesus are not listed as Jewish or men. It’s interesting that Matthew mentions women in the lineage but Luke just counts the men. Clearly God works through different people of all types. Jesus is truly a man of the world. He is not just a Jew.

This is a turning point in the history of the Hebrew/Jewish nation. How to take a promised land? Forty years before, God asked Moses to take this same land. At the same time, God told the Israelites to send out spies. They returned saying the land God gave them was not favorable. In turn, God cursed them for forty years for not trusting him.

In Joshua 2, here we go again. God tells them, yet again, to take the promised land. Joshua then sends out two spies. I don’t know what Joshua was really thinking. Would you really

send out spies again? Do you remember what happened last time? They come across the fortified city of Jericho This Jericho is in the way of the Israelites. They also meet a prostitute named Rahab.

In comes our present story. Moses has died and Joshua is now the leader. Joshua is one of three remnant that will enter this promised land. These spies he sent enter the city of Jericho. They are received by the prostitute Rahab. The King of Jericho hears about these spies and goes to Rehabs house. She decides to deceive the King and hides these men. Rahab is first and foremost famous for hiding Joshua's spies.

This story is famous because Rahab asks for clemency from the Israelite spies. She asks to be spared when they take the city. I think that it's very interesting that she mentions the deeds of the Israelites. She mentions the parting of the Red sea. Clearly the surrounding towns and villages had heard of the Israelites and their God.

It's interesting that God did not send the spies this time. He let Joshua decide. It's equally interesting that these spies returned with a favorable account. We can take the promised land. The best part of this story is the walls of Jericho. This city was heavily fortified, yet the spies said they could take them. In the Moses account forty years before there were not insurmountable walls, but insurmountable giants. The Israelites needed to believe on their own that they could take Gods land.

This chapter is famous because the Israelites needed to believe. God had cursed the previous generation because they did not have the faith to trust God. They did not believe in themselves either. However, the main arc of this story is Rahab. Joshua and his people do spare this lady when they took Jericho. They did not know they were preserving the line to Jesus. This

chapter sets up a future to their Greatest human king David and the eventual king and messiah Jesus. All of this begins in famous chapter two of Joshua.