

Before We Begin

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Sermon Series

Power of Promise

1. Love is a Promise (Feb 13)
2. Promise Presents Choice (Mar 13)
3. Promises Must Be Shared (Apr 10)
4. Promise Precedes Consequence (May 22)



Sermon Series

Power of Promise

5. Promise Follows Following (June 26)
6. Promises Will Be Challenged (July 17)
7. Promises Carry Forward (Aug 21)
8. Unstoppable Promises (Sept 11)



Sermon Series

Power of Promise

9. Promise Reveals Persuasion



Promise Reveals Persuasion

Promise Reveals Persuasion

- Journey of Israel
- Joshua
- Entering the Promised Land
- Rahab

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Journey of Israel



Journey of Israel

1. Rameses (Exodus 1:11, Numbers 33:5ff)
2. Succoth
3. Etham
4. Pi-hahiroth

“They set out from Pi-hahiroth, passed through the sea into the wilderness, went a three days’ journey in the wilderness of Etham, and camped at Marah.” (Numbers 33:8)

Journey of Israel

5. Marah (Numbers 33:8ff)
6. Elim
7. Unnamed place by the Red Sea
8. Unnamed place in the wilderness of Sin
9. Dophkah
10. Alush
11. Rephidim

Journey of Israel

- 12. Unnamed place in the wilderness of Sinai
- 13. Kibroth-hattaavah (Numbers 33:16ff)
- 14. Hazereth
- begin 40 years of wilderness wandering (Numbers 12:16 ff)
- 15. Rithmah
- 16. Rimmon-perez
- 17. Libnah
- 18. Rissah

Journey of Israel



Journey of Israel

19. Kehelathah (Numbers 33:23ff)
20. Mount Shepher
21. Haradah
22. Makheloth
23. Tahath
24. Terah
25. Mithkah

Journey of Israel

26. Hashmonah (Numbers 33:29ff)
27. Moseroth
28. Bene-jaakan
29. Hor-haggidgad
30. Jotbathah
31. Abronah
32. Ezion-geber

Journey of Israel

33. Kadesh (Numbers 33:36ff)

34. Mount Hor, near Edom

“Aaron the priest went up Mount Hor at the command of the LORD and died there in the fortieth year after the Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt” (Numbers 33:38)

Journey of Israel

“The Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negeb in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the Israelites.

They set out from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.” (Numbers 33:40-41)

35. Zalmonah

36. Punon

Journey of Israel

37. Oboth (Numbers 33:43ff)
38. Iye-abarim, or Iyim, in Moab territory
39. Dibon-gad (see also: Numbers 32:3)
40. Almon-diblathaim
41. Unnamed place in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo
42. Plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho

Journey of Israel



Deuteronomy 32:48-50 (NRSV)

48 The LORD addressed Moses as follows:

49 “Ascend this mountain of the Abarim,
Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab,
across from Jericho, and view the land of
Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites
for a possession;

50 you shall die there on the mountain that
you ascend and shall be gathered to your kin”

Deuteronomy 34:5-6,9 (NRSV)

5 And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said.

6 He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

Promise Reveals Persuasion

- Journey of Israel
- Joshua
- Entering the Promised Land
- Rahab

Joshua: Who Was He?

- Born Hoshea, the son of Nun, but Moses called him Jehoshua (Numbers 13:16)
- Joshua was Moses' aide from his youth (Numbers 11:28)

Joshua During Moses' Lifetime

- The first mention of Joshua is at Rephidim (stop #11), when Moses orders him to lead men against an attacking foe (Exodus 17:9), Amalekites from the Negeb (Numbers 13:29)
- Joshua ascended Mount Sinai part of the way with Moses (Exodus 24:13, 32:17) (stop #12)

Joshua During Moses' Lifetime

- Twelve men including Joshua scouted the promised land for forty days (Numbers 13:1—14:19) (after stop #14)
- God chose Joshua to succeed Moses as the leader of Israel (Numbers 27:15-23) (stop #42)

Joshua After Moses' Death

- After Israel mourns the death of Moses for 30 days (Deuteronomy 34:8), Joshua orders Israel to prepare to enter the promised land in 3 days (Joshua 1:10-11)
- God elevates Joshua in the eyes of the Israelites to the same status as Moses with a miracle at the Jordan River reminiscent of the parting of the Red Sea (Joshua 3:7-17)

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Entering the Promised Land

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Entering the Promised Land

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- Most churchgoers say “40 years”
- Not many people recall the story correctly that the Israelites made it there twice

Exodus 33:1-3 (NRSV)

1 The LORD said to Moses, “Go, leave this place, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give it.’

Exodus 33:1-3 (NRSV)

2 I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; ...”

Numbers 10:11-13 (NRSV)

11 In the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth day of the month, the cloud lifted from over the tabernacle of the covenant.

12 Then the Israelites set out by stages from the wilderness of Sinai, and the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran.

13 They set out for the first time at the command of the LORD by Moses.

Two Important Promises

- The land of Canaan was called “the Promised Land” because God promised Abraham to give it to his descendants
- God promised to drive out the inhabitants of the land before the Israelites supernaturally (“an angel”)

Exodus 23:20,27-30 (NRSV)

27 I will send my terror in front of you, and will throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

28 And I will send the pestilence[†] in front of you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.

† צִרְעָה [tsir'ah /tsir·aw/] Strong's Hebrew #6880 = hornets

Exodus 23:27-30 (NRSV)

29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, or the land would become desolate and the wild animals would multiply against you.

30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.

The First Arrival

- After leaving Mount Sinai, the Israelites made only two stops on the way to Canaan: Kibroth-hattaavah (stop #13) and Hazereth (stop #14)
- In the wilderness of Paran near Kadesh (a.k.a. Kadesh-barnea), God instructed Moses to “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan.” (Numbers 13:1-2)

Journey of Israel



The First Arrival (cont.)

- The spies were in Canaan for 40 days, and they returned to give a report
- Ten of the men were afraid of the military strength of the people they saw in Canaan, and “they discouraged the hearts of the Israelites from going into the land that the LORD had given them.” (Numbers 32:9)

Numbers 14:6-8 (NRSV)

6 And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes
7 and said to all the congregation of the Israelites, “The land that we went through as spies is an exceedingly good land.
8 If the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey.

The First Arrival: Promise Reveals Persuasion

- The Israelites raised a loud cry, wept, and expressed regret for leaving Egypt
- Their inner persuasions were revealed, for in their hearts, they did not believe God's promise to drive out the inhabitants of the land of Canaan
- Moses prayed to God, asking forgiveness for the people's intent for rebellion



Numbers 14:20-23,29-30 (NRSV)

20 Then the LORD said, “I do forgive, just as you have asked;

21 nevertheless—as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD—

22 none of the people who have seen my glory and the signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have tested me these ten times and have not obeyed my voice,

Numbers 14:20-23,29-30 (NRSV)

23 shall see the land that I swore to give to their ancestors; none of those who despised me shall see it.

29 ...from twenty years old and upward, who have complained against me,

30 not one of you shall come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.”

The Second Arrival

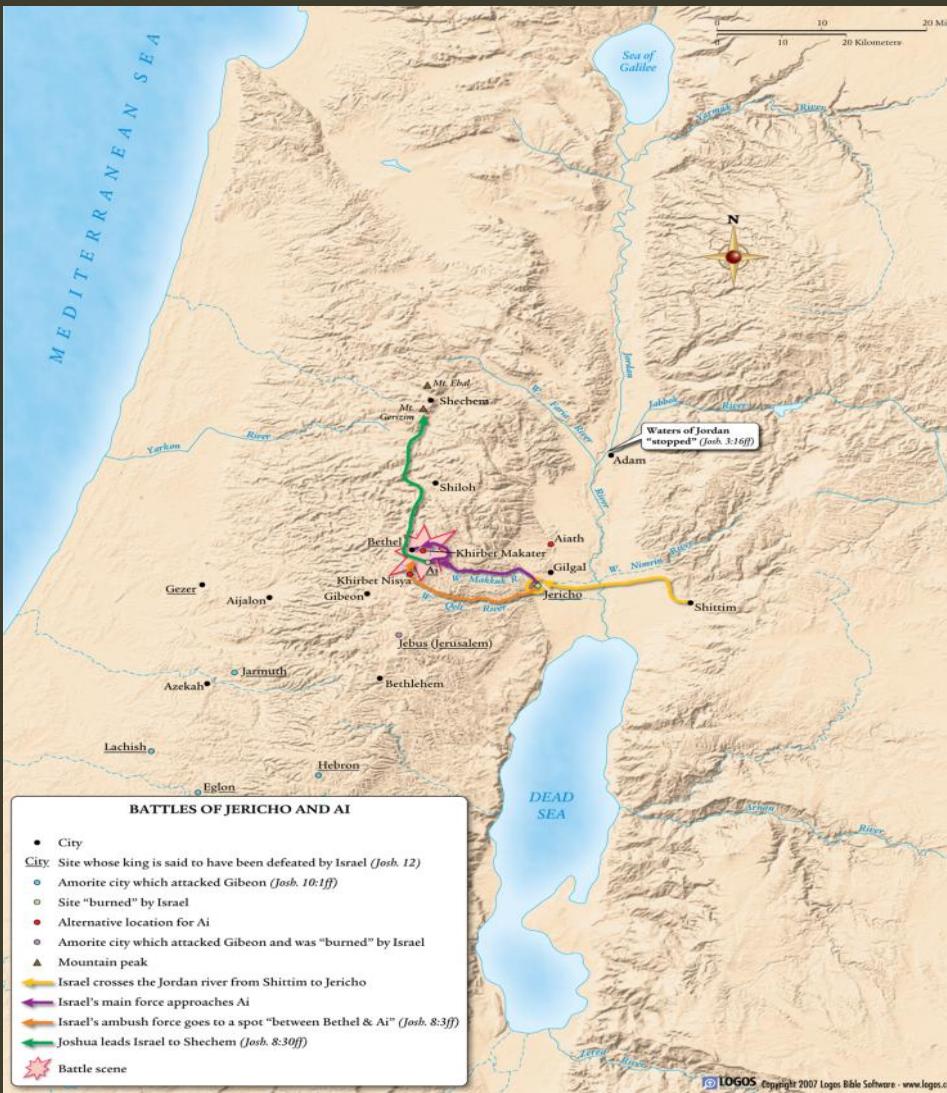
- God sent the Israelites back into the wilderness to wander 40 years—one year for each day the spies were in Canaan
- At the end of that time, nearly that entire generation had perished

“Not one of them was left, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.”
(Numbers 26:65)

Journey of Israel



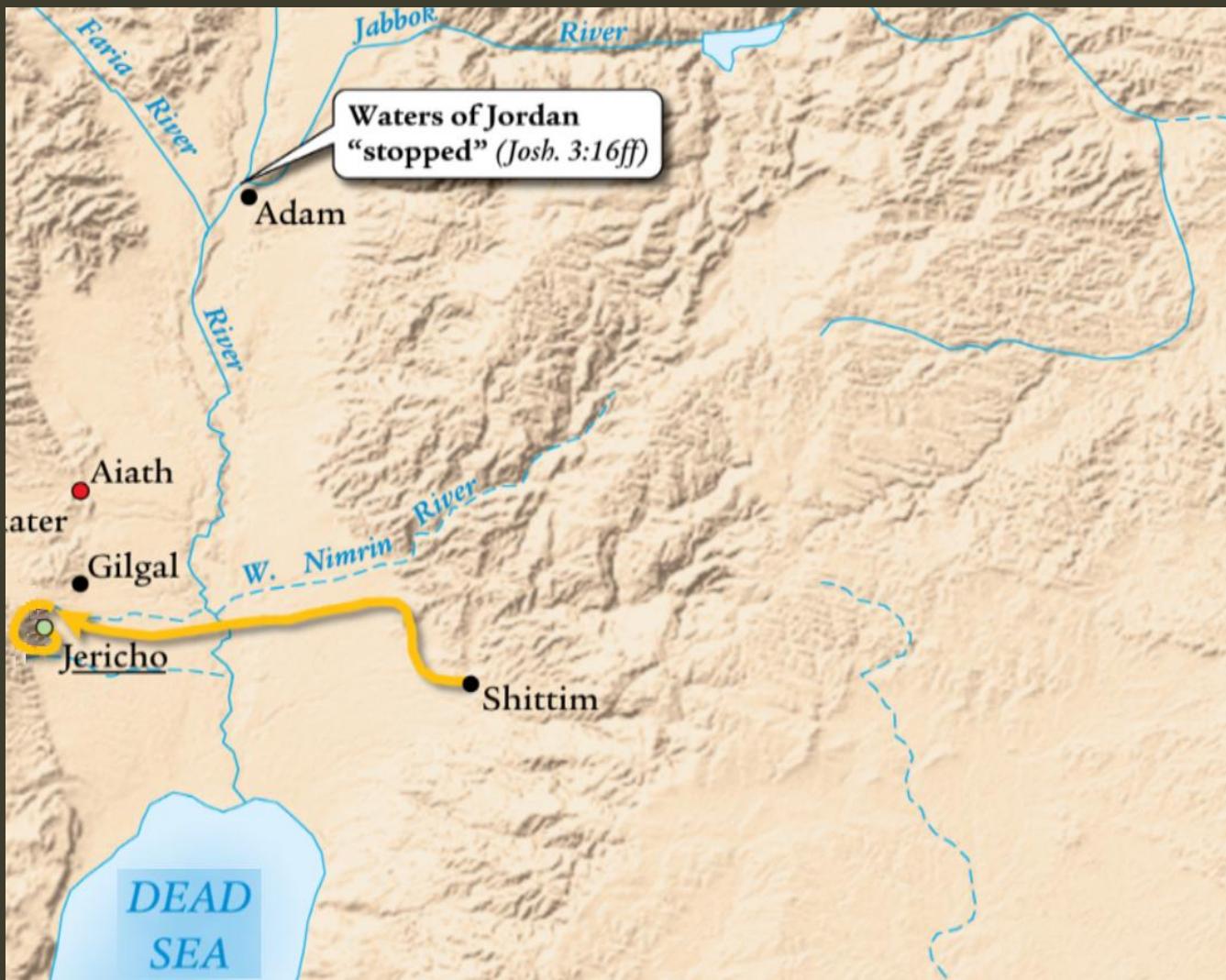
The Second Arrival (cont.)

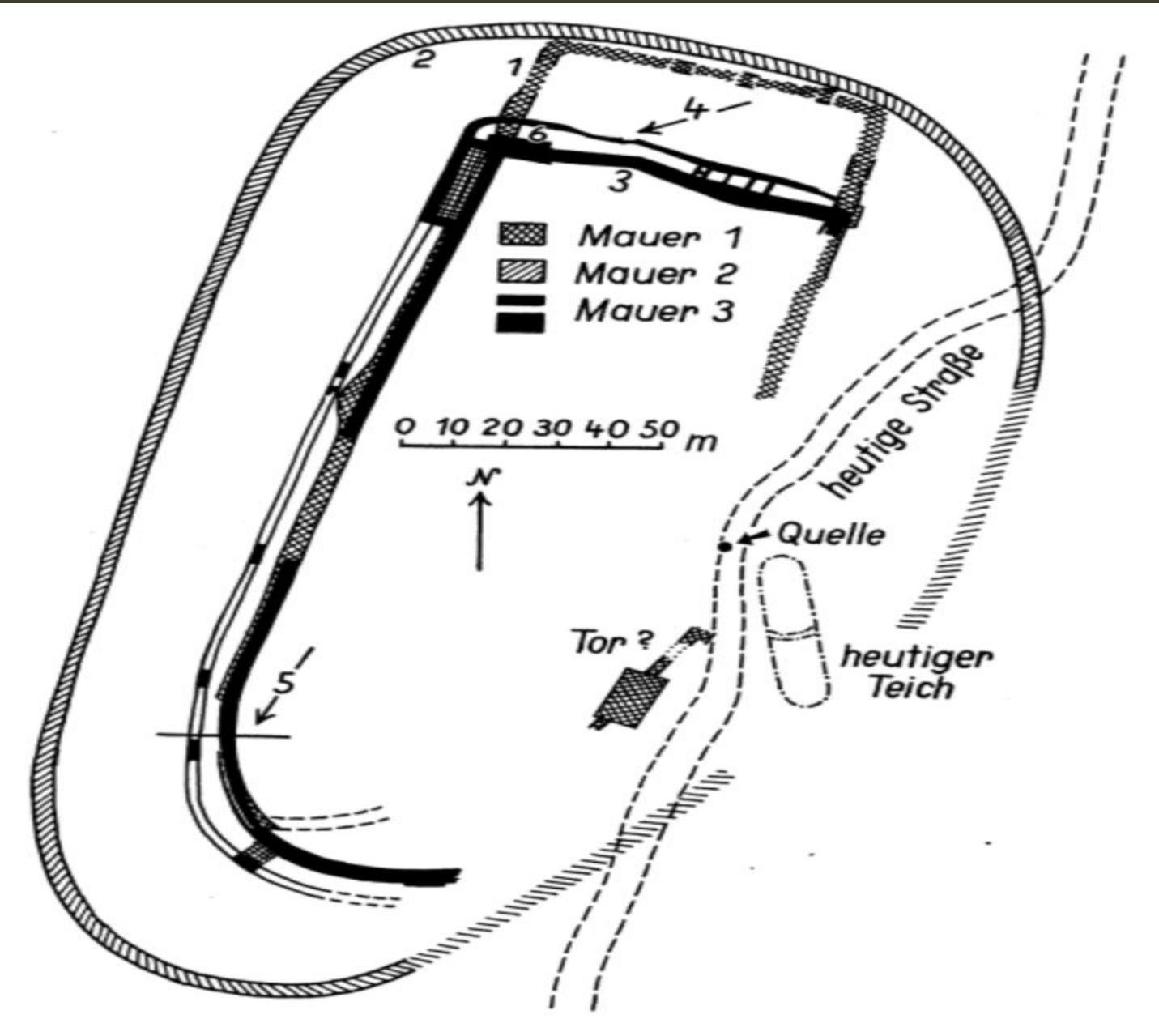


The Second Arrival (cont.)

- The next generation of Israelites crossed over the Jordan River on dry ground, witnessing the miracle of God at the command of Joshua
- The first battle in the conquest of Canaan that they face is the walled city of Jericho

The City of Jericho







The Second Arrival (cont.)

- Joshua sent spies to scout Jericho and the land around the city

Joshua 2:1-5 (NRSV)

1 ...So they went, and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and spent the night there.

2 The king of Jericho was told, “Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land.”

3 Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have

Joshua 2:1-5 (NRSV)

come only to search out the whole land.”

4 But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from.

5 And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them.”

Promise Reveals Persuasion

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Rahab: Who Was She?

- Rahab was a resident of the city of Jericho
- Rahab was young enough that both of her parents were still alive
- Rahab had brothers and sisters with families who also lived in Jericho
- Rahab's occupation: she was a prostitute

Rahab's House

- Embedded within the wall of the city
- Located above ground level
- Had roof access
- Had a window that faced outward,
providing a view beyond the city walls

Rahab's Actions

- Gave the spies overnight lodging
- Hid the Israelite spies on her roof
- Lied to the king about their whereabouts
- Helped the spies to escape through her window after the city gates were shut
- Told the spies how to escape their pursuers

Joshua 2:8-12 (NRSV)

8 Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof

9 and said to the men: “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that dread of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you.

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt...

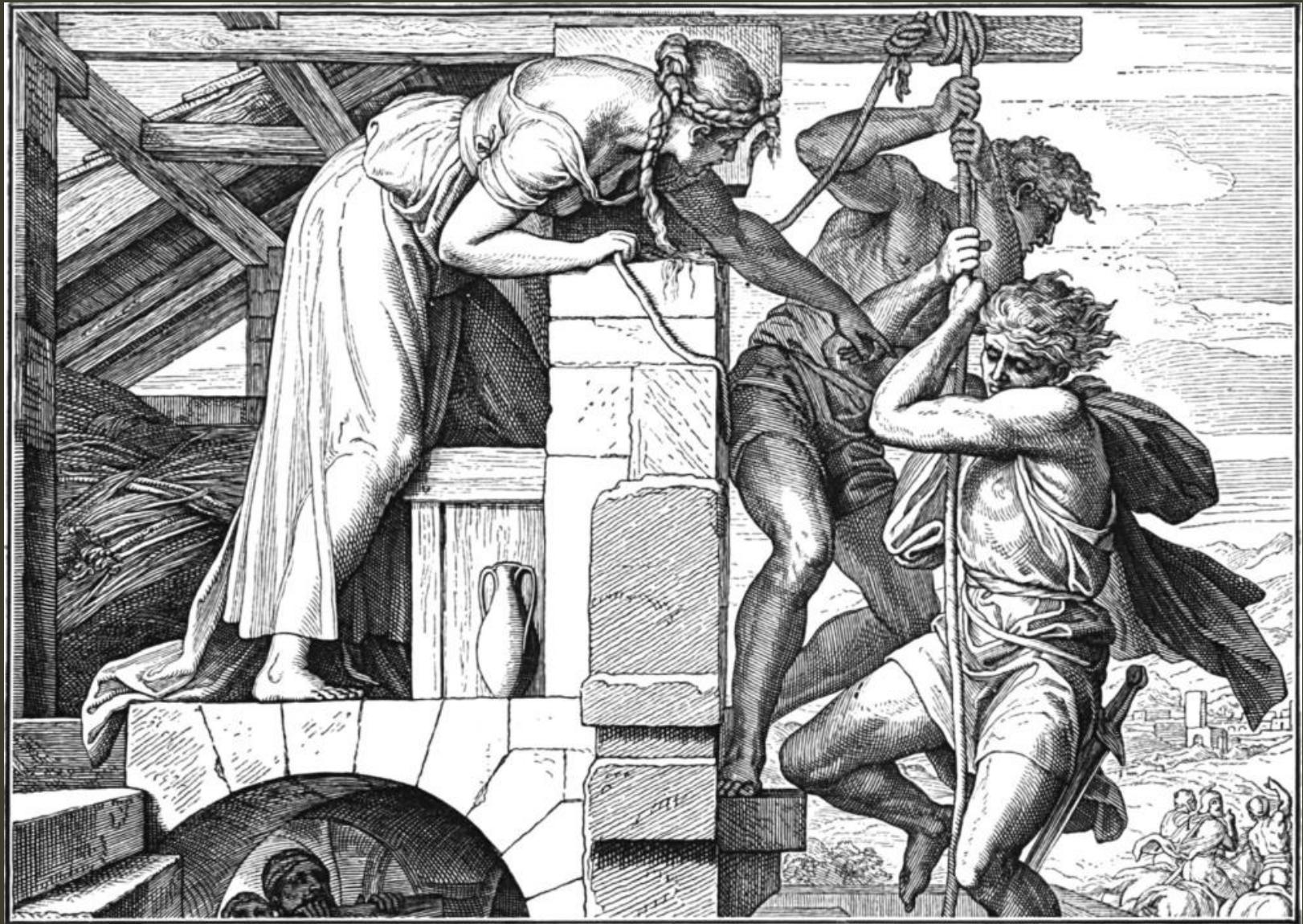
Joshua 2:8-12 (NRSV)

11 As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The LORD your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below.

12 Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the LORD that you in turn will deal kindly with my family.

The Israelites' Promise to Rahab

- The lives of Rahab and her family would be spared if she complied with the instructions that the spies gave her
 - When the battle of Jericho began, Rahab's family members had to remain located in Rahab's house
 - The scarlet-colored rope by which Rahab lowered the spies out her window had to remain visible



The Battle of Jericho

- God gave these instructions to the Israelites (Joshua 6:1-5)
 - March around the city 1/day for 6 days silently (armed men, priests, and the ark)
 - March around the city 7 times on day 7 silently (armed men, priests, and the ark)
 - Priests blow trumpets one long blast
 - All of the people shout a great shout

The Battle of Jericho

- God promised that after the people carried out his instructions, the walls would fall flat
- God honored the Israelites' promise to Rahab, sparing the lives of her family and leaving all of her possessions intact

Joshua 2:6:16-17,20-23 (NRSV)

16 And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city.

17 The city and all that is in it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live because she hid the messengers we sent.”

Joshua 2:6:16-17,20-23 (NRSV)

20 ...They raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat; so the people charged straight ahead into the city and captured it.

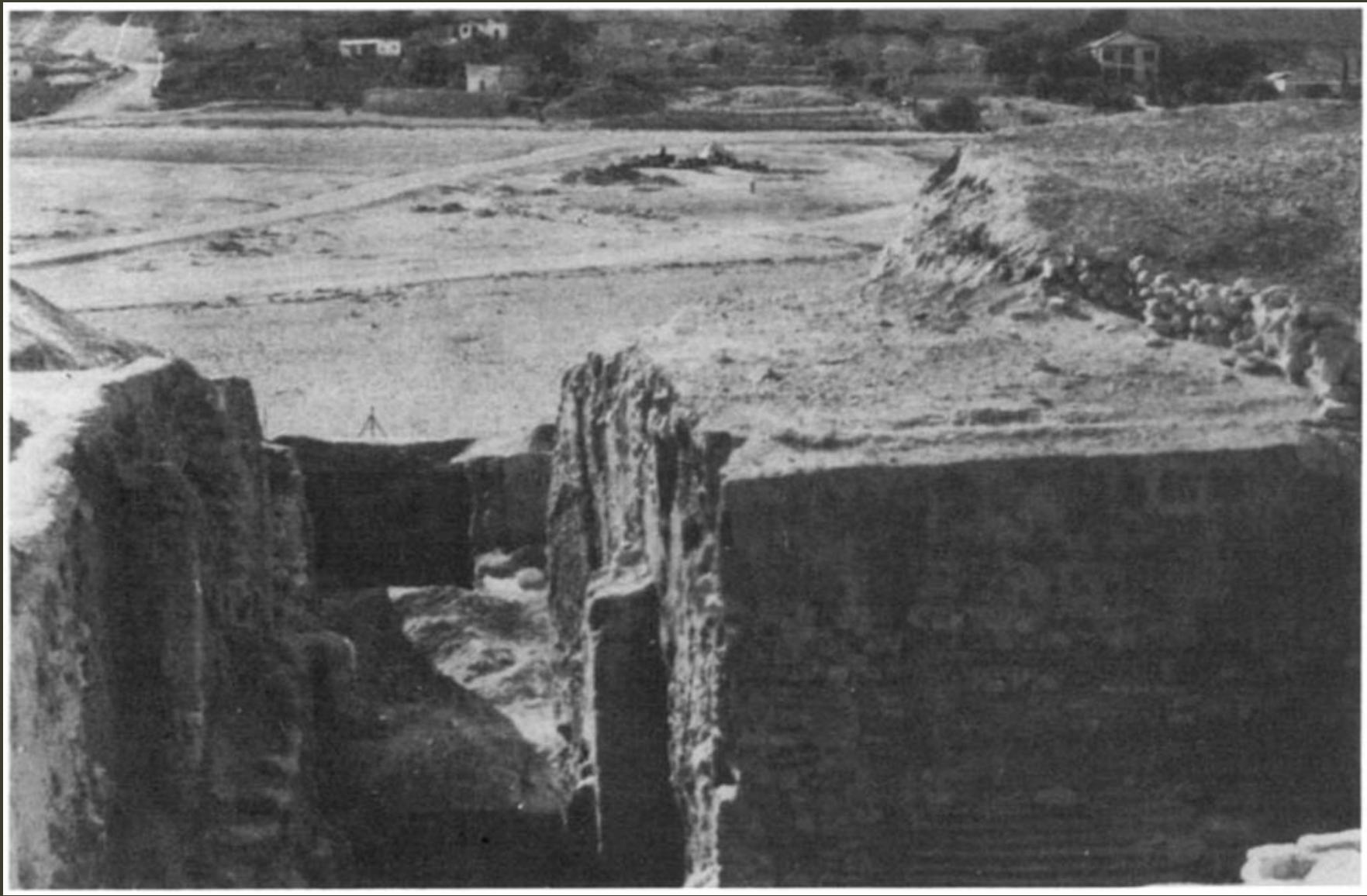
21 Then they devoted to destruction by the edge of the sword all in the city, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys.

Joshua 2:6:16-17,20-23 (NRSV)

22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house, and bring the woman out of it and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.”
23 So the young men who had been spies went in and brought Rahab out, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her—they brought all her kindred out...







The Battle of Jericho: Promise Reveals Persuasion

- The Israelites followed God's instructions to march around the city, revealing their persuasion that God was able to bring down Jericho's protective walls
- Rahab followed the spies' instructions, revealing her persuasion that God would destroy the city but spare all that were with her



Hebrews 11:30-31 (NRSV)

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

Promise Reveals Persuasion

- The principal lesson is faith

Believing God's promise = FAITH

- What is your persuasion about God?

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Acts 13:32-35 (NASB)

32 “And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus...

34 As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, ...

35 ...He also says in another Psalm, ‘YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.’ ”

What Is Your Persuasion?

- Because He loves us, God promised to send Jesus and then raise him from the dead
- Every person's persuasions are revealed by how they respond to God's promise
- Do you choose to believe?

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

9 ...If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Coming to God

*Will you begin a relationship
with God today?*