

## Week Four – Summarized Study Guide Notes



- The Scarlet Cord
  - The scarlet cord in Joshua 2 represents God's redeeming love.
- In Joshua 2, Rahab hangs a scarlet cord, or red thread, out her window as a signal for the approaching Israelite army that she and her household would be spared. Taken by itself, this thread represents Rahab's deliverance from the destruction of Jericho. However, if we take a step closer for a better look at the overall picture of God's Word, we find this thread intentionally woven throughout the different books, chapters, and verse of God's story of redemption.
- Through this single cord, we will find an awesome image of our great redeeming God.
  - As we trace the red thread throughout Scripture, we will discover an overall picture of the blood of Jesus Christ that saves us from all sin.
- Joshua 2:12-21:
  - Rahab gives us an example of what true obedience to the Lord looks like: she obeyed all the way and right away.
- Rahab's act of obedience publicly showed her faith. When she hung the scarlet cord out of her window on the city wall, it could be seen by anyone who approached Jericho.
- How can visible acts of obedience to the Lord impact others around us?
- A Symbol of Blood: Isaiah 1:18
  - When the s[pies made their agreement with Rahab, their first condition had to do with the cord they used to escape with:
    - Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down.
- Why do you think the spies requested this particular color?
  - God does not waste any details in His Word.
    - He chose the color scarlet, or red, on purpose.
    - Notice what was missing in the conditions the spies gave to Rahab:
      - They did not say that in order to be rescued, she first needed to clean up her act.
      - They met her where she was at and offered her a chance to be rescued.

- Isaiah 1:18:
  - Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord; though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.
- The innocent Son of God shed His blood for sinners, and His blood is on our hands.
  - Our sins are as scarlet.
  - They are red like crimson.
  - Yet God promise: You can be white as snow!
- Much like the famed scarlet letter, scarlet can be a symbol of the sin, guilt, and shame that so many of us wear.
  - It does not have to be this way.
  - Scarlet can represent something else:
    - The meaning of our salvation.
- A Picture of Passover
- Exodus 12:1-32
- According to Joshua 5:10, the Israelites celebrated the Passover rightly before they invaded Jericho.
  - God, in His Providence, linked the timing of this sacred celebration to Rahab's rescue and His judgment upon the Canaanites.
- Just as the Israelites had to be in their homes during the Passover, Rahab and her family had to be in her house when the attack came upon Jericho.
  - Instead of blood on the doorposts to mark her house for salvation, Rahab had a scarlet cord hanging in the window.
    - The Israelites came to take over the land, they saw the red cord.
    - While they judged all the other houses on behalf of the Lord, the righteous Judge, they passed over Rahab's home.
      - She and her family were spared, just as the Israelites had been at the first Passover.
- Read Romans 3;10, 23.
- Read Isaiah 53
- Both the Passover and the story of Rahab point us to the gospel.
  - Jesus, the spotless, blameless Lamb of God, was sacrificed for us.
  - He died in our place on the cross
  - He took what we deserved, so that God will pass over us in His judgment.
  - We have been saved from spiritual death and separation from God by Christ's blood and scarlet cord!
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- Read John 1:17
- Covenant=Abiding agreement+God's faithfulness in Jesus to keep it.
- In Rahab's case, the scarlet cord was the sign that she had entered into a covenant with the spies and made a profession of faith in God.
  - By hanging it outside her window, she expressed her desire to be saved from God's judgment.
- The spies had promised to preserve her life; however, she still would have perished if she had not demonstrated her faith by hanging the scarlet cord.
  - Her life depended on that scarlet thread.
- Rahab was not placing her faith in the scarlet cord itself, but IN all it represented.
  - Ultimately, her faith was in God to save her.
  - It is not the physical symbol or sign that saves us, it is God ALONE.
- What good things are you prone to trust more than God?
  - Baptism
  - Status
  - Communion
  - Church Membership
  - Media choices
  - Connections
  - Man's approval
  - Personal Quiet Time
  - Good Works
  - Talents
- In Rahab's life, the scarlet cord represents:
  - Her sin
  - Her obedience
  - Her faith
  - God's forgiveness of her sin
- Rahab's story reveals that the scarlet cord is significant for all of us.
- This scarlet cord RUNS ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE BIBLE.
- All of those OT symbols were merely shadows that pointed toward the blood redemption of Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb of God.
- The shed blood of Christ brings God's forgiveness for all our sins – all of them.
  - The ones everyone knows about and the ones no one knows about.
  - They are all gone, through the blood of Jesus who washes away our sins.

- There is a condition:
  - We must put our faith in Christ.
  - Like Rahab, who threw a cord out of her window out of trust.
  - We must turn toward Christ, acknowledge that we are needy and confess that He is the only One who can save us.
- God's wrath is coming:
  - The walls of this world's kingdom are going to tumble down.
  - Those who have rejected the truth of God's saving love will be destroyed.
  - They will be judged.
- If you are spared from God's wrath, it will be for one reason alone:
  - Because like Rahab, you trusted in the one true God to save you.