

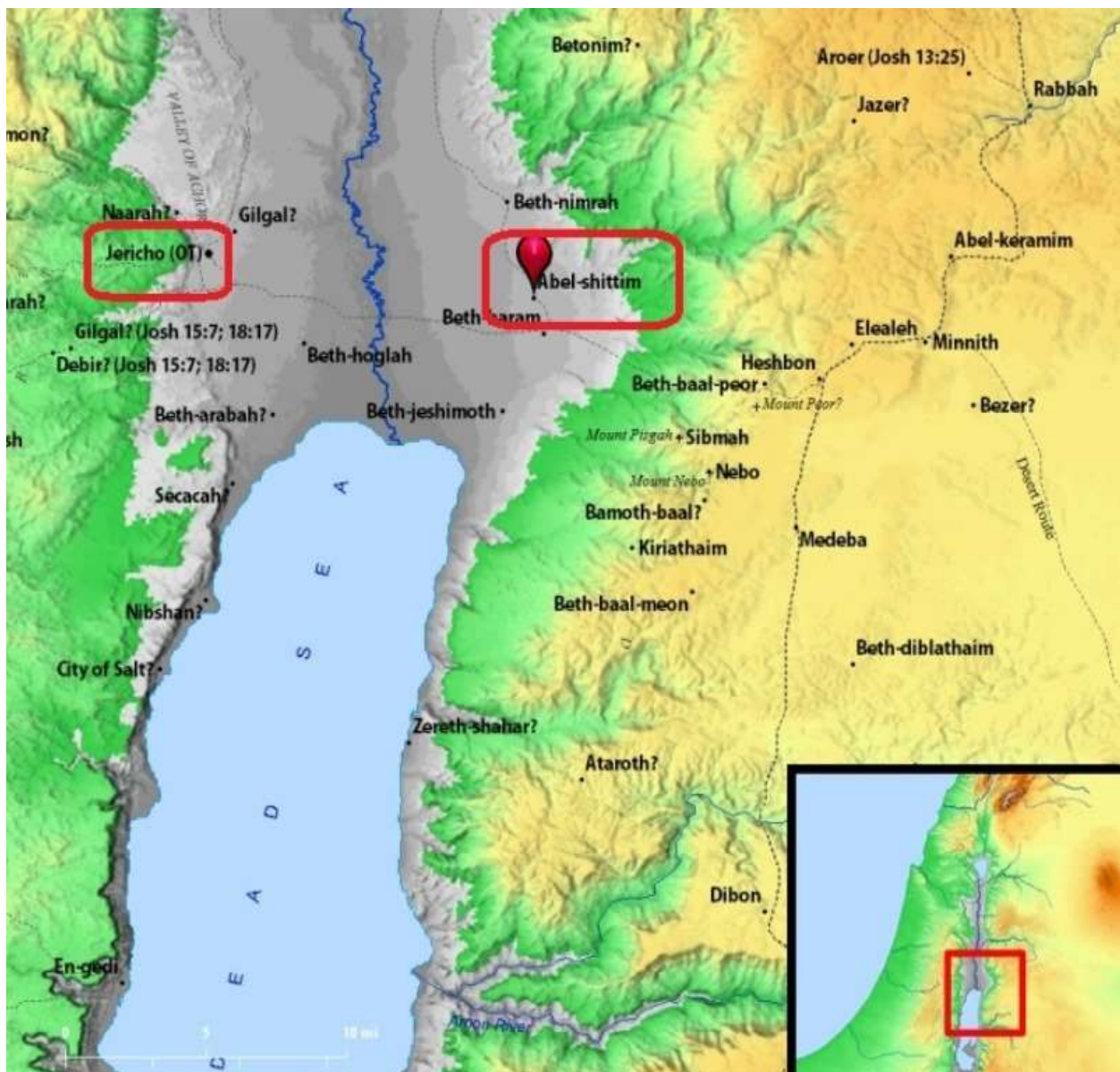
Joshua 2

Verses 1

Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and rested there.

Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim,

See Map 205 Shittim



Shittim means Acacias, and these trees are still found in that area.

See pic 210



Despite the disaster that occurred 38 years earlier Joshua still sent out some spies.

However, he learned from the previous mistake and changed two things:

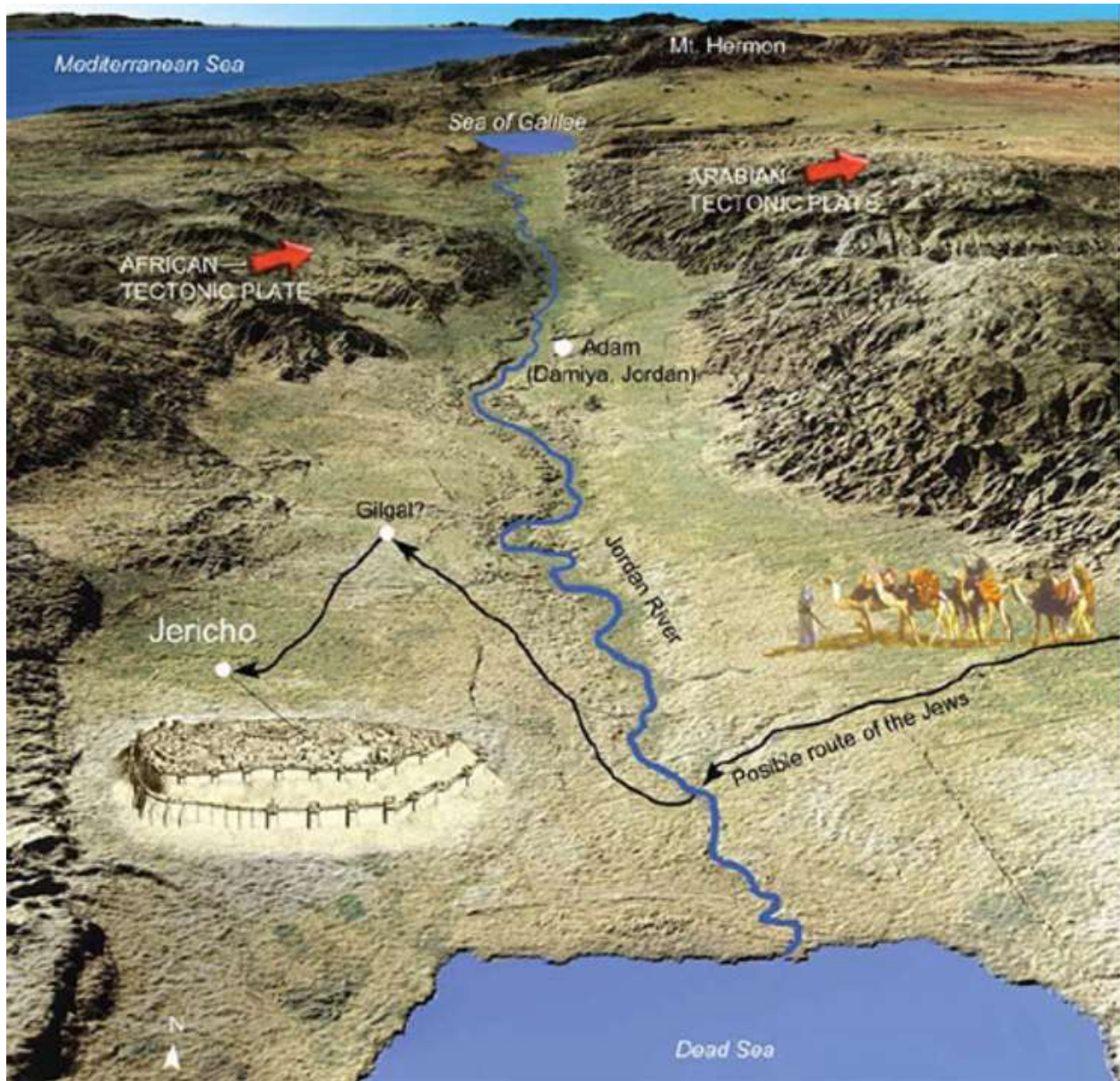
1. He sent them out secretly so he could conceal the results from the community if the report was not favorable.
2. He only sent two spies which limited the possibility that others would learn that he had sent any spies.

As it turned out Joshua did get some important info from this mission.

The people of Jericho were terrified of Israel

Go view the land, especially Jericho

See Map 215



The spies left Shittim to spy out Jericho. Both sites are around 850 feet below sea level.

But the Jericho River is around 1250 feet below Sea level so they had to descend about 400 feet to get to the Jordan River and then ascend about 400 feet on their way to Jericho.

From where they crossed the Jordan River the Dead Sea is another 100 feet downhill.

The Dead Sea is 1,363 feet below sea level.

So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and rested there

The two spies needed to find a place where they could rest but also get some information without arousing suspicion.

The house of a prostitute was the perfect place.

Verses 2 - 7

² But it was told to the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to spy out the land.” ³ And the king of Jericho sent *word* to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to spy out all the land.” ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵ It came about, when *it was time* to shut the gate at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” ⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan, to the crossing places; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate.

And the king of Jericho sent *word* to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to spy out all the land. And she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

This is called plausible deniability.

It isn't the truth but no one can prove it to be a lie except the guilty party (Rahab) and she is unwilling to reveal the truth.

Despite this lie Rahab is commended for her faith and her works in two New Testament books.

1. See Hebrews 11:31

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

2. See James 2:25

Rahab the prostitute was justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way.

Rahab had become a believer in the God of Israel and she was willing to do whatever it took to help these men of Israel.

We all know that lying is wrong but in this situation it was an act of faith and works.

Some people might use this story to justify doing evil things in the name of God but God knows the heart of every person and such people will not be justified by their evil deeds and duplicitous desires.

But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof.

See pic 220 Flax



The flax was harvested in March or April about the same time as the beginning of the barley harvest.

Verses 8-14

⁸ Now before the spies lay down, 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 the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of 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, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ When we heard *these reports*, our hearts melted and no courage remained in anyone any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth below. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the Lord, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father’s household, and give me a pledge of truth, ¹³ and spare my father and my mother, and my brothers and my sisters, and all who belong to them, and save our lives from death.” ¹⁴ So the men said to her, “Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the Lord gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed

Panic had swept over the people of Canaan and it was based on well known facts.

1. The Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you.

This took place 200 miles away and none of the Egyptian army had survived but the people of Canaan had all heard about it.

No doubt the people of Midian had traveled north and relayed the news of this event.

The amazing thing here is that this event had taken place 40 years ago and it is still talked about as though it was recent history.

2. What you did to the two kings of the Amorites.

This event had taken place about 4 to 6 months ago just across the Jordan River so the news spread quickly to everyone in Canaan.

When we heard *these reports*, our hearts melted and no courage remained in anyone any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth below.

The truth of God can be made known in various ways but in this case it came from the miracles He performed.

¹⁴ So the men said to her, “Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the Lord gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

This was a verbal agreement and both parties accepted it as a binding agreement.

Under no circumstance would Rahab betray the spies.

And the two men guaranteed that Rahab and her extended family would be treated well.

Verses 15-16

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall, so that she was living on the wall.

See video 225 9.23 The walls of Jericho Part 1

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.23.html>

Verses 17-21

¹⁷ And the men said to her, “We *shall be exempt* from this oath to you which you have made us swear, ¹⁸ unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down, and gather into your house your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household.

¹⁹ And it shall come about that anyone who goes out of the doors of your house outside *will have* his blood on his own head, and we *will be* innocent; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood *will be* on our head if a hand is *laid* on him. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be exempt from the oath which you have made us swear.” ²¹ She then said, “According to your words, so be it.” So she sent them away, and they departed; and she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

We *shall be exempt from this oath to you which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down*

The spies added one more condition to their verbal agreement.

There had to be some way for an invading army to know which house was Raheb's.

The cord of scarlet thread would stand out quite well.

Verses 22-24

²² So they departed and came to the hill country, and remained there for three days, until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had searched for *them* all along the road, but had not found *them*. ²³ Then the two men returned and came down from the hill country, and they crossed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun. Then they reported to him all that had happened to them. ²⁴ And they said to Joshua, "The Lord has indeed handed over to us all the land; furthermore, all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of us."

²² So they departed and came to the hill country, and remained there for three days, until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had searched for *them* all along the road, but had not found *them*. ²³ Then the two men returned and came down from the hill country, and they crossed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun.

This is why Israel was delayed for 3 additional days after they got to the Jordan River.

The spies had not returned and Joshua waited for them to make it back.

And they said to Joshua, "The Lord has indeed handed over to us all the land; furthermore, all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of us."

This had to be a great relief to Joshua.

The memory of the previous scouting report 38 years ago had to haunt him a little.