

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Amarna Letters (15th Century B.C)

Amarna Letters, cache of clay tablets discovered in Egypt and dating to the reigns of kings Amenhotep III and Akhenaton of the 18th dynasty. The Amarna Letters provide invaluable insight into the nature of diplomatic relations among the great nations between Egypt and Canaanite countries and petty states of the 14th century BCE. (Britannica)

In the Amarna letters, the Habiru emerge as a familiar and distinct group of people. They are found throughout all of Canaan raiding and attacking local city-states - which amounts to fortified cities and the surrounding countryside. The Amarna Letters are complaints about the attacks, written from these city-state rulers to Pharaoh and asking for troops. (Israel-a-history-of.com)

"They have siezed the land of Rubute. The land of the king has fallen away to the Habiri. And now, even a city of the Jorusalem district, Bit-in-ib by name, a city of the king, has fallen away to the side of the people of Qeila. Let the king listen to Er-Heba, your servant, and send an army of archers that they might restore the land of the king to the king. For if there are no army of archers the land of the king will fall away to the Habiri."

3. Let us read Joshua Ch. 2

4. Discussion

- a. Why do you think the spies chose to stay in Rahab's house?
- b. How do you understand the story of chapter 2 between 1:11 and 3:2?
- c. How do you see Rahab's statement in verse 4? Do you think white lies are allowed to the believers?
- d. How do you understand Rahab's statement from verses 9-13? Do you see faith in her statement? How do you see the formation of faith in her statement?
- e. Why do you think Rahab asked them to swear by God in verse 12?
- f. How do you see the spies' promise to Rahab? Read Deut. 7:1-5.
- g. Why do you think the story of Rahab was written and told in this book of Joshua? And Rahab is one of four women included in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5). Why do you think Matthew included her? What is the significance of her inclusion?

- h. How do you see Rahab's personality?
- i. Why do you think the spies told Rahab to hang the crimson cord? What does it imply?
- j. Where and how do you see God at work in the world around you?
- k. What can we learn about courage from Rahab's story? Where have you seen similar courage in the bible and in our world today?
- l. Rahab takes a risk out of trust in God as much as trust in the spies. How do you decide what risks to take in faith? How does faith support us in taking risks?
- m. Compare Rahab's story with Joshua ch. 9.

5. Closing Prayer