

***Haftarah as Commentary:
Revisiting Parshat Shelach in light of Joshua
Chapter 2***

Adina Blaustein

I welcome your feedback

adinablaustein@gmail.com

Joshua

| Focus | Conquest of Canaan | | Settlement in Canaan | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | 1:1 | 13:7 | 13:8 | 24:33 | | |
| Divisions | Preparation of Israel for Conquest 1:1-5:15 | Conquest of Canaan by Israel 6:1-13:7 | Settlement East of the Jordan 13:8-13:33 | Settlement West of the Jordan 14:1-19:51 | Settlement of Religious Community 20:1-21:45 | Conditions for Continued Settlement 22:1-24:33 |
| Topics | Entering Canaan | Conquering Canaan | Dividing Canaan | | | |
| | Preparation | Subjection | Possession | | | |
| Place | Jordan River | Canaan | 2 1/2 Tribes East Jordan 9 1/2 Tribes West Jordan | | | |
| Time | c. 1 Month | c. 7 Years | c. 18 Years | | | |

Joshua Chapter 2

Joshua sends spies to Jericho

1 Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men (אנשים מרגלים) from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, reconnoiter the region of Jericho.” (לכו ראו את-הארץ) So they set out, and they came to the house of a certain prostitute named Rahab and lodged there.

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

3 The king of Jericho thereupon sent orders to Rahab: “Produce (הוציאי) the men who came to you and entered your house, for they have come to spy out the whole country.”

(א) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּנֵי-נֹון מִן-הַשְּׂטִיִּים שְׁנַיִם-אֲנָשִׁים מְרַגְלִים חָרַשׁ לֵאמֹר לְכוּ רְאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ וְאֶת-יְרִיחוֹ וְיִלְכוּ וְיָבֹאוּ בֵּית-אִשָּׁה זֹנָה וּשְׁמָהּ רַחַב וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ-שָׁמָּה: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר לְמֶלֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה אֲנָשִׁים בָּאוּ הֵנָּה הַלַּיְלָה מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְחַפֵּר אֶת-הָאָרֶץ: (ג) וַיִּשְׁלַח מֶלֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ אֶל-רַחַב לֵאמֹר הֲוֹצִיִּי אֶת-הָאֲנָשִׁים הַבָּאִים אֵלֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ לְבֵיתְךָ כִּי לְחַפֵּר אֶת-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ בָּאוּ:

Spies are Hidden by Rahab

Spies hidden by Rahab

4 The woman, however, had taken the two men and hidden them. “It is true,” she said, “the men did come to me, but I didn’t know where they were from. 5 And at dark, when the gate was about to be closed, the men left; and I don’t know where the men went. Quick, go after them, for you can overtake them.” 6

— Now she had **taken them up (העלתם)** to the roof and hidden them under some stalks of flax that she had lying on the roof.

7 — So the men pursued them in the direction of the Jordan down to the fords; and no sooner had the pursuers gone out than the gate was shut behind them.

(ד) וַתִּקַּח הָאִשָּׁה אֶת־שְׁנֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים וַתְּצַפְּנֵן וַתֹּאמֶר | כִּן בָּאוּ אֵלַי הָאֲנָשִׁים וְלֹא יָדַעְתִּי מֵאֵין הָמָּה: (ה) וַיְהִי הַשָּׁעַר לְסָגוֹר בַּחֹשֶׁךְ וְהָאֲנָשִׁים יָצְאוּ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי אָנָּה הֵלְכוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים רֹדְפוֹ מֵהָר אַחֲרֵיהֶם כִּי תִשְׁיָגוּם: (ו) וְהִיא הֶעֱלֵתָם הַגָּגָה וַתִּטְמְנֵם בְּפִשְׁתֵּי הָעֵץ הָעֲרֻכוֹת לָהּ עַל־הַגָּג: (ז) וְהָאֲנָשִׁים רֹדְפוֹ אַחֲרֵיהֶם דֶּרֶךְ הַיַּרְדֵּן עַל הַמַּעְבְּרוֹת וְהַשָּׁעַר סָגַר אַחֲרָי כַּאֲשֶׁר יָצְאוּ הָרֹדְפִים אַחֲרֵיהֶם:

Rahab's Confession of Faith

8 The spies had not yet gone to sleep when she came up to them on the roof.

9 She said to the men, "I know that GOD has given the country to you, because dread of you has fallen upon us, and all the inhabitants of the land are quaking before you.

10 For we have heard how GOD dried up the waters of the Sea of Reeds for you when you left Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings across the Jordan, whom you doomed. 11 When we heard about it, we lost heart, and no one had any more spirit left because of you; for the ETERNAL your God is the only God in heaven above and on earth below. 12

Now, since I have shown loyalty to you, (TON) swear to me by GOD that you in turn will show loyalty to my family. Provide me with a reliable sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death." 14 The men answered her, "Our lives are pledged for yours, even to death! If you do not disclose this mission of ours, we will show you true loyalty when GOD gives us the land."

(ח) וְהִמָּה טָרַם יִשְׁכַּבּוּן וְהִיא עֲלֵתָה עֲלֵיהֶם עַל־הַגֹּב: (ט)
וּתְאֹמַר אֶל־הָאֲנָשִׁים יְדַעְתִּי כִּי־נָתַן יְהוָה לְכֶם אֶת־הָאָרֶץ
וְכִי־נִפְלָה אִימַתְכֶם עָלֵינוּ וְכִי נִמְגּוּ כָל־יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ
מִפְּנֵיכֶם: (י) כִּי שָׁמַעְנוּ אֵת אֲשֶׁר־הוֹבִישׁ יְהוָה אֶת־מִי
יִסְסוּף מִפְּנֵיכֶם בְּצֵאתְכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם וְאֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂיתֶם לְשָׂנֵי
מְלֹכֵי הָאֲמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר בַּעֲבַר הַיַּרְדֵּן לְסִיחֹן וְלַעֲוֹג אֲשֶׁר
הִחְרַמְתֶּם אוֹתָם: (יא) וְנִשְׁמַע וַיִּמַּס לְבַבְנוּ וְלֹא־קָמָה
עוֹד רוּחַ בְּאִישׁ מִפְּנֵיכֶם כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הוּא אֱלֹהִים
בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְעַל־הָאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת: (יב) וְעַתָּה הַשְׁבְּעוּ־
נָא לִי בַיהוָה כִּי־עֲשִׂיתִי עִמָּכֶם חֶסֶד וְעֲשִׂיתֶם גַּם־אֵתָם
עִם־בֵּית אָבִי חֶסֶד וְנָתַתֶּם לִי אוֹת אֲמַת: (יג) וְהַחֲיִיתֶם
אֶת־אָבִי וְאֶת־אִמִּי וְאֶת־אֲחֵי וְאֶת־[אֲחֵיוֹתַי] (אֲחוֹתַי)
וְאֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם וְהִצַּלְתֶּם אֶת־נַפְשֹׁתֵינוּ מִמּוֹת: (יד)
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ הָאֲנָשִׁים נִפְשָׁנוּ תַחַתֵּיכֶם לְמוֹת אִם לֹא
תִגִּידוּ אֶת־דְּבָרֵנוּ זֶה וְהָיָה בְּתַת־יְהוָה לָנוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ
וְעֲשִׂינוּ עִמָּךְ חֶסֶד וְאֲמַת:

Escape and Promise of Safety

15 She let them down by a rope through the window—for her dwelling was at the outer side of the city wall and she lived in the actual wall.

16 She said to them, “Make for the hills, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Stay there in hiding three days, until the pursuers return; then go your way.”

17 But the men warned her, “We will be released from this oath that you have made us take

18 [unless,] when we invade the country, you tie this length of crimson cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your family together in your house;

19 and if anyone ventures outside the doors of your house, their blood will be on their head, and we shall be clear. But if a hand is laid on anyone who remains in the house with you, their blood shall be on our heads.

20 And if you disclose this mission of ours, we shall likewise be released from the oath that you made us take.”

21 She replied, “Let it be as you say.” She sent them on their way, and they left; and she tied the crimson cord to the window.

(טו) וַתּוֹרְדֵם בַּחֶבֶל בְּעֵד הַחֲלוֹן כִּי בֵיתָהּ
בְּקִיר הַחוֹמָה וּבְחוֹמָה הִיא יּוֹשֶׁבֶת: (טז)
וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הִהֲרֵה לָּכּוּ פְּנֵי־פְגָעוֹ בְּכֶם
הַרְדְּפִים וְנַחֲבֶתֶם שָׁמָּה שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים עַד שׁוּב
הַרְדְּפִים וְאַחַר תֵּלְכוּ לְדַרְכְּכֶם: (יז) וַיֹּאמְרוּ
אֵלֶיהָ הָאֲנָשִׁים נְקִים אֲנַחְנוּ מִשְׁבַּעַתְךָ הַזֶּה
אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁבַּעְתָּנוּ: (יח) הִנֵּה אֲנַחְנוּ בְּאִים בְּאָרֶץ
אֶת־תְּקוּת חוּט־הַשָּׁנִי הַזֶּה תִּקְשְׁרִי בַּחֲלוֹן אֲשֶׁר
הוֹרַדְתָּנוּ בּוֹ וְאֶת־אֲבִיךָ וְאֶת־אִמְךָ וְאֶת־אֲחִיךָ
וְאֵת כָּל־בֵּית אָבִיךָ תֹאסֹפִי אֵלֶיךָ הַבֵּיתָהּ: (יט)
וְהִיא כָּל אֲשֶׁר־יֵצֵא מִדֹּלְתֵי בֵיתְךָ | הַחוּצָה דָּמוֹ
בְּרֹאשׁוֹ וְאֲנַחְנוּ נְקִים וְכָל אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה אִתְּךָ
בְּבֵית דָּמוֹ בְּרֹאשׁוֹ אִם־יֵד תִּהְיֶה־בּוֹ: (כ) וְאִם־
תִּגִּידִי אֶת־דְּבָרֵנוּ זֶה וְהֵינּוּ נְקִים מִשְׁבַּעַתְךָ
אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁבַּעְתָּנוּ: (כא) וַתֹּאמֶר כְּדַבְּרֵיכֶם כֵּן
הוּא וְתִשְׁלַחֶם וַיֵּלְכוּ וַתִּקְשֶׁר אֶת־תְּקוּת הַשָּׁנִי
בַּחֲלוֹן:

Spies Return to Joshua

22 They went straight to the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers turned back. And so the pursuers, searching all along the road, did not find them.

23 Then the two men came down again from the hills (

ויישבו הקרה) and crossed over. They came to Joshua son of Nun and reported to him all that had happened to them.

24 They said to Joshua, "GOD has delivered the whole land into our power; in fact, all the inhabitants of the land are quaking before us."

(כב) וַיֵּלְכוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ הַהָרָה וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם שְׁלֹשֶׁת
יָמִים עַד־שָׁבוּ הַרְדָּפִים וַיִּבְקְשׂוּ הַרְדָּפִים בְּכָל־
הַדֶּרֶךְ וְלֹא מָצְאוּ: (כג) וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שְׁנֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים
וַיֵּרְדּוּ מִהָהָר וַיַּעֲבְרוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן־נֹון
וַיְסַפְּרוּ־לוֹ אֵת כָּל־הַמַּצְאוֹת אֹתָם: (כד)
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ כִּי־נָתַן יְהוָה בְּיַדְנוּ אֶת־כָּל־
הָאָרֶץ וְגַם־נִמְגְּוּ כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵינוּ:
{ס}

Ramban (Nahmanides) Numbers 13:2

Here one may ask, if this is so, then Moses himself sinned in this matter, as it is said, *And the thing pleased me well!*...and Joshua the son of Nun also [sent] *two spies*. It was for this reason that [the people's request to send out scouts] pleased Moses, for Scripture does not [allow man] to rely on a miracle in any of its affairs. Instead, it commands those who go out to battle to arm themselves, to take [all necessary] precautions, and to set ambushes [if needed],

ויש כאן לשאול אם כן משה עצמו חטא בענין
שנאמר וייתב בעיני הדבר (דברים א כג)...וכן
ביהושע בן נון (יהושע ב א) שנים אנשים מרגלים
ועל כן היה טוב בעיני משה כי הכתוב לא יסמוך
בכל מעשיו על הנס אבל יצוה בנלחמים להחליץ
ולהשמר ולארום

Numbers Chapter 13 1-3

1) יהוה spoke to Moses, saying, (2) “Send agents*agents Lit. “participants whose involvement defines the (proposed) situation”; trad. “men.” See the Dictionary under 'ish; Agent. to scout the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelite people; send one participant from each of their ancestral tribes, each one a chieftain among them.” (3) So Moses, by יהוה’s command, sent them out from the wilderness of Paran, all of them being men of consequence,

(א)
וַיֵּד
יְהוָה כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂי אֲנָשָׁי רָאשֵׁי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמָּהֵב

Number Chapter 13

Number 13:15 - 20 Moses' instructions

(15) From the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Machi.
(16) Those were the names of the participants whom Moses sent to scout the land; but Moses changed the name of Hosea*Hosea Or “Hoshea.” son of Nun to Joshua. (17) When Moses sent them to scout the land of Canaan, he said to them, “Go up there into the Negeb and on into the hill country, (18) and see what kind of country it is. Are the people who dwell in it strong or weak, few or many? (19) Is the country in which they dwell good or bad? Are the towns they live in open or fortified? (20) Is the soil rich or poor? Is it wooded or not? And take pains to bring back some of the fruit of the land.”—Now it happened to be the season of the first ripe grapes.

(טו)

לְמַ

קִרְיָתָם וְלִקְהָתָם מִפְּרֵי הָאָרֶץ וְהַיְמִים יָמֵי בְּכֹרֵי עֲנָבִים:ט

Numbers 13: 21 - 25 the mission

(21) They went up and scouted the land, from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, at Lebo-hamath.*Lebo-hamath Others “the entrance to Hamath.” (22) They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron, where lived Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the Anakites.—Now Hebron was founded seven years before Zoan of Egypt.— (23) They reached the wadi Eshcol, and there they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes—it had to be borne on a carrying frame by two of them—and some pomegranates and figs. (24) That place was named the wadi Eshcol*Eshcol i.e., “cluster.” because of the cluster that the Israelites cut down there. (25) At the end of forty days they returned from scouting the land.

(כא)

ל

(כה) וַיָּשׁוּבוּ מִתְּוֹר הָאָרֶץ מִקֵּץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם׃

Numbers 13: 26 - 29 the report

(26) They went straight to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran, and they made their report to them and to the whole community, as they showed them the fruit of the land. (27) This is what they told him: “We came to the land you sent us to; it does indeed flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. (28) However, the people who inhabit the country are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, we saw the Anakites there. (29) Amalekites dwell in the Negeb region; Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites inhabit the hill country; and Canaanites dwell by the Sea and along the Jordan.”

(כו)

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בְּהָרַיִם וְהַכְּנָעַנִי יוֹשֵׁב עַל-הַיָּם וְעַל יַד הַיַּרְדֵּן׃

Numbers 13: 30 - 33 Caleb's interjection and the spies rejoinder

(30) Caleb hushed the people before Moses and said, “Let us by all means go up, and we shall gain possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it.” (31) But the other men who had gone up with him said, “We cannot attack that people, for it is stronger than we.” (32) Thus they spread calumnies among the Israelites about the land they had scouted, saying, “The country that we traversed and scouted is one that devours its settlers. All the people that we saw in it are of great size; (33) we saw the Nephilim—and we looked like grasshoppers to ourselves, and so we must have looked to them.”

((ל))
!
וְנָהִי בְעֵינֵינוּ כַּחַגְבִּים וְכֵן הָיִינוּ בְעֵינֵיהֶם׃