

*YOU
OUGHT TO
KNOW...*

RAHAB

RIGHT
HOUS

RA
HAB

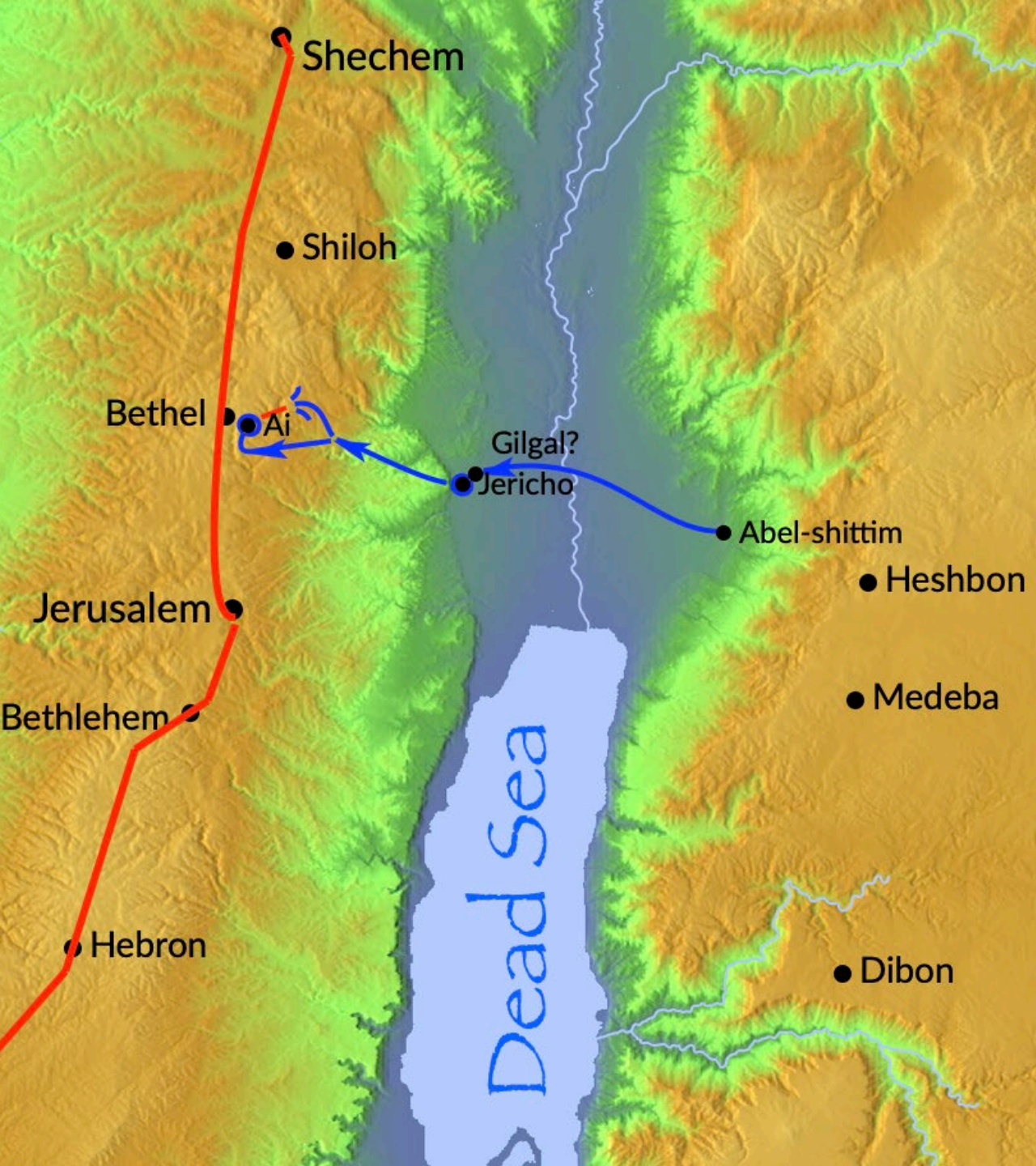




PREPARE
SILENCIO



SETTING THE STAGE



**God gave this
land to the
Israelites with
instructions to kill
everything and
everyone living on
the land.**



I will set your borders from the
Red Sea to the sea of the
Philistines and from the
wilderness to the Euphrates, for
I will hand over to you the
inhabitants of the land, and you
shall drive them out before you.

Exodus 23:31-32



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Exodus 23:31-32

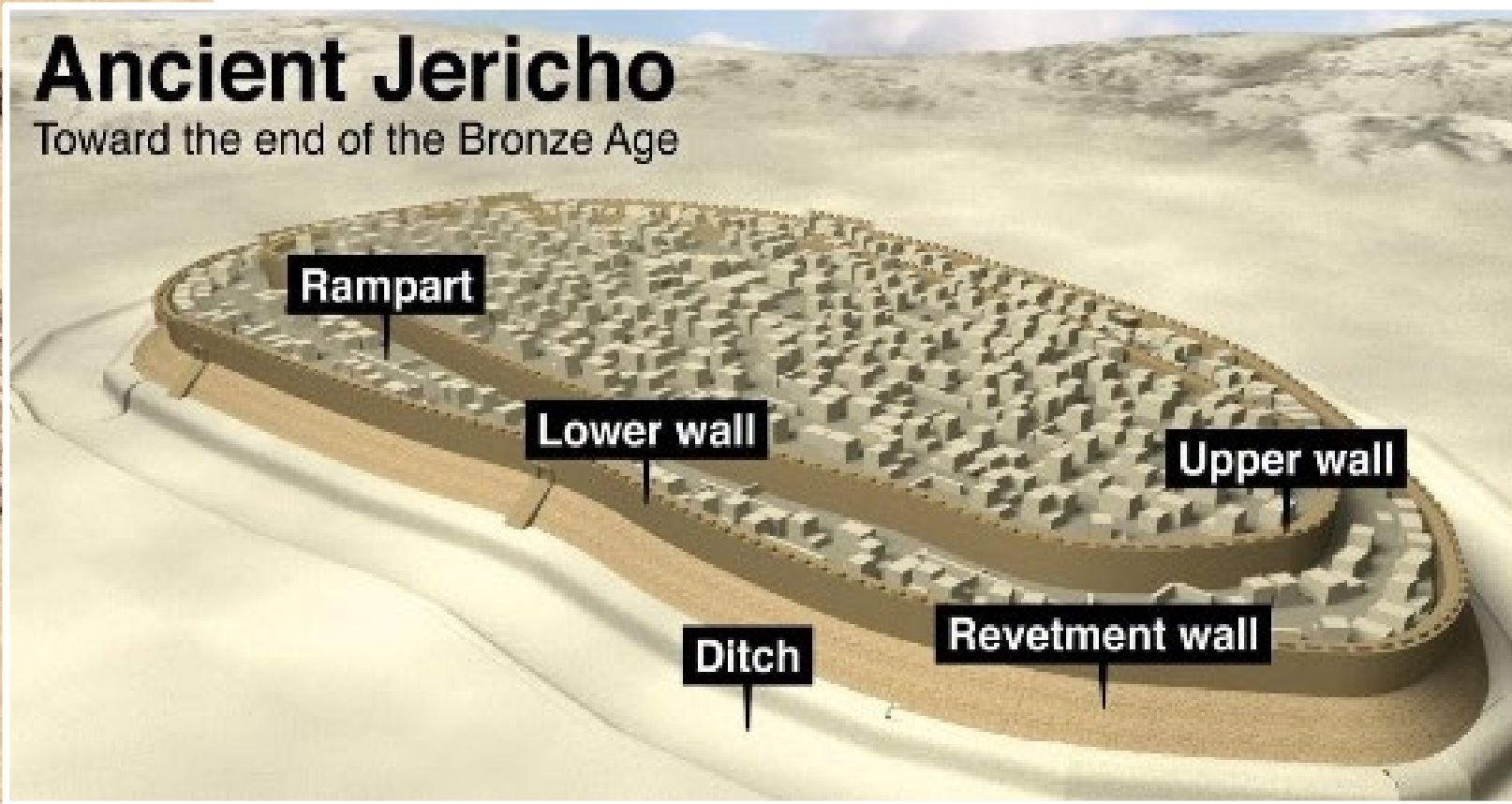
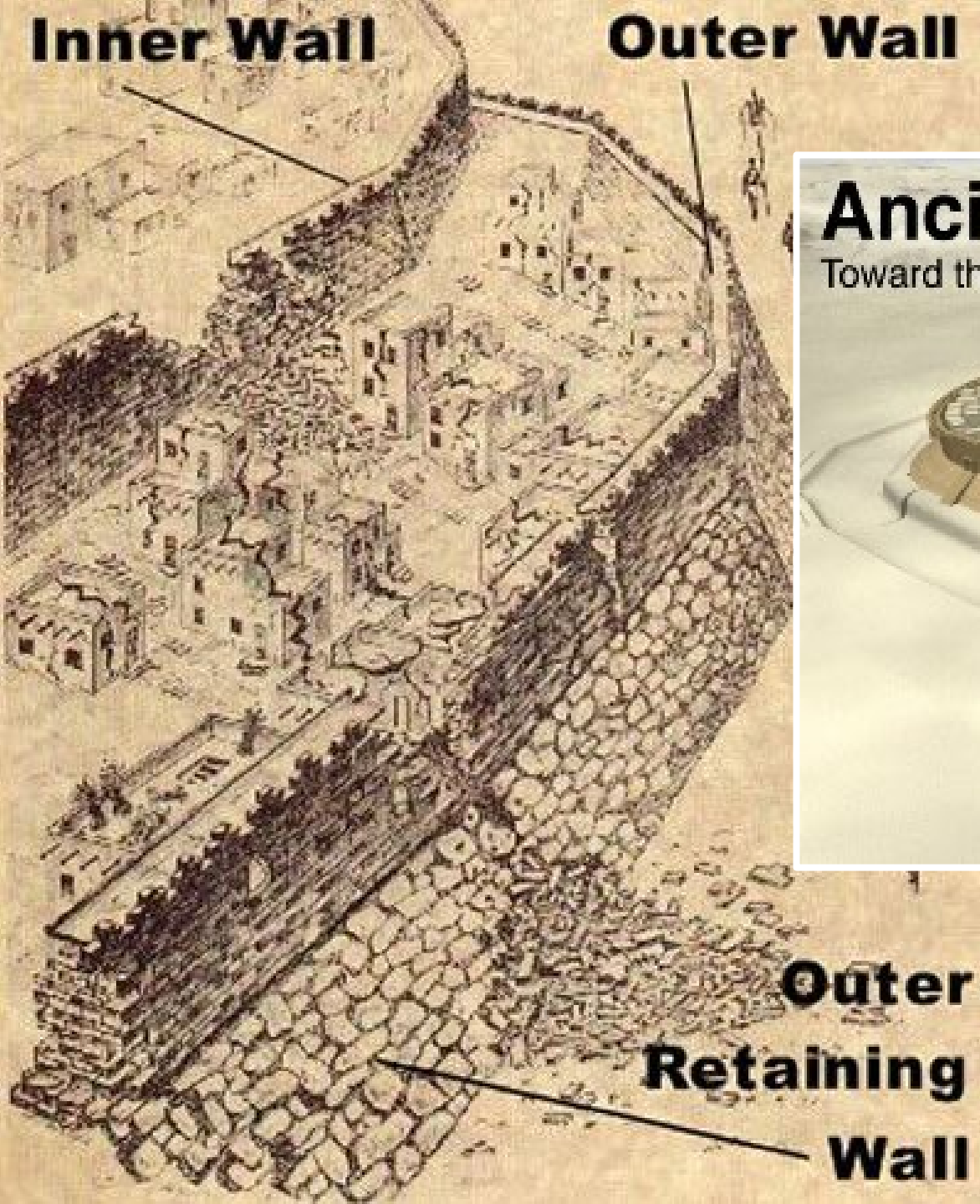
But as for the towns of these
peoples that the Lord your God
is giving you as an inheritance,
you must not let anything that
breathes remain alive.
Deuteronomy 20:16



I will set your borders from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will hand over to you the inhabitants of the land, and you shall drive them out before you.
Exodus 23:31-32

But as for the towns of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, you must not let anything that breathes remain alive.
Deuteronomy 20:16

“Take possession” means to devote a thing to God’s exclusive service, to ban it from common use.





READ
LECTIO

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But the woman took the two men and **hid them**.

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But the woman took the two men and **hid them**.

“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.

The Lord your God is indeed God in **heaven above and on **earth** below.**

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“Our life for yours!”

The Lord your God is indeed God in **heaven above and on **earth** below.**

“Our life for yours!”

If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and **we shall be innocent, but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death.**

The Lord your God is indeed God in **heaven above and on **earth** below.**

“Our life for yours!”

If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and **we shall be innocent, but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death.**

Then she tied the **crimson cord in the window.**

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.**

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The wall fell down flat.

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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.**

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.**

The wall fell down flat.

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.**

Brought Rahab out, along with **her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her—they brought all her kindred out—and set them outside the camp of Israel.**

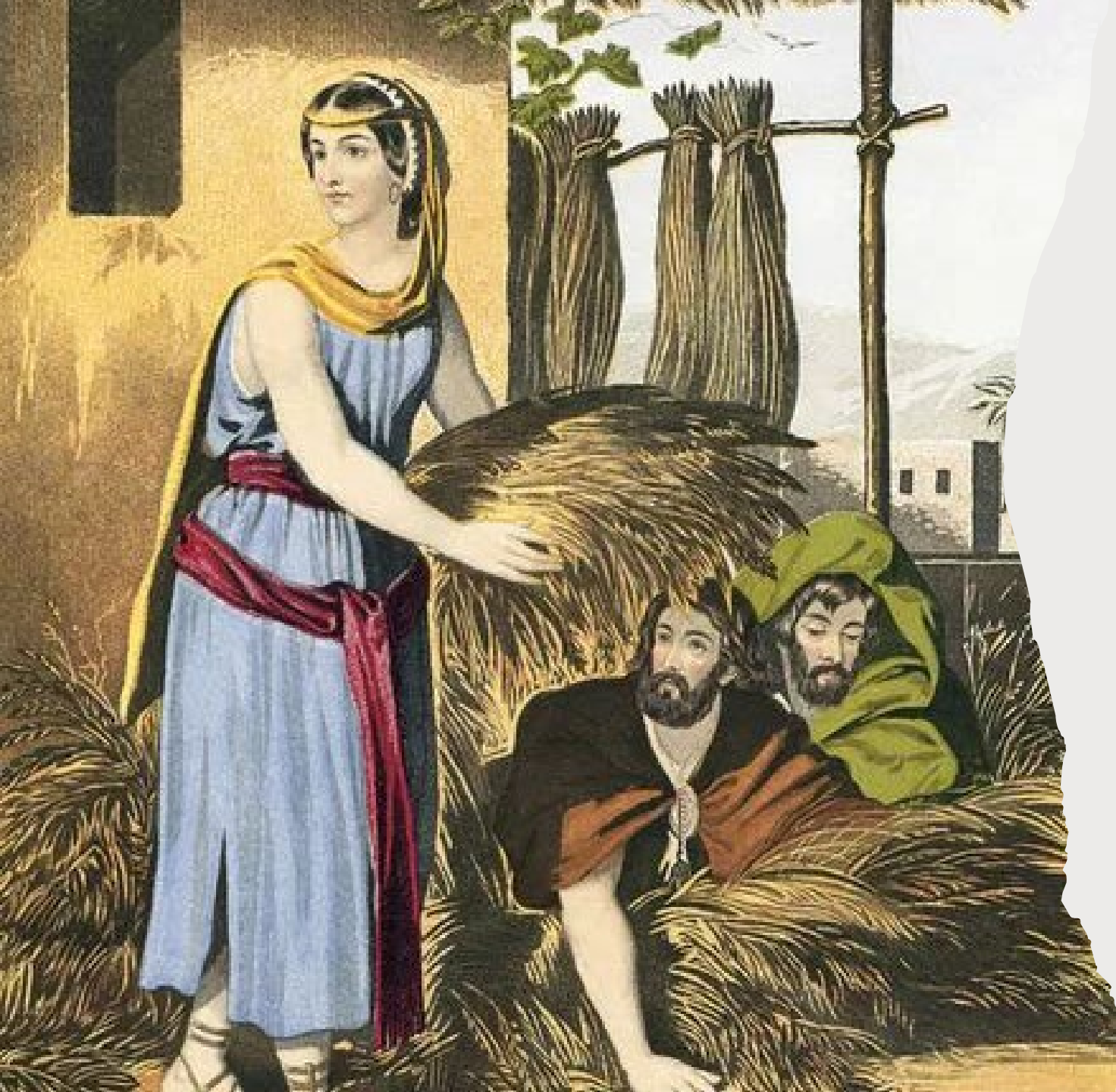
WHAT DO YOU

SEE

OR HEAR?



MEDITATE
MEDITATIO



Conflicting
Worldviews

Conflicting
Timelines &
Grammar

Qumran Scrolls

Deuteronomy-
esque



TRADITIONAL



TRADITIONAL

SYMBOLIC



TRADITIONAL

SYMBOLIC

BROADER



TRADITIONAL



Who is Rahab?

- A sex worker who lived in the walls of the city of Jericho with her family and “all that belong to her”
- Sex work, in any age, was the last act of a desperate woman with no other way to support herself
 - Clearly isn't married
- She struck a deal with Israelite spies to save a lot of non-Hebrews and herself



Where did she live?

- 14 miles from the Jordan River
in a city called Jericho
- “In” the outer wall of the city
- Poorest part of town, open to
first attack
- Lived with father, mother,
brothers; no husband
- Only walls not to collapse



What was her context?

- 1550-1200 BCE
- Pagan, specifically naturalistic polytheist
- Spies (really, pre-teens) sent to scout the land...but they ended up where?
- Babylonian Law of Hammurabi
 - City-state with a monarchy
 - Lies = act of treason. (:2-3)



What was so important?

- “Yahweh is Lord in heaven and on earth” is faith statement
 - Covenant of *hesed* must be reciprocated; but she acts on blind faith in TOTAL strangers (and teenage boys, no less)
 - Lineage to Jesus
 - No one is out of God’s reach
- God uses the last and the least to advance kindness and grace



SYMBOLIC



- Red is symbolic of blood, war, destruction
- Blood plague in Egypt
 - Red horse of war in Revelation
- Esau was “red” and fights with his brother over red stew



- Scarlet is manmade for dye; changing something natural into something it is not (a sign of luxury)
- Represents sin and the resulting death
- Scarlet is the color of the blood at the first Passover; the color of liberation

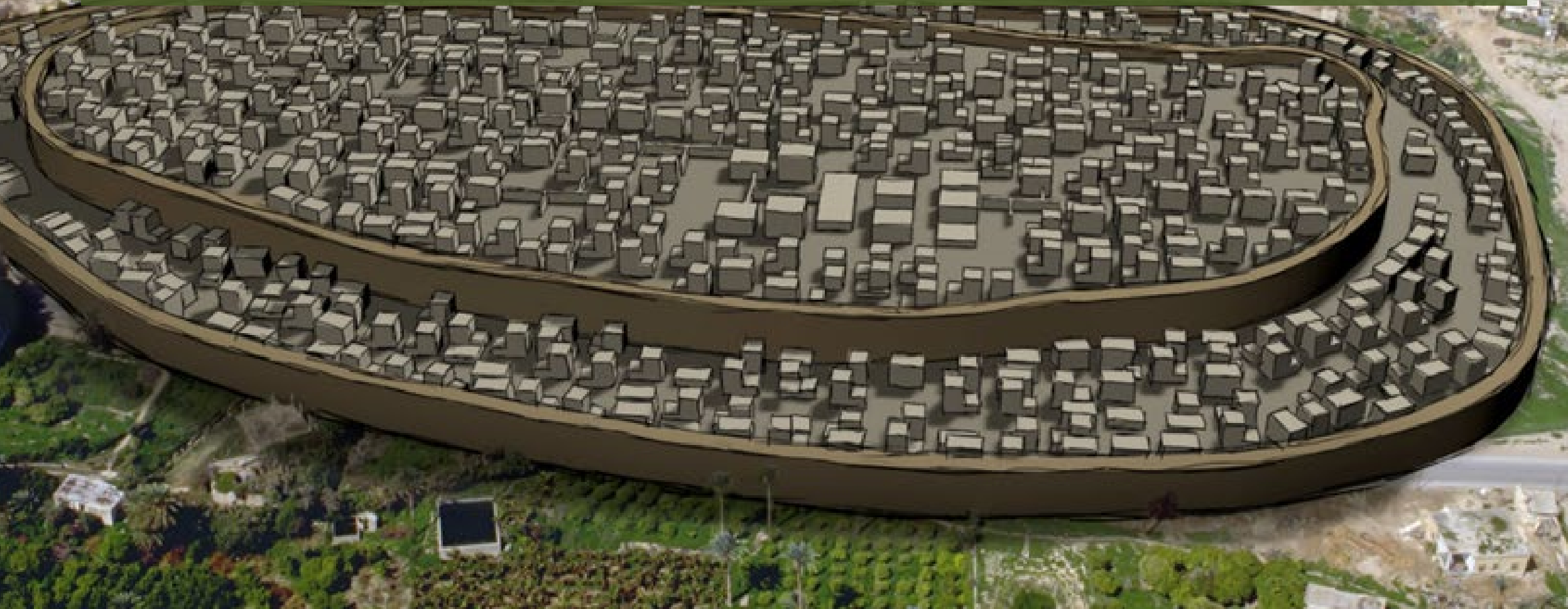


- Scarlet is most often associated with the trade of sex work
- Rahab (and Israel) made their sinful choices

THE CITY IS A HEART

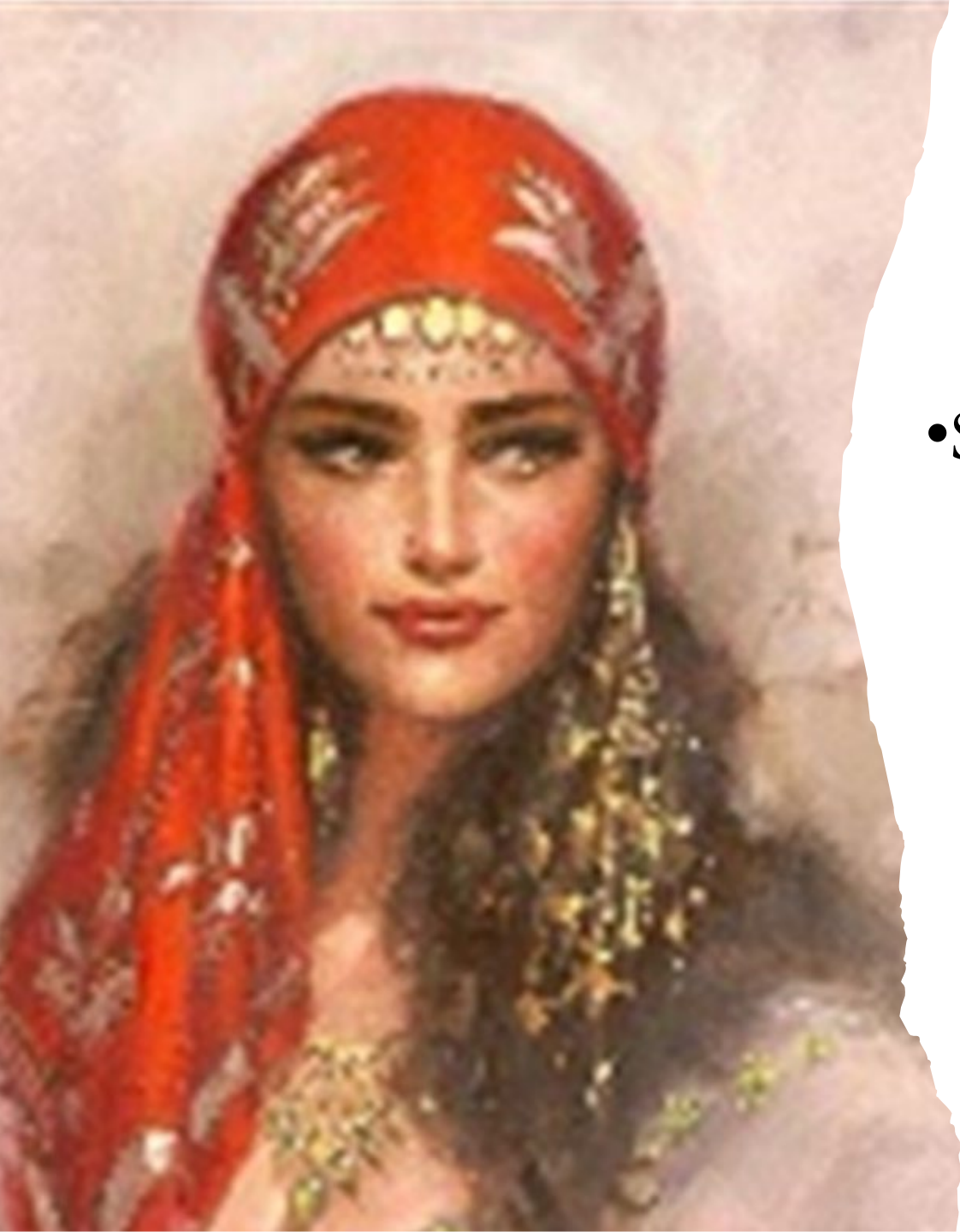
*“So acknowledge today and **take to heart** that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.”*

Deuteronomy 4:39



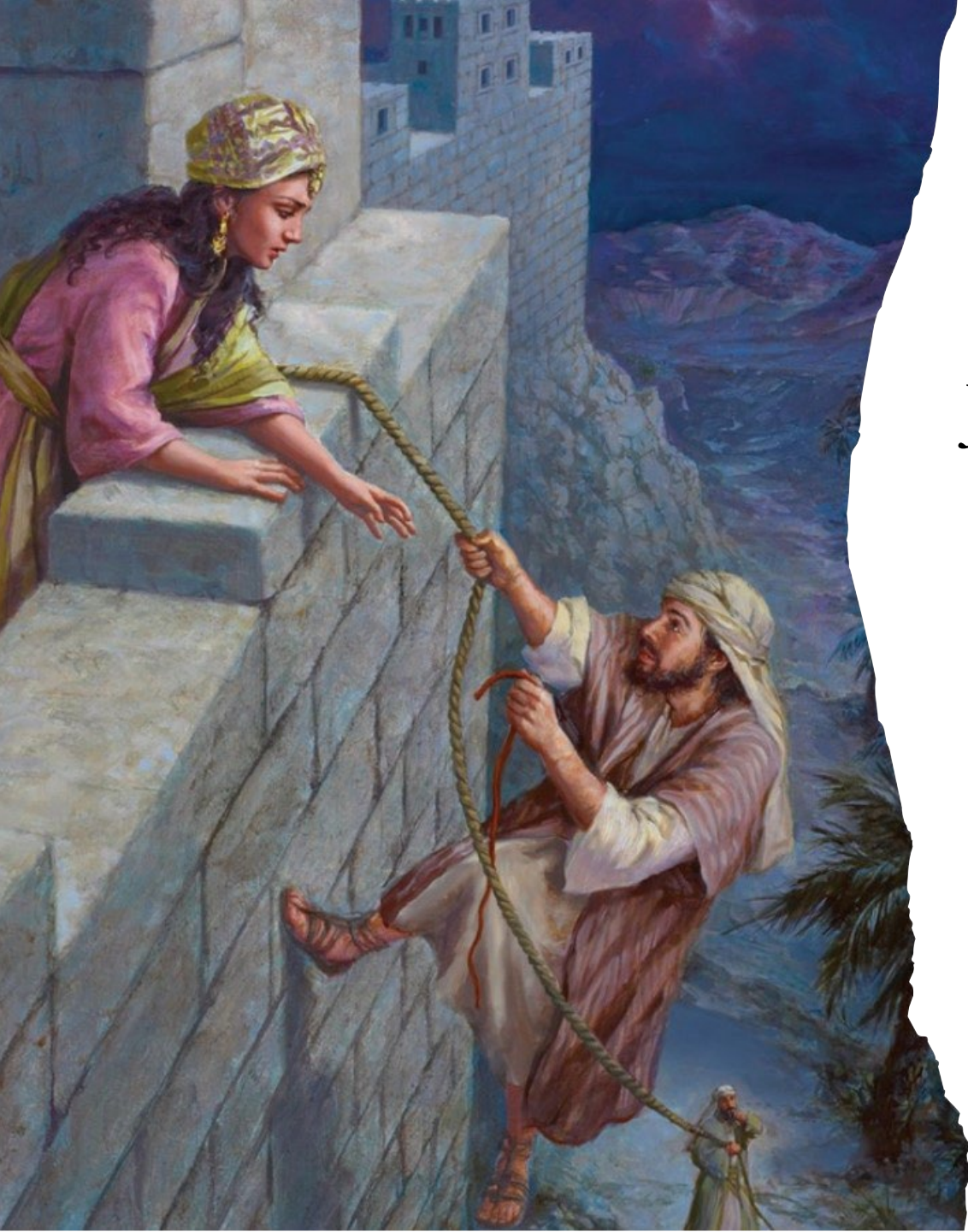


BROADER



Who Is Rahab?

- *Zonah* vs. *Qedesh*
- Josephus calls her house *katagogion*
- Several rabbinical writings gloss the *zonah* with the Greek *pandokeus*, or innkeeper
- *Zonahs* often worked out of the seedier places, like taverns and inns
- The line is blurry, so a female innkeeper could be a euphemism for a sex worker
- The Israelites saved her family “and all who belonged to her”



Where did she live?

- In a house inside or against the outermost wall of the Pagan city of Jericho, 14 miles from the Jordan River, at the base of a mountain range
- Ruled by a monarch who upheld the ancient laws
- She wasn't the stranger in a foreign land; she was at home
- *Whose reputation is really at stake here?*



What was her context?

- She was the head of a household
 - She was a business owner
 - She wasn't Hebrew
- She wasn't bound by the law of Yahweh or the writings of Torah
- Her law code was Hammurabi



Why she is important

- What matters more to God: sinful behavior or content of the heart?
 - She also saved the spies; total strangers
- The Hebrew word for *hid* is the same verb used when Moses' mom hid him in the basket for his safety and nurture
 - She's in the ancestral line of Jesus
- She was a visionary who got things done




Important to know Rahab

- Deserves more than “Rahab the prostitute”
- See past the labels we put on each other
- We know what God asks of us, in regard to strangers in our country
- At best, her lived experience is ignored; at worst, history has silenced her
- Nevertheless, she persisted and would not be tamed

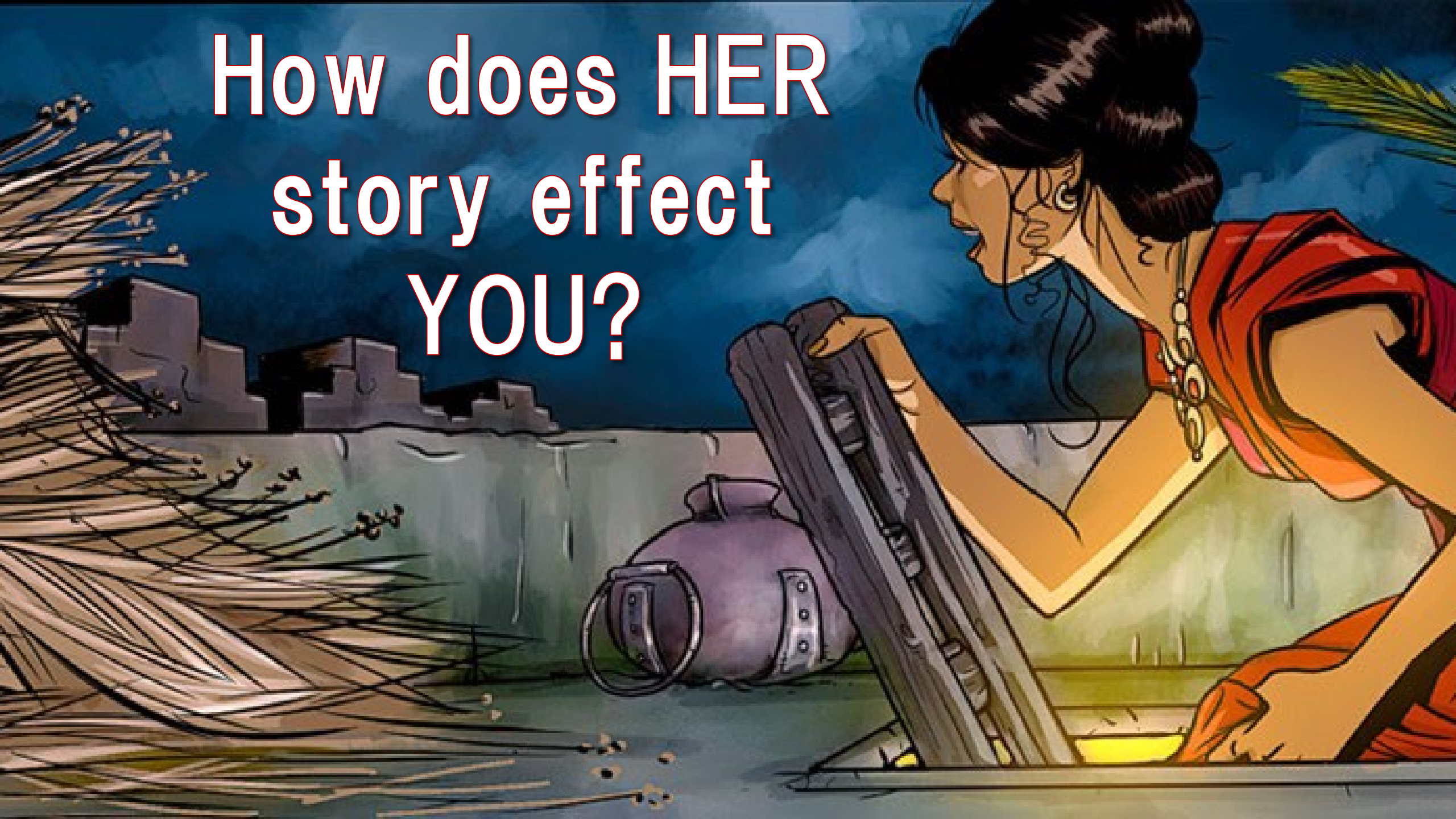


PRAYER
ORATIO




CONTEMPLATE
CONTEMPLATIO

How does HER
story effect
YOU?



It won't until YOU decide it will.



**We envision a financially inclusive world where
all people hold the power to improve their
lives.**

kiva

More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.

Kiva by the numbers

A dark green world map is centered in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of continents and countries.

4.8M

Borrowers

80

Countries

2.2M

Lenders

\$1.97B

Loans funded through Kiva

96.3%

Repayment rate



Patricia Abigail

12 days
REMAINING

\$65 to go
94% FUNDED

A loan of \$1,000 helps to purchase corn for her business making and selling tortillas.

El Salvador at a glance

\$7,500

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME (USD)

533

LOANS CURRENTLY FUNDRAISING

23 years old

Has a high school education

Single, lives with mother

Tortilla business in the house for the last year

Wants to go back to school to have a professional career



Vitalia is a 57-year-old married woman with five children who has worked in agriculture her whole life.

Vitalia is requesting financial assistance from Kiva for paddy farming, including: land cultivation, land tilling, transportation, buying fertilizers and paying laborers.

She will be able to harvest a variety of crops for sale, allowing her to better support her family with health insurance and paying for her children's educations.

Vitalia



A loan of \$400 helps to buy farm services and inputs, including land cultivation and tilling, transportation, fertilizers and worker salaries.

Tanzania at a glance	
\$1,900	16
AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME (USD)	LOANS CURRENTLY FUNDRAISING

kiivo

Next Week:



I'd like to introduce you to...Jael