



Reading Rahab through the Lens of Colonization

By Rebecca Majorel

Colonization

Acts of colonization can exert control over both material goods as well as symbolic, cultural, and religious resources.

The more types (material, religious, cultural or religious) of resources affected by a colonizers actions, the stronger the act of colonization can be said to be.





Colonizing powers in Joshua



The Imperial Powers of Jericho

- undisputed
- central to the plot of the story



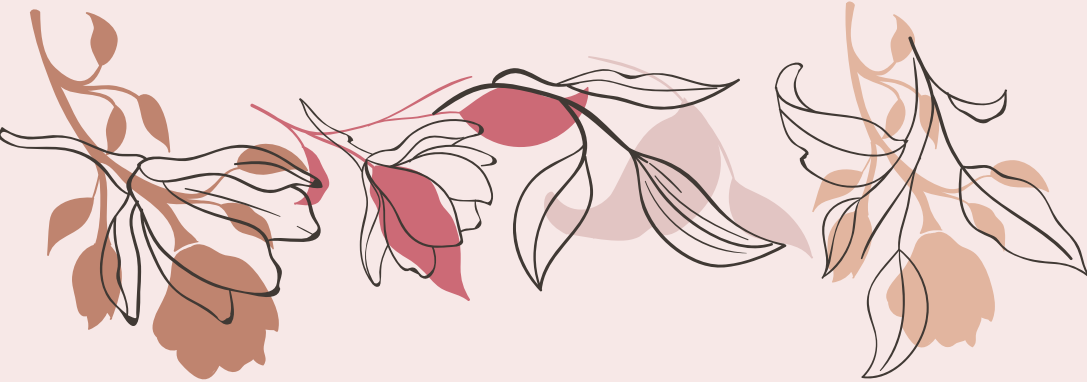
Patriarchal frameworks

- requires the understanding that patriarchal systems are forms of colonization to begin with



Joshua's army

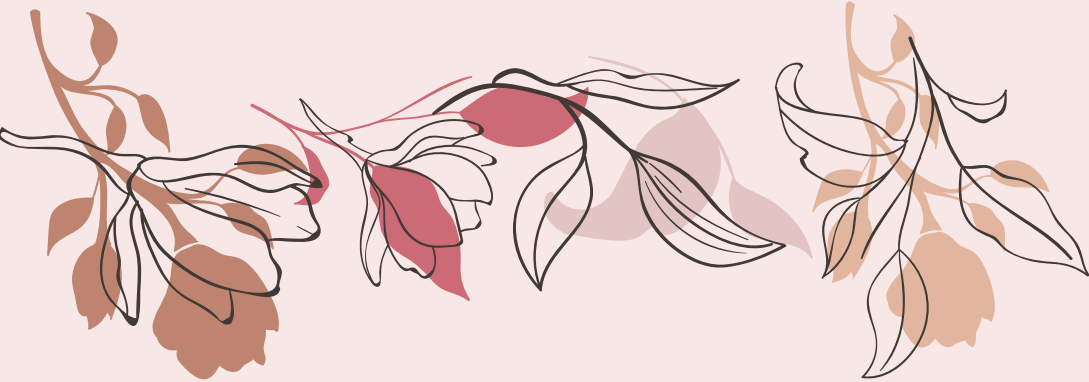
- less discussion about this in mainstream biblical research
- central to my research



Imperial Powers

- Rahab is a citizen
- Egypt ruling over Jericho at this time
- The king exerts power over Rahab
- “Prostitute” likely means low socioeconomic status
- Primarily colonizing material wealth

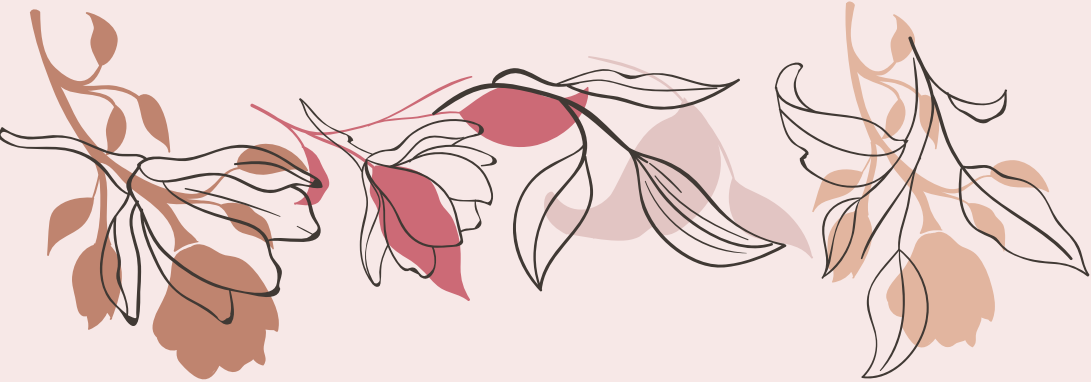




Patriarchal Frameworks

- Prostitute looked down upon by church leaders throughout history
- The text has been used in patriarchal biblical interpretation
 - Ex.: the author of Hebrews





Joshua's Army

- Entire community destroyed
- Makes decision to save her family
- Still left without any outside opportunities
- Forced to become part of a culture that is not hers
- Colonization of culture, religion, and material wealth: therefore the most extreme colonizing force in the narrative





Rahab must be centering the story
She was left with few options and in order
to save her family, she used her
“trickster” personality to overcome the
situation and save her family

This did not lead to a happy ending for
Rahab though, she was excluded from the
Israelite camp and dealt with the death of
her community and therefore her culture
the rest of her life.



- Chidester, David. "Colonialism and Postcolonialism." In *Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd ed., edited by Lindsay Jones, 1853-1860. Vol. 3. Detroit, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. *Gale eBooks* (accessed November 12, 2022).
<https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3424500621/GVRL?u=nclivegwu&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=b9064743>.
- Coote, Robert B. *The Book of Joshua*. The New Interpreters Bible: A commentary in Twelve Volumes, vol IV. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- De Wet, Chris L. "Rahab the Harlot in Severian of Gabala's De Paenitentia et Compunctione (de Rahab Historia): Paradox, Anti-Judaism and the Early Christian Invention of the Penitent Prostitute." *HTS Theological Studies* 76, no. 3 (2020): 1–7. doi:10.4102/hts.v76i3.6309.
- Harrison, P., "Fill the Earth and Subdue it": Biblical Warrants for Colonization in Seventeenth Century England. *Journal of Religious History*, vol 29, 3-24.
<https://doi-org.ezproxy.gardner-webb.edu/10.1111/j.1467-9809.2005.00258.x>
- Mangililo, Ira D. "When Rahab and Indonesian Christian Women Meet In the Third Space." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 31, no. 1 (Spr 2015): 45–64.
<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rft&AN=ATLAn3811342&site=ehost-live>.
- Newsom, Carol A. Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley. *Women's Bible Commentary, Third Edition : Revised and Updated*. Vol. 3rd ed., twentieth anniversary ed. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012. <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=558296&site=ehost-live>.
- Noegel, Scott B. "Scarlet and Harlots: Seeing Red in the Hebrew Bible." *Hebrew Union College Annual* 87 (2016): 1–47. doi:10.15650/hebruniocollannu.87.2016.0001.
- Sharp, Carolyn J. "“Are You for Us, or for Our Adversaries?": A Feminist and Postcolonial Interrogation of Joshua 2-12 for the Contemporary Church." *Interpretation* 66, no. 2 (April 2012): 141–52. doi:10.1177/0020964311434882. **This presentation**
- Sherwood, Aaron. "A Leader's Misleading and a Prostitute's Profession: A Re-Examination of Joshua 2." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 31, no. 1 (September 2006): 43–61. <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rft&AN=ATLA0001537858&site=ehost-live>.
- Tichý, Ladislav. "Rahab the Prostitute in the New Testament." *Studia Biblica Slovaca* 12, no. 1 (2020): 43–50.
<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=rft&AN=ATLAIe8N200615000681&site=ehost-live>.

Bibliography