

“RAHAB”

Text: Joshua 2:1-24
Subject: (A Harlot That Made Heaven Her Home)

Introduction

1. The Book of Joshua is a book of conflict and conquest.
2. It's a book detailing the possession of the Promise Land.
3. It reveals to us the spirit and the attitude that God will honor.

(God's Word To Joshua Is God's Word To You:)

“Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest”. (1:9)

Question: What was Joshua commissioned to do?

Answer: Three things (and he did them well:)

- #1. Lead the people forward into the Promise Land.
- #2. Defeat every enemy that stood in the way.
- #3. Claim the inheritance that was promised by God.

(Notice The Setting Of Our Text In Verses 1-3)

In (v. 1): Joshua sends out two spies to view Jericho.

In (v. 1): The two spies lodge in the house of Rahab.

In (v. 2): The king of Jericho is told of the spies.

In (v. 3): The angry king sends someone to get the spies.

Question: In (v. 1), how did the two spies (that Joshua sent into Jericho) ever find the house of Rahab (the place of safety)?

Question: How did the two spies travel through Jericho without being overtaken by the enemy?

(Remember)

- #1. Jericho was a city of about 8 to 9 acres of land.
- #2. It was one of the many cities in Canaan, each ruled by a king. (Joshua 12:9-24)
- #3. The double walls around Jericho were 90 feet high and 30 feet wide.
- #4. According to Joshua 2:15, Rahab's house was built into one of the walls.
- #5. And, Rahab was the only believer in Jericho who believed in the God of Israel.

Question: So, how did the spies find Rahab's house in the midst of totally pagan city?

Answer: Only by the providence of God!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Rahab's house was the only safe place in Jericho.
- ◆ Rahab's house was the only protection for the two spies.
- ◆ Rahab's house was the only provision of lodging for the two spies Joshua had sent ahead.

(And We Discover)

- ◆ That in the midst of a crucial, pressing and timely need of the two Israelite spies,
- ◆ God has gone before them (in His providence) to provide for them in Jericho before they ever even arrive in town.

(What's The Big Deal To You And Me?)

- ◆ **The “Big Deal” is, that the providence of God is at work in every life here today.**

Fact: The word providence comes from two words:

“PRO” (which means) “Before” (and) “Video” (which means) “To see”

(It Reveals To You)

- #1. That the Lord is always **going before you**, (and) can **see ahead of you**.
- #2. That the Lord goes before us, sees ahead of us, and causes all things to be in place so that His will can be accomplished in your life!

Question: How many of you know that God is working now (behind the scenes) for what you will face tomorrow?

Question: How many of you can trust the Lord with the things you do not know and cannot understand?

(The Two Spies Teach Us)

- #1. That if we just obey what the Lord tells us to do, the Lord will work out all the details in His perfect timing.
- #2. That if we do the known will of God today, God will reveal His unknown will tomorrow.
- #3. That the God who has been faithful in all of your yesterdays, won't be forgetful in any of your tomorrows!!!

(Now Today)

◆ **“Voices from Rahab that speak to us all”**

#1. **Rahab's Faith**

Question: How do we know that Rahab had faith in God?

Answer: By her works she displayed in saving the spies.

Question: How can God use the worst of sinners?

Answer: Because of their faith in God to change the human heart.

(All Read Matthew 1:5)

- ◆ “And Salmon begat Boaz, (Rahab was his mother), Boaz was the father of Obed (Ruth was his mother), Obed was the father of Jesse”.

Hebrews 11:31

- ◆ “By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace”

James 2:25

- ◆ “Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way”.

Fact: In James 2:25, Rahab is identified with Abraham because of her faith.

Fact: In Hebrews 11:31, Rahab is identified with Sarah as the only two women listed in the Hall of Fame of Faith.

Fact: In Matthew 1, Rahab is identified as the great grandmother of David, the family line from which Jesus came from.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Rahab went from ill fame, to the Hall of Fame!
- ◆ Rahab went from the Canaanite gods, to the one true and living God!
- ◆ Rahab went from selling her body in prostitution, to offering her body to propagate the gospel!
- ◆ Rahab went from a life of condemnation, to a life of adoration!

(How Can This Be? Romans 5:20)

“But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”

(In Other Words)

- #1. God will reform anyone who repents!
- #2. Grace is still greater than any sin you have committed!
- #3. When you get saved, the record of your past sin is washed away and removed from the sight of God forever and forever!

Questions: Why is Rahab called “Rahab The Harlot” in the Old and New Testament?

Answer: (Not to bring up her past life again). But, to emphasize the kind of sinner she was and how the **Marvelous Grace of God** saved her because she believed.

(In Other Words)

- #1. There is not one sin, that God is not able to forgive.
- #2. There is not one person, that God does not love.
- #3. There is not one heart, that God cannot change.

(In Other Words)

“There is therefore now, no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1)

#2. Rahab’s Fortitude (vs. 4-7)

(v. 4) “And the woman took the men and hid them”

(v. 6) “But she (Rahab) had brought the men to the roof of the house and hid them”

Fact: Rahab took in the two spies Joshua had sent.

Fact: She hid them under stalks of flax on her roof.

Fact: The king of Jericho sent soldiers to arrest the two Israelites.

Fact: The king was alarmed and nervous over the spies in the city.

(And What Does Rahab Do?)

- #1. She welcomes the spies into her own house.
- #2. She conceals the spies to protect them.
- #3. She risks her very life so that the spies can get back to Joshua.
- #4. She is all alone, the only believer in Jericho of Canaan (a culture of pagan gods).
- #5. And she proves her faith by her works as she is willing to stand alone (regardless of the cost)

(What About You And Me?)

Question: Am I willing to serve God and be in the minority?

Question: Am I willing to do what is right, instead of what is convenient?

Question: Am I willing to lead by example, or do I follow those who pressure me to conform?

Question: Can God count on me to seek first His kingdom in the choices that I make?

- ◆ One of the characteristics of a “Joshua Spirit” is a willingness to stand alone for God, regardless.

#3. Rahab’s Focus (vs. 8-11)

Question: What gives us the fortitude to stand alone like Rahab did?

Answer: Knowing what Rahab knew:

(v. 9) “And she said unto the men, I know that **the Lord** has given you the land”.

(v. 10) “For we have heard how **the Lord** dried up the water of the Red Sea”.

(v. 11) “And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: For **the Lord** your God He is God in heaven above, and in earth, beneath”.

Question: Pastor, where do I find courage in times of battle?

Question: What did Rahab do in this emergency crises with the spies and arresting officers at her door in Jericho?

(Answer:)

- ◆ In (v. 9), She focused on the Lord!
- ◆ In (v. 10), She focused on the Lord!
- ◆ In (v. 11), She focused on the Lord!

Fact: The news of the power of God at the Red Sea had traveled to the people of Canaan.

(God Said That It Would) In Exodus 15:14-16

“The people shall hear and be afraid” (v. 14)

“Trembling shall take hold upon them” (v. 15)

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“All the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away” (v. 15)

“Fear and dread shall fall upon them” (v. 16)

(In Deuteronomy 2:25)

**“The nations that hear of thee shall tremble and be in anguish because of thee”
(What Was God Saying?)**

- #1. Focus on the Lord and the devil cannot defeat you.
- #2. Focus on the Lord and the devil cannot intimidate you.
- #3. Focus on the Lord and the devil cannot sidetrack you.

(What Is Rahab’s Confession Of Faith In V. 11?)

**“...For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath”.
(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Rahab recognized the Israelites were under the protection of Jehovah.
- ◆ Rahab knew that God would punish the pagan Canaanites.
- ◆ Rahab knew that resistance was in vain, and she needed to be on the side of the Lord.

(What About You?)

Question: Are you resisting the Lord in any area of your life?

Question: Are you able to say with Rahab, “The Lord is God in heaven above” (as well as “and in the earth beneath”)?

Question: On the earth (or in your life) is Jesus Lord and first place in your plans, your friends, your finances, your habits, your devotions, your T.V. viewing, your future, your dating (or) your whatever?

(If Not, Then Focus In Today And Be Made Strong!!!)

#4. Rahab’s Family (vs. 12-17)

Question: What was Rahab’s one concern?

Answer: (v. 13) She pleads with the two spies in (v. 13)

“Save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death”.

Question: When Israel invades Jericho and the city is destroyed, what is Rahab’s one concern?

Answer: The salvation of her family!

- ◆ Rahab was burdened for her family!
- ◆ Rahab wanted a guarantee that her family would be spared!
- ◆ Rahab had to tell her relatives two things that God wants everybody to know.
 - #1. Judgment is coming to the unsaved.
 - #2. Salvation is available to all who believe.

Question: But how will her family be saved?

Question: How can the heathen Canaanite relatives be spared from judgment?

(Only One Way)

#5. Rahab’s Favor (vs. 18-24)

In (v. 14), The two spies promised they would be gracious when Jericho was invaded.

In (v. 15), The spies were let down to escape by a rope.

In (v. 16), “Go to the mountain and escape” says Rahab.

In (v. 17), The men said, we’ll be back to rescue you.

(But In V. 18 Is The Victory)

“Bind this scarlet rope in the window, and it will identify your house as the house of safety when the army invades the city”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The spies tell Rahab, “If you want to be saved and spared of judgment, hang this scarlet rope out of the window to identify yourself and your family”.

(What Did Rahab Do?)

- ◆ (v. 21) “...She bound the scarlet line in the window of her house”.

(What’s The Significance Of The Rope?)

- #1. The color scarlet (or crimson) is the color of blood!
- #2. As the blood on the doorposts saved the Israelite in Egypt (so the scarlet rope would save the house of Rahab).

(Remember)

- ◆ Rahab was a citizen of Canaan and under condemnation.
- ◆ Rahab was a Gentile outside of the covenant of God.
- ◆ Rahab was destined to die without God’s favor and mercy.

(But The Scarlet Rope Saved The Day)

- #1. The scarlet rope saved the spies in their escape.
- #2. The scarlet rope saved Rahab and her family.
- #3. The scarlet rope (symbolic of the blood of Jesus) saves us and cleanses us from every sin.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The scarlet on the doorposts protected Israel.
- ◆ The scarlet in the window protected Rahab
- ◆ And the scarlet of the cross protects you and me.

Conclusion

Question: Did Rahab deserve to be saved? (No)

Answer: She was a prostitute and sold her body for money.

Question: Did Rahab’s family deserve to be saved? (No)

Answer: They were Canaanites under the judgment of God.

Question: Do we deserve to be saved? (No)

Answer: “For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God”. (Romans 3:23)

(But The Awesome Grace Of God)

- ◆ Takes a harlot to heaven because of her faith in the living God.

(and)

- ◆ She is willing to serve the God of heaven, while she lives on earth.

AMEN!

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