

Into the Promised Land - Joshua's Story
Lesson #52 - "Rahab -- The Rest of the Story"
• HANDOUT •

► This current study changes our focus to Rahab. The Bible – including the New Testament – refers to her as a Prostitute who demonstrated her awe and faith in Israel's God by protecting two spies who were sent by Joshua to check out the Land God was giving Israel. Her story sheds light on the significance of salvation by faith through God's grace alone, in the Old Testament record, not just in the New. We will begin by returning to verse 22, and then working thru verse 25, which we previously omitted. From that point we will look at some other scriptures in order to finish Rahab's story.

Verse 22 takes place right after Jericho's wall has collapsed. Joshua sends two men back into Jericho, to rescue Rahab and all in her family who are waiting with her, in her house.

► **Joshua 6:22-23** • Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

Q: Whom did Joshua send to rescue Rahab?

Q: What is significant about Rahab and her family being brought to a place just outside Israel's camp?

► **Joshua 6:24-25** • Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house.
But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho – and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

Q: After Rahab and family were rescued, what was Joshua's next move?

Q: What does the reference to the "Lord's House" tell us?

Q: Since Joshua had rescued Rahab and her family, thus fulfilling the oath his two spies had made to Rahab, why didn't Joshua simply take them to a safe place and set them free to start a new life? Why did Joshua have them brought to the outskirts of Israel's camp?

Q: What are five things that needed to occur for Rahab and her family to live as an Israelite?

Q: Why couldn't Rahab and family be brought into camp and go through the ritual teaching and changes that were required to become an Israelite while they dwelt among the people? Wouldn't that be easier for all involved and Rahab and her family could learn by example as well by instruction.

Q: What are some of the far reaching implications of the statement: So she dwells in Israel to this day?

Q: In what ways did Rahab demonstrate her faith?

Ultimately, what happened to Rahab?

► According to the Midrash – the Jewish written commentary for interpreting the Bible – Rahab eventually married Joshua. However, outside of this Rabbinic opinion, there is nothing to support such a claim including the Holy Scriptures.

The New Testament scriptures report something very different: From Matthew 1:5 we learn that Rahab married Salmon, the son of Nahshon, of the Tribe of Judah. They had a son named Boaz who married Ruth. They had a son named Jesse, who was the father of King David. Thus Rahab was King David's great-great grandmother. Thus Rahab is listed in the genealogy of Jesus, The Christ.

Q: What is the significance of Rahab, a Gentile pagan woman, being listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ?

Rahab as a symbolic foreshadowing of the N.T. Church ...

► Many scholars – perhaps most – see Rahab as not only an historical person, but view her life as a symbolic foreshadowing of the New Testament church.

Rahab came from the Gentile pagan world-system that strongly opposed the One Living God who reigns in Heaven and earth. That pagan world had their own “gods” whom they served in the most diabolical and disgusting ways, including infant sacrifices. But Rahab saw God's miraculous Hand in the midst of Israel and not only did she believe in His Power, but she hungered to be part of who He is.

She might have tried taking her family into hiding in the hill country, or beyond, until the battle of Jericho was fought. But her greatest desire seems to be that she wanted to be part of what Israel's God was doing. It took strength and faith for her to hang that scarlet cord in her window, thus trusting that Israel's God would honor the promise the two spies had made to her.

Rahab was, in fact, the first recorded Gentile convert.

Ultimately, she transferred her identity with her past life to her new life with Israel, without compromise. After undergoing all of the rituals required of a proselyte, she was accepted as a full Covenant member of Israel, joyfully participating in all of the festivals, keeping the Law and the sacrificial system.

Rahab was made into a new person who became part of the Covenant of God.

Q: Rahab's story should be an inspiration for all who have been saved by grace. What are some of the ways Rahab's transformed life and change of identity foreshadows Believers today?

► We now return back to the exploits of Joshua as he leads Israel into the conquest of the Land of Promise.
In Joshua, we find a man who was hungry to learn and grow in the wisdom of God and who committed himself to following the Lord's Precepts. His first battle was behind him, but there are many battles to come. Some will come from unexpected and unwanted places.



Next Time • Lesson #53
“Shame at Ai”

