

## **Rahab the Harlot** **Josh. 2:1-24**

Introduction:

### **I. Recap the story of Rahab.**

- A. Israel is ready to take possession of the land of Canaan.
  - 1. They have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.
  - 2. The unfaithful generation of the people has died in the wilderness.
- B. Joshua sends men into the land of Canaan to spy out the land (2:1-7).
  - 1. These spies come to the house of Rahab, a harlot of the city.
  - 2. The king of Jericho finds out that the spies are there.
    - a. He sends to Rahab to bring out the spies.
    - b. She, instead of turning the spies over to the men of the city, tells them that they have left the city.
    - c. She even goes on to encourage the people to chase them and capture the spies.
    - d. However, before the men came to her door, she had hidden the spies on the roof of her house.
- C. Rahab makes a desperate plea to these spies so that her life may be spared by Israel (2:8-13).
- D. The spies agree to this and give her some warnings as they depart (2:14-21).
  - 1. The warning is for the following (2:17-20):
    - a. Rahab must tie the scarlet cord to the window.
    - b. Rahab must bring anyone she wants to save into her house.
    - c. She cannot tell anyone about the spies.
  - 2. If Rahab did not follow each of these three conditions, she and her household could be killed.
- E. The spies return and tell Joshua that the land has been given to them (2:23).
- F. Later on, when the city of Jericho is destroyed, Rahab and her household is saved according to the words of the spies (6:17, 22-25).

*According to the New Testament, there were two things that saved Rahab.*

### **II. Faith (Heb. 11:30-31).**

- A. It was the faith of Rahab that saved her and the spies.
- B. Rahab had, in essence, confessed her faith in God by retelling what happened to Israel (Josh. 2:8-13).
- C. She demonstrated her faith in several ways.
  - 1. She did not turn the spies over to the men of the city, but rather she hid them on her roof.
  - 2. She admitted that she knew what God had done for Israel in Egypt and on the other side of the Jordan.
  - 3. She put the scarlet cord in her window.
  - 4. She remained in her house even when the walls of Jericho fell and the city was being destroyed.

5. She had so great of faith that she is written about in “Faith’s Hall of Fame” in **Heb. 11**.
- D. She knew that there was no way to survive without the God of Israel.
- E. This salvation through faith fits in with other New Testament scriptures.
1. **Eph. 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast.
  2. **I Pet. 1:3-5, 8-9** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. {8} whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, {9} receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of your souls.
  3. Each time salvation and faith are used together, it is salvation *through* faith.
    - a. This indicates that there is something else needed for salvation.
    - b. It is not salvation by faith alone, but through faith.

### III. Works (**Js. 2:25**).

- A. James tells us that it was the works of Rahab that saved her.
1. This implies that there was something that she had to do.
  2. She had to hide the spies.
  3. She also had to keep her end of the deal (**Josh. 2:17-20**).
    - a. She had to tie the scarlet cord to the window.
    - b. She had to bring those of her household into her house.
    - c. She could not reveal that the spies were at her house.
- B. This also fits in with other scriptures in the New Testament.
1. Notice the entire context of this passage (**Js. 2:14-26**).
  2. **Rom. 2:6** - who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

Conclusion:

In the life of Rahab, we see a prime example of faith and works being used together. It takes faith in God in order to obtain salvation. Through that faith, we must be obedient to God.