



JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

**JOSHUA 6:15–25**

**THE GRACE OF FAITH**

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<sup>22</sup> But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.”

Joshua 6:22 (ESV)

**The rescue of Rahab takes up again the “in/out” language of verse 1. Jericho’s barred gates prevented anyone going in or out. God’s victory changes that: Israel has indeed gone in, and because of an oath sworn in response to Rahab’s kindness, some Canaanites have come out. This, too, is a victory of God<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>9</sup> and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. <sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. <sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. <sup>12</sup> Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” <sup>14</sup> And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

Joshua 2:9–14 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel.

Joshua 6:23 (ESV)

**Rahab and her house are put (in Hebrew, “made to rest”) “outside the camp” for as covenantal outsiders they are not admitted within its holy boundaries. <sup>2</sup>**

**This latter phrase is idiomatic in the Old Testament for the place of the ritually unclean. For example, the person suffering from leprosy ‘shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease ... His dwelling shall be outside the camp’ (Lev. 13:46). The priest takes the unclean parts of a sacrificial animal outside the camp of Israel to dispose of them because they are impure and defiled (Lev. 4:11–12). Rahab and her family are ritually unclean Canaanites and, therefore, are barred from entrance into the community and into the tabernacle precincts. This state of uncleanness, however, is only temporary (see 6:25).<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>24</sup> And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. <sup>25</sup> But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Joshua 6:24-25 (ESV)

**At first glance, this last statement would suggest that the Book of Joshua was written within a few years after the events described in the book, and that very well may have been the case. However, the reference to "Rahab" living among the Israelites "to this day" could have referred to her descendants, in the same way that the reference to "David" in Hos 3:5 indicates David's descendants rather than David himself. Thus, this verse cannot be used conclusively to date the writing of the Book of Joshua. However, the point of the verse is not to date the writing of the book, but rather to indicate something of the lasting effects of the agreement the two spies had made with Rahab: it was a binding agreement, one that Israel honored, because of Rahab's faith.<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,

Matthew 1:5-6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

## **WE ARE ALL RAHAB. BE LIKE RAHAB.**

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Hebrews 11:30-31 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” <sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:7–9 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:11–17 (ESV)

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<sup>1</sup> Wray Beal, L. M. (2019). [Joshua](#) (T. Longman III, Ed.; p. 140). Zondervan Academic.

<sup>2</sup> Wray Beal, L. M. (2019). [Joshua](#) (T. Longman III, Ed.; p. 140). Zondervan Academic.

<sup>3</sup> Currid, J. D. (2011). [Strong and Courageous: Joshua Simply Explained](#) (p. 88). EP Books.

<sup>4</sup> Howard, D. M., Jr. (1998). [Joshua](#) (Vol. 5, p. 176). Broadman & Holman Publishers.