

“Possessing the Promise and the Faith of a Sinner”

Joshua 2:1-24

Discussion Qs

1. Was Joshua lacking in faith in sending the spies after God promised the conquest? [Josh. 1]
2. Why is Rahab so highly regarded by God?
3. Why is the redemption of Rahab such a powerful example for us?

Intro. We don't get to pick our relatives, but the Son of God presumably did. Of all the people God would choose perhaps one of the most unlikely would be Rahab.

How many here tonight would like to have the hope of restored and redeemed lives? That God can use us despite our past? [bz testimony]

Subject: Rahab Hides the Spies

Object: Believe the gospel and be redeemed

A. Rahab acts in faith in God [1-7]

1. Rahab chose to hide the spies

1Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

a. Joshua sends spies on a recon mission of Jericho a heavily fortified city across the Jordan River that will be the gateway for the conquest.

i. Was Joshua lacking in faith in sending the spies after God promised the conquest? [Josh. 1]
b. Rahab is s a prostitute [harlot], no implication that these men were seeking her services as a harlot. Presume it is the least suspicious place for strangers to hide

2. Rahab is a prostitute [1] who lies + commits treason in hiding the spies [2-7]

2And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country.” **3**So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country.” **4**Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they *were* from. **5**And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them.”

6 (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.) **7**Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

3. Why is Rahab so highly regarded by God?

a. **Rahab is in the genealogy of Jesus [Matt. 1:5]** She later marries a prince of Judah and gives birth to Boaz (Ruth) the grandfather of King David. Cf. We don't get to choose our relatives but Jesus did.

b. **Rahab is honored in the hall of faith [Heb.11:31]** By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

i. James acknowledges her work(s) of faith in hiding the spies [Ja. 2:25]

c. Just as Jesus proclaimed the gospel and harlots responded and received salvation [Lu. 5:27-31] so did Rahab.

i. The gospel essence is the redemptive work of God's grace through faith

ii. She did not need to become holy to be saved

iii. Practical sanctification is a process but positional sanctification comes through faith in Christ instantly.

B. Rahab seeks a covenant in faith [8-14]

1. Rahab hears about God and believes that He is Sovereign [8-11]

8Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, **9**and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. **10**For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **11**And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

a. She had heard of the Lord's mighty works in parting the Red Sea & giving Israel victory over their enemies to the east of the Jordan [8-10]

b. There was fear because the people of Jericho knew that God had given Israel the land

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom [Ps. 111:10]

2. Rahab seeks a sacred covenant to save her and her loved ones [12-13]

12Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, **13**and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

a. awareness of the reality of God, life and death, & eternal life stir hope for salvation

C. Rahab accepts the covenant terms [14-24]

14So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."**15**Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. **16**And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."**17**So the men said to her:

"We *will be* blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, **18**unless, *when* we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. **19**So it shall be *that* whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood *shall be* on his own head, and we *will be* guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head if a hand is laid on him. **20**And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."

1. The spies promise to spare Rahab and her family if conditions are met:

a. She hangs the scarlet cord in the window [18]

i. Scarlet is blood red. The sign points back to the Passover lamb [Ex.12] and forward to the blood of Jesus.

b. her family is to remain in her house during the attack [18]

i. The place of refuge is limited and specified [Jn. 14:6]

c. Must keep the coming attack against Jericho secret [20]

2. Rahab accepts the covenant conditions [21]

21Then she said, "According to your words, so *be* it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

a. The terms of the covenant are non-negotiable [unilateral vs. bilateral]

i. The gospel [NT] terms are offered by God for us to accept or reject

3. The faith of the spies was strengthened by the words and works of Rahab [22-24]

22They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought *them* all along the way, but did not find *them*. **23**So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them. **24**And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us:

faith of the Hebrew spies [cf. @ Kadesh Barnea]