

## Hebrews Part 44: 11:28-31; Champions of the Faith: Moses, Jericho, Rahab (2/22/2020)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/nm6zrkw/book-of-hebrews-part-44>.

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are still in chapter 11 of this epistle to the Hebrews. We've been going through this incredible list of all these unbelievable men of the faith, pun intended. Men who we are called to emulate. Men who we are called to walk like. They have left their mark in the history of the world. So we're going to continue to go down the list although the writer is not done with the guy who we left off with last week. That is Moses.

Now, I'm going to tell you, honestly, Moses is one of the most influential men who ever lived. If you have ever read Michael Shapiro's book, The Hundred Most Influential Jews of all Time, you noticed Moses made the number one spot. Whether you agree with his list or the order of it, that's beside the point. One thing that cannot be debated, he is one of the most influential men who's ever walked the face of the planet. Moses affected so many people in incredible ways and still is affecting us today; especially by what the writers brought to the table. He's affecting us by the faith Moses had.

With that said, he has more he wants to bring forth here, things that stuck out to him. And I'm always fascinated when we get to peer into the mind of this writer. We get to see what things really struck him. When he's thinking about faith, this is what he thinks of when he thinks about Moshe [Moses].

Hebrews 11:28 reads **“By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”** Notice it doesn't say, by faith he thought about the Passover, or, by faith he pondered over the Passover. That's not what it says. It says, **“By faith he kept the Passover.”**

This is actually a verb in Greek. There's action; there's movement. And in Moses' case, the movement was to slaughter the lamb, take its blood, and apply it to the doorpost of the house; onto the lintel. If you want to really appreciate what this means or what this has to do with faith, then you have to ask the question: why does Moses do this? The answer is judgment.

He knew and he believed. He had to believe in his heart when God came to him and said, “I am bringing a judgment on Israel I have not brought before. It's not going to be like the other judgments. This one's going to be hellacious. This one is bringing death. If you and Israel do not do this, if you don't follow this and heed my warning, all the firstborn throughout the land will be dead.”

In fact, it's so specific it even gets into the details such as, you can't even go outside the house. You had to stay behind the blood or, if you will, under the blood. You go outside of the blood, you're as good as dead. Now obviously, on a prophetic plate, if you will, this is all referencing Yeshua and the importance of His blood. This is how the captives are set free. Israel has never been free, despite all this wrath God reigns down, all His power He exhibits against Israel, and they've never been set free. It's only after the Lamb's blood is shed. It's only after the blood is applied the Israelites are driven out of Egypt.

So we look at this authors statement saying it was by faith Moses did this and the Israelites had to believe Moses, because they're being asked to do something they've never done before. They were probably thinking to themselves, "Let me get this straight; I have to kill a lamb and put its blood on the doorpost, and that's somehow going to save me from death?" It actually sounds crazy in the material world, unless you believe. It's not crazy considering the source but he had to believe, and so this is totally a product of faith.

And then continuing on he says in verse 29, "By faith they (meaning Moses and Israel) passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned." Now, for me, at first blush, I can ask, what does the author mean "By faith they had to pass through the Red Sea"? What does that have to do with faith? I want to take you back to the actual story so you can see this. And as we look at it, I think you're going to appreciate this a lot more in regard to why he would bring this up. Why he says this is completely a product of faith.

Going back to Exodus, we read this in Exodus 14:21-22, "Then Moshe stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground." Oh, look at this, "...and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left."

If you're going to appreciate this story, we have to stop right here and let this sink in because there are a lot of skeptics who want to rewrite history. Skeptics who have these most incredibly creative ideas as to how Israel, (if in fact Israel ever did cross), would have crossed at this time of the year. Some say waters would have receded back, and they would have gone over the high place. So it would have just been a natural situation.

There's a logical explanation to all these different things, but I'm not going to run through all the different ones. However, I want you to appreciate the story of what Israel experienced at the Red Sea in that it was completely supernatural. It was total divine power. You can read it in the English and you can read it in Hebrew. The waters were a *chomah* (wall). They were a wall on the left and on the right and this is what Israel was seeing.

Can you imagine that? This is unprecedented. They have never seen the power of God at this level. Never. And could you imagine what they're looking at?

Now let's put this all into context. They're being confronted with something they've never seen before; as this is totally unprecedented in history. And guess what? This is the time the enemy is bearing down on them. The enemy, the Egyptians, are breathing down their necks. The Israelites are filled with fear. They're intimidated. So much so that all you need to do is go back to Exodus 14:12, and you will read Israel was already willing to throw in the hat. They asked to let them go back into bondage. Let us go back to serve the Egyptians rather than to die here. We don't want to do this. This is where Israel was at.

So the situation was that Israel was looking one direction. What did they see? Hell is coming; the Egyptians are coming. Pharaoh has amassed every resource at his disposal because he's not willing to let his slaves go. He wants his slaves back. He wants them to do his will, and he's willing to utilize every resource and tool to take them back.

So they see all this on their backside as the Egyptians are coming. Then they turned toward the water, and they see something they've never seen before. It was unprecedented. It would have certainly been frightening when you're looking at this massive sea, with walls of water on each side.

Now, let me ask you a question. What do you think is going through their minds at this time? Let me rephrase it. What do you think their flesh is telling them?

Think about what Paul says in Romans 7:18, **"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;...."** The natural implications of your flesh is to denounce God, to walk away from God, it is to reject Him, and to reject His commandments. It is to embrace doubt. This is the natural inclination of the flesh, of which they are all in. They all are still in their fleshly carcasses.

You might think they might be asking themselves, "What if we go back into slavery? We could preserve ourselves; we could just go back in the box." "But what if we go into the Red Sea and those walls don't hold? What if they don't hold? This is crazy. This is an absurd looking situation."

What do you think the principalities and powers, the spiritual hosts of wickedness, are doing? What do you think they're doing at this time as the Egyptians are pressing in? They want the Israelites to go back to Pharaoh to be slaves? They do not want them to be free, to have liberty. What do you think the voice of the enemy is telling them? Well, if you've ever read Scripture, it's filled with the voice of the enemy and it would go something like this, "You don't really think God's going to take you all the way through it do you? God's actually brought you here to kill you in the sea. That's God's plan. You don't really believe those walls are going to hold. You've come all this way for nothing. It would be better just for you to survive. Go back and become a slave." This is what the voice of the enemy may have sounded like. This is what Israel was dealing with.

Look at what David says in Psalm 55:3. I love this. I have to share this with you, let this sink in, **"Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked, for they bring down trouble upon me and in wrath, they hate me."** But then he goes on and says this in verse 5, **"Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me."**

What is David talking about? He's revealing to you the enemy is speaking to him. And what does that cause? It's causing him fear. He's starting to tremble. He's overwhelmed with horror.

This is what happens when the enemy speaks to us. Understand something, this is what Israel is experiencing in this Red Sea moment. Complete fear and intimidation. So when the writer says, **"by faith, they went into the Red Sea,"** we better believe it. The only thing that could have turned their feet to actually walk on dry ground while looking at walls of water on each side of them is if they trusted in God. If they had faith.

You know, thinking about this story, let's be honest, we all have our Red Sea moments. In fact, unfortunately, we tend to have them daily. What do I mean? I mean we feel the pressure, we feel the heat of the enemy breathing down our neck. He's not wanting to let us go. He's willing to utilize every

resource at his disposal to take us back, to get us back to serve him, to be a slave, to be put in chains, and to be in total bondage.

So what the enemy does is he sows fear and intimidation. He lures us through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. He tempts us with everything in his arsenal so he can get us back. He will overwhelm us with discouragement and shame. He speaks lies to us over and over again stating God doesn't love us. We have these Red Sea moments, where we are in this valley of decision. We can go back to being a slave, or we can turn our backs and decide, "I'm going to trust in God. He has made a way of escape. I will trust in His word. I will trust in His promises. I will walk in His commandments." But that is a Red Sea moment, and there's no way you're going to turn and go into that sea without faith.

We look at First Corinthians 10:13 where the apostle Paul says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." This is a Red Sea moment. Paul is telling you, no matter what, God will never force you to sin. God will never force you into temptation. But know the enemy will press down upon you. He will be coming full force with everything he has. At that moment you have to choose. You have to choose the Red Sea. The Red Sea was the way of escape for the children of Israel. This is what we have to do.

Going to 1 John 5:4 we see it says, "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith." How do you think Israel obtained victory over their enemies? It was when God drowned them all. He did it by faith. By faith they passed through the Red Sea. It always comes back to faith, back to trusting, loving, and knowing God is good. And He who began a good work in you is faithful to complete it.

Continuing in Hebrews 11:30, "By faith the walls of Jericho (or Yericho) fell down after they were encircled for seven days." You want to talk about faith? This is definitely a story that needs to be brought to the table. This story is certainly noteworthy, and I can tell you on multiple levels and many different angles we can come at this as an incredible story.

To help you appreciate it, let's go back. I want to take you back to Joshua 6:1-2 where we read, "Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua..." That is an interesting word, Joshua. For you Hebrew buffs, you know the very name of our Lord is Yahushua or Yeshua, right? And that's going to play into this later. <sup>2</sup>"And the LORD said to Yahoshua: " See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor."

Now again, unless you have the historical context this story is not that impressive. We know it was by faith they took Jericho. That doesn't mean much unless you know this story. Well, know this, as Israel was coming into the land and they're looking at Jericho. It's a behemoth. It looks virtually impenetrable. It's one of the most glorious and fortified cities in all of Canaan. This is what they're seeing, and it kind of gives you some perspective.

To help you understand this, take a look at Jericho today. This is probably similar to what it looked like when they got done, but this is Jericho today.



This massive plot of ground is the remains of Jericho. I have had the privilege of walking these ruins and took countless pictures. I just spent hours upon hours soaking it in, touching the stones, getting a feel for the actual size of this thing.

Well, back in their day, what Israel saw would probably have looked something like this. This is kind of a cheesy artist's rendition, but here it is.



What you need to see is a well-inhabited city with thousands upon thousands of people. But what you need to notice is they don't just have one wall. They have an inner wall and an outer wall. This outer wall is said to have reached roughly 35 feet high. The whole thing is on an incline. So you're coming up to this massive wall, these weren't little concrete walls, they are massive. Thirty five feet high walls with the inner wall said to have reached as high as fifty feet.

So, we have Israel who's just coming out of bondage, out of slavery, by the blood of the Lamb. They're confronted with God's instructions to come take the land. God doesn't start small, does He? First thing

they're confronted with is an impenetrable looking fortress of which they do not have the resources to conquer. Israel does not have the resources or skills. They're not equipped. They're not outfitted with siege equipment and siege weaponry to take down these massive walls. There's no way they can do it. So we're looking at mission impossible.

The only way this is going to happen is by faith. The only way it's going to happen is the word of the LORD. There is no other way. And there's also no other way we want it to happen.

Now continuing in Joshua 6:3, **"You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days."** This is the LORD's plan.

So, let's look at this in the natural. Rest assured this is probably the last thing Israel expected to hear. They were probably looking at this massive city trying to figure out how to take it down. Then God presents His plan. How about you just walk around the city. You're going to do this once a day for six days.

You see how literally insane this sounds? But again, it sounds insane because I have not considered the source of instruction. I need to trust the source. I need faith.

Continuing in Joshua 6:4, **"And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets."** Now, I have to tell you my primary objective is obviously looking at the historical context here, but I want you to appreciate the real faith that existed. I am just building upon and helping you understand where the writer of Hebrews is coming from, but it is very difficult for me to just blow by the prophetic inferences that exist in this story. This story is dripping with it. So I want to have a little bit of fun with this, probably more than I should, but I want to talk about how this story is relevant to us today because it's predicting the very, very near future.

Let's start here. **"Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets."** Where have we heard that before? Oh, yeah, the book of Revelation where there are seven angels outfitted with seven trumpets, but I say sarcastically, I suppose that's an interesting coincidence. Well, let's take this a little farther than seven priests bearing seven trumpets. Do understand the crescendo of Jericho happened on the seventh day. All the trumpets blasted on the seventh day on the seventh time around Jericho.

Now look at Revelation 11:15, **"Then the seventh angel sounded. And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'"** Everything falls at that time. That's exactly what happened in Jericho.

Now, let's take it a step further. Go back to what we read in Joshua 6:1-2. It is about how the LORD spoke to Joshua saying, I am giving you Jericho. I am giving you its king. In other words, Jericho is representative of the kingdoms of this world as a whole, and the person He's talking to, his name is Joshua or Yeshua. I mean, you can't make this stuff up. You can't do it, and here we see this very thing playing out.

So as per usual, as we read these stories in the Old Testament we find they are a lot more relevant to us than many people give them credit for. This prophecy, this stuff, is coming very soon, and these stories unlock mysteries. Through the Holy Spirit, these stories unlock a lot of mysteries.

Now moving on to Joshua 6:5, “It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout...” That great shout is a teruah. It's teruah, as in Yom Teruah. The Feast of Trumpets. You can't make this up.

Continuing, “Then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.” This is God's plan. They were to walk around the city six times, but on the seventh day, you know what? It was going to be special. They were going to walk around seven times, and then they were to blow these little shofar horns and shout, and everything was going to be given over to them.

There's no possible way you could have conceded to this plan apart from faith because again, the Israelites couldn't go back in time and say, “remember all the precedence for this? The LORD has done this six times. Don't worry about it. Just go do it.” No, they had to believe the word of the LORD. He's never done this before; there was no precedence. They had to totally believe and trust in Him. They had to have pure faith.

As a side note, this just gets more interesting when we get into the prophetic aspect. Again, I am having a little bit of fun here. As it says, “It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn (Joshua 6:5)” The term is hayovel. Here's why this is important. It's only found three places in Scripture.

The first time is in Exodus 19. What was happening in Exodus 19? The children of Israel have come into covenant with the living God. Where were they? The mountain of God. They are at the mountain of God coming into covenant with God. Look at the prophecy, “For out of Zion shall go forth the Torah in the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3).” This means what we are waiting for is to be taught by God Himself. We're going to hear His voice. What happened in Exodus 19? They were taught by God. They heard His voice. Every Israelite there heard His voice. It was just an incredible experience. That's the first time we see hayovel being used.

The second time is in Leviticus 25. What's happening in Leviticus 25? It's all about the Jubilee. And by the way, hayovel isn't translated like it is in Joshua 6:5 where it is translated as ram's horn. In Leviticus 25, it is translated Jubilee. That's how you translate hayovel. It's the Jubilee. Now, why is that significant? Do you know the Jubilee is the crescendo of it all? It's the greatest joy you could possibly conceive where every Israelite, every man, goes back to his inheritance. And that trumpet is sounded on Yom Kippur. That is absolutely amazing!

The third time we find it is right here. All of these stories are coming together. They're knitted together telling us the future, the prophecy, of what the LORD is going to do. Only take it a step further. Joshua 6:5, “So it shall come to pass when they make a long blast with the ram's horn and when you hear the sound of the trumpet...” Now, you would think, well that means hayovel. No, that's a different term. That's hashofar. Every one of us are familiar with the shofar. Again, one of the other fascinating things is that every time hayovel is used, and these three areas of Scripture, shofar is accompanied by it. And there is a reason because God is tying these together for you to help you understand biblical prophecy. This is very powerful!

Now getting back to our story. We are coming off the prophetic end and getting back to historical context. Joshua 6:6, “Then Joshua (Yehoshua) the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.” This is just majestic. You can just picture this. The awesome, decorated priests going before the throne of the living God. Men of war in front, men of war in the back. This is an incredible picture!

Joshua 6:7, “And he said to the people, “Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD.” So the people are moving to circle Jericho. Joshua 6:10, “Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, “You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout.” What a bizarre thing. So not only is the circling around Jericho bizarre, as you are walking, you are to keep silent. It's weird. They're blowing the trumpets each day, but there's no word spoken. It is total silence.

Let's go to the book of Revelation. This gets really interesting. Revelation 8:1-2, “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given the seven trumpets.” You cannot make this up.

So here we have the introduction of the seven angels getting seven trumpets. And what do you notice? What is the context? There's silence. There's nothing spoken. Until what? Until the seventh trumpet.

Revelation 11:15, “Then the seventh angel sounded. And there were loud voices in heaven.” There was shouting. And what were they saying? “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.”

You want some insight into what it looked like back in the day of Joshua? Joshua is leading Israel and they're silent. That's amazing! Then they are shouting, and this is what these shouts bring; all the kingdoms down. All power and glory is given to God, and the kingdom is given over to Joshua. Unbelievable.

Moving on to Joshua 6:15-16, “But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. <sup>16</sup>And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: “Shout (rywa), for the LORD has given you the city!” Moving to verse 20, <sup>20</sup>“So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”

This all happened because they believed. This wall crumbles down before the living God to allow access to this impenetrable fortress. This happens because of His word; because of faith. Now would this have happened if Israel said, “We're not doing it? We're not going to trust in You; we're not going to march around. This sounds absolutely ludicrous. We will look like fools in the eyes of the inhabitants of Jericho. We're not going to do this.” I don't expect God would have given them the city. They had to go in His word. They had to believe His word. That's faith. With faith comes power and with faith comes victory.

Now looking at this, I want to give you a perspective on something. When I was with my tour guide in Israel and walking the land of Jericho, I learned an incredible thing which the archaeologists discovered, and this goes back to the 1950's. We are talking about building faith. I want to share just a short two minute video with you. And this is actually the guy that I went with, Joel Kramer. Look at what he says here in this video.

Joel Kramer says, “This is the ancient site of Jericho. The Bible says that Jericho is the city whose walls came tumbling down. Archaeologist Dr. Bryant Wood has spent over 20 years studying the material



excavated from Jericho.” Dr. Wood states, “This is where the mud brick wall was located right here on top of this stone retaining wall. This is the stone retaining wall which held in place the earthen embankment which surrounded the city. And on top of the stone retaining wall was the mud brick wall.

And on the seventh trip around, we're told in the Bible the mud brick wall collapsed and it fell outward and down to the base of the stone retaining wall. And when the archaeologists dug in this area, they found this pile of mud bricks all the way along the retaining wall.” One of the archaeologists who have found these collapsed bricks is Peter Parr who excavated Jericho in the 1950s. He states, “Yes, the remains of the mud brick falling down. I mean that wall came tumbling down.”

Joel Kramer continues, “This find of a collapsed city wall found here at Jericho is unique archaeology. No other site have we found evidence for a city wall that has fallen down. Since the details in the text match so well with the archaeological evidence found here, then the best conclusion that we can draw is that at the time of Joshua's conquest, the walls of Jericho really did come tumbling down.”

It's one thing to see it on video. It's another thing to be there. It is so surreal to literally walk there and to see it. So when the wall came tumbling down, as they say, it literally created “stairs”, if you will, for Israel to march up. And only God could do something this ridiculous, right?

If you get a chance to go to Israel, you need to go to Jericho. And if you are with the right person, you'll be able to walk around and see it up close. You will see amazing things. And so as we see this, the wall fell down flat. I just wanted to give you some perspective into the reality of how God did this in an incredible way.

Now that being said, let's continue on. We've got more here. Joshua 6:21, “**And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.**” Do you understand? See, this is going back to the prophetic inference here in that it was total destruction that had come. This is what is coming very soon: the judgement of Yeshua. Nothing is going to be left. The earth and the works that are in it are going to be burned up. The heavens are even going to be on fire from the coming of the Lord. So it might be a good idea right now to start exercising some serious faith.

Moving on to Hebrews 11:30, “**By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.**” Now there is one more thing that I actually want to bring to the table before we move on. Going back to Joshua 6:24, “**But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.**”

Now, there are so many different things we can talk about in this passage alone. Number one, you can see Paul talks about everything that could be put through the fire will be put through the fire. And you can see the Torah talks about this. The only things that are going to last are those things such as gold and silver. And the reference Paul talks about is in the sense of what you have done in this life; who you have become. Are you going to be a vessel of gold and silver? If so, you'll make it through the fire. The fire is going to test you but if you're not gold or silver, there's going to be nothing left. If you're nothing but chaff, there's nothing left.

Now on a practical level, as I was walking Jericho, one of the things that hit me the hardest was this reality: I'm looking at Biblical history. The Bible is coming alive. And I'll show you what I mean here.



This is a picture I took. This shows evidence the city was on fire. Look at this, there's still evidence today, and it's not disputed. This is not debated. This thing was a raging inferno.

There are archaeologists on both sides of the debate. Some archaeologists state, "You know what? We're not sure that this is actually the Jericho of the Bible." And then you have other archaeologists say without a dispute, "This is definitely Jericho in the Bible." One thing I can tell you, both sides are saying this thing was on fire. There's no debate on this. It really was on fire. And so it's crazy. You see the Bible coming alive in the reality of what happened. Again, building faith. You cannot walk away from that place without being awestruck how biblically accurate the Bible is.

That being said, the writer goes on to build upon what he just said, by saying in Hebrews 11:31, "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

Now I want to cover a couple things here. First off, one of the most incredible examples given in scripture of the power of faith and redemption is this story. Let's put this in context for a second. In Hebrews 11 there are only two women mentioned by name. The first was the mother of all nations, Abraham's wife, Sarah. The next is Rahab.

Now you have to understand how crazy this sounds. Again, we're getting deep prophecy here. She was a Canaanite harlot. This was double bad. She is not even part of Israel; she's not part of the Hebrews. And how would you like to be introduced? Yeah, this is Rahab the Harlot. I mean when you look at the term and how it keeps getting used in scripture you kind of have to wonder if she was like, "Can we drop that harlot off? Could we stop calling me that?"

There's a purpose this is happening, and you need to pick up on this. This is probably one of my favorite parts of Hebrews 11, where it is talking about Rahab. This woman has earned her right to be in the hall of faith. And her life is so prophetic of most of us here today. We'll get into this in a moment.

So we're going to look at this woman who is in the hall of faith. This woman is so great she was even included in the royal genealogy of Yeshua. Yeshua came through her. Who did Rahab give birth to? Boaz. Who did Boaz marry? Ruth, who has a son, Obed. Obed has a son, Jesse. And Jesse has David. You look at this. This is incredible. A Canaanite. That which was abominable to the Hebrews is in this royal genealogy. Mind blowing!

So with that introduction, let's take a peek at her. The beauty here is we're going to go back to the story of Jericho, because guess what? Rahab was there. She was there. And so you can see why the writer is bringing her forth when he brings up Jericho. He was thinking about her in conjunction with Jericho.

Joshua 2:1, **“Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove [Bold added].”** I'll explain why that's highlighted in a moment. **“...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.”**

Now, you know when rabbi's struggle with this passage in general, you have to take a look at this. Where are the spies coming from? Joshua is sending them out from Acacia Grove, in Hebrew it is Shittim. Why is that important? Well, go to Numbers 25 to find out. This is where we read about how the LORD wiped out about 24,000 of His own people. Why? Because they had joined themselves to the harlots of Moab. Now, you can't make this stuff up. So let me get this straight, these two men leave the very spot where their ancestors were slaughtered because they joined themselves to harlots and now they're going to the house of a harlot. You have to see the irony of the story, right? And so they're going into this house of Rahab the Harlot. This is something Jews don't do. They don't mix with Gentiles.

Continuing in Joshua 2:2-5, **“And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country.”** <sup>3</sup>**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.”** And then it says. <sup>4</sup>**“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. <sup>5</sup>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.”**

A lot is said here, right? Number one, she did know where these men came from. Number two, she knew where they were. She is betraying her king and concealing these two spies. Now this had to tell you something about Rahab's character right off the bat. The deeper we're going to get into this, the more it is going to unfold. It is interesting.

Joshua 2:6-8, **“(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.)** <sup>7</sup>**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.”** <sup>8</sup>**“Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof 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.”** So here, and this is very important, Rahab acknowledges the God of Israel, and she does so in a capacity of faith.

Keep in mind, no destruction has come upon Jericho. They're sitting behind 35 and 50 foot walls, and in what appears to be an impenetrable fortress, and Rahab knows in her heart, she is positive, that the LORD is going to do what He eventually does. What does she do? She's willing to betray her own king, to switch sides, and come and protect the Israelites.

This is an incredible woman who had a radical conversion! This woman had a radical conversion before these spies entered into Jericho. The more we get into this, the more you'll see this.

Joshua 2:10-11, **“For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea...”** Isn't that amazing? She is giving glory to the one, true God of Israel. He did that. That was His power. She just

heard it. And guess what? She believes it. So He "...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." <sup>11</sup>And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you,..." In other words, Rahab is saying we have never seen anything like this. We've never heard of anything like this,... of any God going and taking a nation out of another nation. Never seen this before; and now everyone is terrified.

However, what Rahab says next is going to prove to be the most instrumental of all. She goes on and says this in Joshua 2:11, "For the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath." She just confessed Yahweh is LORD. The God of the Israelites, the God of the Hebrews, He is the one true God. She is making confession.

You can't help but think about what Paul said in Romans 10:9-10, "If you confesses Yeshua as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Those who do this are going to be saved. She believes. She has now made public confession before these men. Absolutely incredible!

Now continuing in Joshua 2:12-13, "Now 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, <sup>13</sup>and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

Now think about this. This is remarkable. This woman just confessed with her mouth that she believes in the one true God, that He is God of heaven and earth, and the next thing out of her mouth is Torah. This is Torah. You want to understand Torah? You want to condense it? It's all condensed down to this right here. What is Yeshua saying in Matthew 7:12? "...Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them..." That's what he says. This is the law and the prophets. You read Obadiah 1:15. "...as you have done, it shall be done to you." This is Torah. You can all condense it down to this statement.

So she confesses the LORD, then she proclaims Torah and lets them know she doesn't proclaim it in just verbiage. She is demonstrating she knows what the word says. She is saying, "This is what I've done. I am a doer of the word. Please, show me the mercy that I have shown you."

You want to get through the judgment, this is what you're going to need. You're going to need to have this testimony. Because if this is absent, you're not going to get in. There's going to be a lot of surprised people. They did not live this way. They did not live like Rahab the harlot. We'll get into that even further.

Joshua 2:14, "So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours..." Think about this statement. Hebrews who will have nothing to do with a filthy Canaanite, let alone a harlot Canaanite, are now speaking to her, "Our lives for yours. We will do as you say." That's unthinkable to have these Jewish people be able to say this of a Gentile. This is what they're saying to her. What do you see happening? Can you see the middle wall of separation is being broken down? Can you see Rahab's life is representative of what God would do with the Gentiles? And how He would bring them, Jew and Gentile, together as one? Our lives for yours? This God of yours, is my God too. Your people are my people. Absurd!

Joshua 2:14, ...“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.” We can also go back to Genesis 12:3, right? “I will bless them who bless you?” Yeah, Rahab blessed them, and she's about to get blessed.

Joshua 2:20-21, “And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear.” Other words, if you don't hold up your end, if you don't do as you say you're going to do, the deal's off, right? <sup>21</sup>“Then 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.” Which was what she was commanded to do. The scarlet cord was the sign.

There is a bunch of meaning regarding all of that. We're not going to get into that. But obviously, you know the rest of the story that goes on because we just covered it. The wall comes down, and Israel comes in.

Going to Joshua 6:22, “But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, “Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her.” He keeps bringing this harlot thing out, right? And again, this is something, on so many levels, you have to draw from. This is what this woman was. She was a Canaanite harlot who had experienced a radical conversion before Israel even shows up. This is known by all her actions and by her confession. It gets interesting when we understand her as a representative of Gentiles of the future and these Hebrew men are literally going into the harlot's house.

Where have we heard this story before? We've heard it from Peter in Acts 10. He's looking at the sheet filled with all these animals, and he is saying he has never eaten anything common or unclean, and the Lord's response is, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” (Acts 10:15)

See this is unprecedented. This is something that grips you, and it is intentional. The LORD loves to do this where you have these situations like Abraham going to sacrifice Isaac, where that kind of thing is frowned upon. He stops you dead in your tracks because this doesn't even make sense. That's when the LORD wants you to dig in. When God does this in His word there is something prophetically you need to understand. It's totally radical and here you have another radical concept; the spies are going where they would never go, because of Yeshua. Yeshua commands them, just as He commanded Peter, to go to the Gentiles. This is absolutely incredible. These men go as instructed.

And then Joshua 6:23 says, “And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother...” It's interesting. You don't see the term harlot in front of her name here. It's just interesting. “(They) brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had”. So they brought all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

Joshua 6:25, “And Joshua (Yehoshua) spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day...” And obviously she would have dwelled along with Mary, Solomon, and the rest. “So she dwells in Israel to this day”, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua (Yahushua) sent to spy out Jericho.”

Let me ask you the question. Why did she hide these messengers? Why would she risk her life? You understand for her to do this, she was not just risking her own life, but her entire family's life. If caught, the king would have wiped out her entire family. This is high treason, and you're betraying your own

country. You're betraying your king. You're lying to your king. Why is she willing to do that? The answer: faith!

Because she believed. She believed in what God said He was going to do. She believed the truth. She believed in the LORD Himself. This is why she would do that. You can see the power of faith. I mean, it's incredible.

I love what James says in James 2:25-26 **“Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? <sup>26</sup>For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”**

Isn't this interesting? James, like the writer of Hebrews, when he is thinking about faith, brings Abraham to the spotlight. And the next one he thinks about is Rahab. He thinks about Rahab because her faith isn't conceptual. It's not an idea. It's an action which proves the belief is authentic. And that's what she has, authentic faith.

I'm going to close with this verse by Yeshua, and I think this is appropriate. Matthew 21:31-32, **“...Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him...”** Faith. **“...and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.”** This is Rahab's story. She believed because she had faith, and there's a radical conversion with true faith.

When you actually believe the Lord is coming to destroy the wicked. Guess what? You don't do wickedly anymore; you turn from your sin. You believe judgment is real. If you are having a problem with sin, you have a faith problem. Stop looking at the symptoms. You have to go back and look at the problem. The problem is you don't have faith. And that's the reality.

So this week, I want you to ponder this. In all your faults, whether it is a problem with addictions, porn, and you keep falling back into sin, trust me when I say this, if you could see one second of the judgment coming, you would get off the computer. You would drop the phone. You would run for your life, but you don't believe it.

I'm not trying to put you on the spot. I'm trying to pull you out of the fire. It's just the truth. We need to be men and women of faith. Rahab is an incredible example of someone who would have been looked at as an abominable to God. That is in the Torah. He absolutely loathes it. But it shows you the redemption, the mercy, and the grace that God gives you if you turn to Him and you believe. You need to call upon His name, and walk in His ways.

I don't care what you've done in this world. You may have had an abortion. There may be some things you've gotten yourself into and you feel a lot of shame because of it. Yeshua can take it away. But you have to believe in Him. And having that kind of faith means giving Him everything. Hold nothing back. Give Him your heart, soul and mind.