

Joshua 2: An Unexpected Ally

1. Introduction

- a. Read Joshua 2:1-24
 - i. Joshua commissions spies (vs 1a)
 - ii. Arrival/Protection of the spies (vs 1b-7)
 - iii. Rahab's confession of faith (vs 8-14)
 - iv. Escape of the spies & Protection of Rahab (vs 15-21)
 - v. Spies return to Joshua (vs 22-24)
- b. Structure of this chapter places the importance on vs 8-14. What Rahab has to say in those verses is where we will be focusing today.
 - i. Don't get hung up on Rahab's lie to the Jericho "police" and miss the main point.
 - ii. That would be like a wife who proudly opens the refrigerator to show her husband the delicious dessert she made for the dinner guests, but he barely notices and instead rubs his fingers across the top of the fridge and walks away muttering about the dust.
- c. Who was Rahab?
 - i. Pagan Worshipping Canaanite living in Jericho (vs 1)
 1. Jericho
 - a. Oldest city in the world
 - b. City state ruled by a king
 - c. Strategic for Joshua to split North and South for his conquest
 - d. Double Walled city built on a mound ("tell") *SHOW PICTURE*
 - e. Retaining wall:12-15 ft tall Mudbrick walls: 6-8 ft tall
 - i. Second mudbrick wall base was 46 feet above the ground level outside the retaining wall
 - f. 9 acres with about 1200 people inside the upper walls
(Does not include people like Rahab who lived in the outer walls. *SHOW PICTURE*
 - ii. Prostitute (vs 1)
 1. Word used in Joshua can also mean "innkeeper"
 2. Description in James and Hebrews means prostitute (James 2:25, Hebrews 11:31)
 - iii. Ancestress of the Messiah **Show blanks on screen but leave them blank for iii and iv. To be filled in at the end before Point 7 in outline**
 1. Matthew 1:5
 2. Great Grandmother (with 29-44 "greats")
 - iv. Woman of Faith
 1. Hebrews 11:31, "By faith Rahab"

2. James 2:25, “in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works”

2. Rahab Proclaimed God as Possessor (vs 9)

- a. “*the Lord* has given you”
- b. Psalm 24:1 (NLT), “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”
- c. Chapter 1 showed us that God is in charge, now Rahab is recognizing the same truth. It wasn’t by Joshua’s cunning or conquest, it was by the hand of God that all this was happening. (God’s Sovereignty)
- d. She knew that God was sovereign over all.

3. Rahab Professed God’s Power (vs 10)

- a. “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.”
- b. She understood who God was because of hearing about what He had done for His people. (His Mighty Works)
- c. Psalm 66:3, 6, “Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!” “He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.”

4. Rahab Pronounced God’s Prestige (vs 11)

- a. “the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath”
- b. Rahab recognized God’s majesty. (She understood what Moses was telling the Israelites to understand about God.)
 - i. Deuteronomy 4:39, “know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.”
- c. Rahab recognized God is Lord of all. Everywhere!
 - i. The Apollo Spacecraft traveled at 24,000mph and arrived at the moon in 3.5 days. The distance from the Moon to Earth is 238,900 miles (1.3 light-seconds). What takes light 1.3 seconds to travel took 3.5 days at 24,000 mph!
 1. A new solar probe can travel 430,000mph and could get to the moon in 27 minutes. This is still 1242 times slower than the speed of light.
 2. God is God of the universe, the seen and unseen, He reigns everywhere.
 - a. Psalm 147:4, “He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.”
 - ii. It has been stated that the length of time for a bird to put a speck of sand in its mouth, fly to the moon and drop it, fly back to earth and do it again until all of the sand from the earth’s beaches and oceans were empty

would be like a “snap of the fingers” when compared to the length of Eternity.

5. Rahab Pleaded for God’s Protection (vs 12-13)

- a. “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 ¹³ 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.”
- b. She knew He would provide refuge.
 - i. Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength”
 - ii. He is not just a God of judgement, He is a God of **Mercy**.
 - iii. She understands His power and fears Him but also knows His love and seeks Him.
 - iv. Although He is God of the universe, bigger than we could ever comprehend or fathom, He is intimate, loving, and merciful.

****GO BACK TO 1. b. iii. and iv. and fill in blanks****

- c. Ancestress of the Messiah ****Show blanks on screen but leave them blank for 2c and 2d. To be filled in at the end before Point 7 in outline****
 - v. Matthew 1:5
 - vi. Great Grandmother (with 29-44 “greats”)
- d. Woman of Faith
 - vii. Hebrews 11:31, “By faith Rahab”
 - viii. James 2:25, “in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works”

6. Step Out in Courageous Faith

- a. Romans 10:9-10, “because, if you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will **be saved**. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”
- b. 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation. The **old has passed away**; behold, the new has come.”
- c. Present your past to Christ and His present to you will be that your present can be your past and you can look past your past and focus on His presence. ****Make sure this statement is on the screen****
- d. Right now, your present can be your past in Jesus Christ! Give Him your troubles, issues, labels. Give Him your life and accept His forgiveness. It doesn’t matter where you’ve been, what you’ve done, or how long you’ve been doing it.