

**BOOK OF JOSHUA**  
**THE SPIES AND RAHAB, THE HARLOT**

**JOSHUA 2:1-24 (2:6); MATTHEW 1:5; HEBREWS 11:31; JAMES 2:25**

**Introduction**

**JOSHUA** and the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** were about to begin the **CONQUEST** of entering into the **PROMISED LAND**. Prior to beginning the **CONQUEST**, we find that **JOSHUA** sent two spies to check out the situation in **JERICHO**, because it was the very first obstacle that lay in the path of their **POSSESSING** the **PROMISED LAND!**

This city was a grossly **IMMORAL** city that was surrounded by high walls, very well fortified and very secure. **JERICHO** was surrounded by two walls about 15 feet apart. As the two spies entered the city they came to **RAHAB THE HARLOT's house for lodging**.

Though the story of **RAHAB**, as it is recorded in **SCRIPTURE** is brief, it does give us some keen insights about her. The main thing in her recorded story is her part in the destruction of **JERICHO** by the forces of **ISRAEL** under **JOSHUA**. She was used of the **LORD** to save the lives of the two spies and for that deed she and all her family were spared.

After that, relatively little is said about her, but what is said tells us much! Her story is that of a **SCARLET WOMAN** whose **FAITH** led her to use a **SCARLET THREAD** that brought her under **THE SCARLET FLOW** that made her pure and white! (She was saved by **GRACE** through **FAITH!**)

In **RAHAB THE HARLOT** we see a beautiful picture of the **POWER OF GOD'S GRACE!**

**I. RAHAB'S BACKGROUND. (JOSHUA 2)**

The name **RAHAB** means "*spaciousness*" or "*broad.*"

**A. RAHAB Was An AMORITE Who Dwelled In JERICHO.**

1. **JERICHO** was just west of the **JORDAN RIVER** and would be the first major obstacle **ISRAEL** found in **CANAAN**.
2. As an **AMORITE**, **RAHAB** would have been a part of the **CANAANITISH RELIGION** that was basically **HEATHEN** and **IDOLATROUS!**

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3. The people of the city were mindful of the threat posed by **ISRAEL** and were concerned whether or not their gods would give them victory. (*Joshua 2:10*)

**B. RAHAB Had A Family Living In The City. (Joshua 2:13)**

1. She had a father, mother, brothers, and sisters.
2. Although they did not live with her she obviously maintained contact .

**C. She Was A HARLOT!**

1. Efforts to make her **just an inn-keeper or otherwise** does not do justice to the **SCRIPTURES!**
2. There is no way of determining exactly what led her into such a life. Whatever it was it was a bad decision on her part.
3. Even though she was a **HARLOT** she was a human being who loved her family and was apparently loved by them.
  - a. She was a **SINNER** involved in an unjustifiable profession.
  - b. She was not a monstrous being who was past feeling or beyond help.
  - c. She had not reached the point where her conscience had been seared or her mind had become reprobate. (*Cf. Romans 1:18-32*)

**II. RAHAB'S PART IN THE BATTLE OF JERICHO. (JOSHUA 2:1-6)**

**A. Two Spies Sent By JOSHUA Went To The House Of RAHAB THE HARLOT. (Joshua 2:1)**

They would have entered **JERICHO** through the gates of the city, which were usually left open in the day time unless they were under attack. No doubt they sought to blend in with the crowds about the city.

**RAHAB**, in addition to being a **HARLOT**, provided lodging for people! There can be no doubt that **GOD** was in it!

**B. RAHAB Was Questioned About These Two Men Seen Entering. (Joshua 2:2-5)**

1. The spies were noticed in their activity.
2. **RAHAB** hid the spies and then told her questioners that the two men left about dark just before the gate was shut.

**C. RAHAB Hid The Spies With Stalks Of Flax On Her Roof Top. (Joshua 2:6-7)**

1. Flax was an herb that grew two to three feet high and had blue flowers.
2. Flax was used to make linen into cloth for clothes etc.
3. Linseed oil was also derived from flax.
4. The presence of the flax shows **RAHAB** to have been an industrious woman who had interests other than **HARLOTTRY**.
5. The rope or cord that the spies were let down with could possibly have been made of flax also.

**D. RAHAB Expressed Her FAITH In The LORD To The Spies. (Joshua 2:8-11)**

1. She knew that the **LORD** had given **ISRAEL** the land. (*Joshua 2:9*)

2. She knew the **LORD** had dried up the **RED SEA** and she knew how **ISRAEL** destroyed two kings of the **AMORITES**. (*Joshua 2:10*)
3. She recognized that the **LORD (JEHOVAH)** was **GOD** in heaven and earth. (*Joshua 2:11*)
4. There was no question in her mind about who **GOD** was and what **HE** had done and could do!

**E. RAHAB Acted On The Basis Of What She Knew And BELIEVED! (Joshua 2:12-13)**

1. She requested that kindness be shown to her on the basis of what she had done for the spies.
  - a. She had spared their lives by hiding them.
  - b. She had done this, not because of who the spies were, but because of **WHO** the **LORD** was.
2. She sought safety for her family and for herself.
  - a. Love and concern were being shown for her loved ones.
  - b. Her **ACTIONS** showed both **WISDOM** and **FAITH!**
3. Others in **JERICHO** had the same knowledge that **RAHAB** had but they did not have **FAITH** to **ACT** on it. (*Cf. James 2:19*)

**F. RAHAB Was Promised Kindness And Safety By The Spies. (Joshua 2:14)**

**G. RAHAB Aided The Spies In Escaping. (Joshua 2:15-16)**

1. They were let down by a scarlet cord through a window.

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- a. The rope or cord was likely one she had woven herself.
  - b. Her house was located on the city wall and situated so that her window overlooked the outer wall.
2. They were told to hide themselves in the mountains for three days until the pursuers were returned to the city.

**H. RAHAB Was Told To Put The SCARLET LINE In The Window And All Who Were In Her House Would Be Spared. (*Joshua 2:17-20*)**

**I. RAHAB Committed Herself To Do What Was Required. (*Joshua 2:21*)**

**J. RAHAB Was Spared When JERICHO Was Destroyed. (*Joshua 6:17, 22-23, 25*)**

1. **JOSHUA** instructed his people to spare only **RAHAB** and her family. (*Joshua 6:17*)
2. **JOSHUA** instructed the two spies to go and bring **RAHAB** and her family out. (*Joshua 6:22-23*)
  - a. They had made the oath and they would fulfill it.
  - b. **RAHAB** and her kindred were brought out and left *without the camp* of **ISRAEL**.
    - 1) No unclean thing was allowed within the camp.
    - 2) **RAHAB'S** later history indicates that she became a part of **ISRAEL** and observed all the ordinances pertaining to worshipping the **LORD**.

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3. **RAHAB** was living in **ISRAEL** at the time the book of **JOSHUA** was written. (*Joshua 6:25*)

**III. THE STORY OF RAHAB IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

**A. She Is Listed In The GENEALOGY OF CHRIST. (*Matthew 1:5*)**

1. She was married to **SALMON** who is believed to have been one of the spies.
2. She was the mother of **Booz (BOAZ)** who married **RUTH** making her the great-grandmother of **KING DAVID!**
3. Her listing shows her to be a fully accepted woman among the people of **GOD!**  
Her past was taken care of by the **BLOOD!**  
She became a **NEW CREATURE** in the **LORD!**

**B. She Is Said To Have Been Spared Because Of Her FAITH! (*Hebrews 11:31*)**

1. Her **FAITH** was the difference between her and those who perished in the destruction of **JERICHO**.
2. **RAHAB** and **SARAH** are the only two women mentioned by name in *Hebrews 11*.

**C. She Is Used To Illustrate WORKING FAITH In *James 2:25-26*.**

1. She gave evidence of her **FAITH** by her **WORKS!**
2. We only **TRULY BELIEVE** those things that we are **MOVED TO ACT UPON!** (*e.g. Hebrews 11*)

**Conclusion**

**RAHAB** is an example of the greatness of the **GRACE OF GOD!**

**RAHAB** is an example of **BIBLICAL FAITH** that acts on **BELIEF!**