

The Faith of Rahab

Joshua 2 - 10/23/24

Joshua Commissions Two Spies vv. 1-7

Jericho

- Canaan was made up of various city-states with Jericho being one.
- Each city-state was ruled by a king
- Jericho was 14 miles west of the Jordan River.
- walled fortress Archeological evidence of double walls 15 ft. apart. covered approximately 8 to 9 acres **picture*

spies sent in secret very well could mean the rest of Israel was unaware they were sent. 2 as opposed to 12 prior to the wilderness wandering

The two spies were not looking to partake in the sin of prostitution but possibly would have seen this house of inn as a place to hide since strangers would have frequented here.

The king finds out anyway that Israelites are among them in the city. And orders Rahab to “bring them out”. Rahab lies and says, yes they came to me but she didn’t know where they were from and they exited out the city gate when it was closing time. She sends the men of Jericho to the east toward the Jordan while the two spies are hiding on her roof.

Concerning Rahab’s lie:

- “Bible readers must always be careful to distinguish between what the Bible reports and what it recommends, between what it records and what it requires. The Bible reports that Jacob had four wives; it is hardly encouraging us to do the same.” Dale Ralph Davis

Rahab’s Faith in Yahweh vv. 8-14

Rahab’s confession is at the center of this narrative. She along with all in Jericho and Canaan have heard all that Yahweh has done: Parting the Red Sea, Defeating the Egyptians, defeating the two Amorite Kings Sihon & Og vs. 11 Rahab declares the acknowledgement of God that is required in Israel (Deut. 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.”

Rahab not only trembles before the terror of the Lord but also senses that there might be mercy in this fearful God. What but the touch of Yahweh's hand could have created such faith in the heart of this pagan harlot?

All of Jericho had the opportunity to respond as Rahab did

Protection of Rahab & Family vv. 15-21

The suspense is everywhere in this story: the gate is shut, how will the spies escape? Out the window!

Rahab sends the two spies west into the mountains (she sent the men of Jericho east towards the Jordan)

The scarlet cord signifies this home is to be spared much like the blood of the passover lamb in Egypt.

Report to Joshua vv. 22-24

2 spies give much different report than 12 spies prior to wilderness wanderings vs. 24 The spies repeated what had been told them by Rahab

The Legacy of Rahab

Joshua 6:25 "But Rahab the harlot...Joshua saved alive; and she dwelt in Israel to this day".

As Paul described the Thessalonians in Thess. 1:9 Rahab, "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God."

Rahab was a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 " 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."

A gentile has entered into the people of God

Rahab:

- wife of Salmon (Matt. 1:5-6) " and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

- Example of faith (Heb. 11:31) “By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.”
- Example of good works (James 2:25) “And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?”

Rahab goes from heathen harlot to messianic matron

*If God can save/use a pagan god worshipping Canaanite harlot he can save/use me

“While the two young spies and their remarkable exploits are not to be minimized, Rahab’s supporting role leaves lasting and even deeper impressions. Whenever she is spoken of in the Bible, she is referred to as a harlot. This is not to humiliate her or to demean her memory, but to cast in bold relief the grace of God that saved her. Regardless of the kind of life a person has lived, there is forgiveness for sin and eternal life available in Jesus Christ.” -Donald Campbell

We are Rahab (Gangel 35)