

RAHAB:
Saved by Grace

by
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DEDICATION

*I would like to dedicate this book to a woman
who has shown great faith, virtue, strength, patience
and dignity, my mother:*

Dame Dolapo Florence Dickson

CHAPTER

1

RAHAB'S WINDOW

Rahab's favourite spot was by her window. From this place she could view the whole city and all its surroundings. She could see every one that went in and out of the city.

Rahab lived in Canaan, in a city called Jericho. Jericho was situated on a hill and whenever Rahab was hot, she would sit by the window and throw back her head. The wind would blow through her hair and she would laugh and sometimes cry at her special place beside the window. Whenever Rahab wasn't busy, she would sit by her window and daydream about all the stories she had heard about the Israelites. They were men from a foreign land and dreaded through out the surrounding countries because of their conquests in war.

Rahab had heard of many wonders and spectacular events that occurred and how the enemies of Israel had been defeated. Her thoughts would often go to the miraculous story of the parting of the Red Sea and how the Israelites had miraculously passed through on dry land. This was when they were being chased by Pharaoh's men, a large army of chariots, horses and men with shining armour. Rahab would sit by her window, time and time again, and think about how such a great

army with such force and strength could perish in an instant. Pharaoh's army had tried to follow the Israelites through the miraculously parted Red Sea, but as soon as the Israelites crossed over onto dry land, the parted water closed in on them.

Rahab marvelled about these stories. She wondered about the God of the Israelites, Yeshua, Almighty God. This God could demonstrate great power, unlike the idols the Canaanites worshipped in Jericho. In her mind, sitting by her window, she would think up words in her heart to describe the mighty works of the God of Israel. She would call them: grand, mighty, powerful, wonderful, awesome, spectacular, glorious and majestic, the list would go on and on. She would pick up a tambourine and twirl and dance by her favourite spot, the window. Rahab would dance and dance and get carried away in the spirit, it was almost as if she would fall into a trance.

Rahab lived in her own world, most people thought she was weird. Rahab had no friends and she held so much knowledge about influential people and their enemies. Criminals within and outside the city would come to her for secrets and facts. Though Rahab was an outcast and despised in Jericho, she was very powerful and influential at the same time. Everyone in Jericho thought Rahab lived in her own world, she was very unpopular.

Verses to look up:

Psalm 111:4

Psalm 145:6

CHAPTER



THE SPIES

At the top of Rahab's house lay her very own threshing floor. The threshing floor was the place where wheat was separated from the chaff. It was a very windy day and while Rahab was beating out grain on the threshing floor, she heard a very loud knock at the door. "Who is it?" she said aloud. "Who is it?" she said again, but had no response. Rahab decided to come down from the top of her roof and peep through the window. To her amazement, she saw two Israelites standing in front of her door. She rushed to open the door and let them in.

With her eyes opened wide, she asked them what they wanted. This was trouble waiting to happen and she began to panic. Everyone feared the Israelites in Jericho and anyone seeing them at her door would certainly notice them and call the guards. The spies told her they travelled several miles and over the River Jordan to get to the city. They came to see how fortified the city was. She wondered how they were able to climb up the city wall without being noticed. Suddenly, she became very afraid, as she realised what would happen if she got caught letting these Israelite men into her home.



The men were obviously spies. They were very bold spies! The Israelites were dreaded through out the region of Canaan and beyond.

The two spies told Rahab they were sent to Jericho by Joshua to spy out all the land. Joshua was the leader of the Israelites and he was feared and respected among the people of Israel. They told Rahab, they were led by their God to knock on her door. But while they were talking, they heard people shouting and then a multitude of footsteps coming towards them. Rahab had to think of something fast.

Suddenly, she heard a very loud voice say, "bring out the men who have come to you, they have entered your house and we know that these men are up to no good." Rahab said to the spies, "come quickly, you must hide immediately."

Rahab took the two spies to the top of the building, it was her special place, her threshing floor. She had lots and lots of wheat in a big pile. Rahab asked the spies to lay down on the top of the roof and she shoved and spread the pile of wheat all over them.

All of a sudden, Rahab heard her front door break with a loud, crack! As she ran downstairs, guards were coming upstairs. "We saw two men go into your house, where are they?" They kept shouting, while asking Rahab several questions at the same time. Yes, "two men came here, but I have no idea where they came from, or where they were going," Rahab said. She pointed towards the River Jordan and said, "they went that way." The guards immediately ran fast after them.

After the guards had left and she was sure no one was watching her, Rahab returned to the roof top. The spies overheard the



conversation between Rahab and the guards. They thanked God for leading them to the right house.

Rahab had acted in direct response to her faith. Rahab believed all she heard about Yaweh and that is why she made the decision to hide the spies, instead of alarming the guards of the city. In reality, she could have set an ambush for the spies and handed them over to the guards. Rahab made the choice to betray her people and her nation because she believed in Yahweh. Rahab was confident that she had made the right decision in supporting the spies. She had heard about a man called Abraham. The story goes that this Yahweh had asked him to sacrifice his only son on an altar. She learnt that Yahweh was trying to test his faith and find out whether he truly believed in the promises of God.

Rahab always thought about this story and how Abraham's God had provided a lamb for the sacrifice instead of his precious son. She knew deep within her heart that in making a decision to believe in the God of Abraham, the same God of the Israelites, that she was making the right decision.

CHAPTER

3

FROM A HIDING PLACE TO A RESTING PLACE

The sun was completely out of sight now and the moon was shining brightly, Rahab knew she would have to prepare a place for them to sleep. She would have to find a way of taking them from their hiding place, to a resting place. It took great courage for Joshua's men to enter into the city of Jericho and find a place of refuge. God had spoken to Joshua the leader of the Israelites and instructed him on what to do.

Though God had promised them victory and demonstrated His power in times past, they still had to be strong and courageous to receive the promises of God. Canaan was God's free gift to Israel, but they still had to fight for it.

(When God makes a promise in the Bible, we must stand in faith and believe that the promise will come to pass. Sometimes God's promises may seem to be delayed, but we are not to be discouraged. The Bible asks us to have faith and believe.)

Rahab was so frightened, yet so excited, about what the God of Abraham was doing. She insisted the spies tell her more grand stories about their God and His great wonders. They told her about how their God had promised to take them to the promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey. For many years, the Israelites had lived under the oppression of the Egyptians. This made them cry to God and bring them to their knees in prayer. God answered them by giving them a promise.

(He vowed to give them a good and large land, flowing with milk and honey, but what he didn't tell them was they would have to overcome fear to obtain it.)

The spies told Rahab incredible stories about their leader Moses and how God had asked him to send out spies into Canaan. Out of the twelve tribes of Israel, Moses had the extraordinary task of selecting a leader from each one to spy out the land of Canaan. It was a treacherous and long journey for those eaders. Along the way, they met the fearless Hittites and the outrageous Jebusites. The Amorites were merciless and they dwelt in the mountainous areas. They met the Amalekites. These were gigantic men, who dwelt in the south of the land. They also came across the valiant, lion-hearted Canaanites who dwelt by the sea and along the banks of the River Jordan.

The mere sight of these tribes along the way to the promised land made the spies shudder with fear. Many of them vowed to never make the treacherous journey ever again. But they had two courageous leaders among them, Joshua and Caleb. These mighty men encouraged them every step of the way. The spies told Rahab magnificent stories about Joshua and Caleb. These were men with a different spirit and exceptional faith in God.

As Rahab led them to their resting place, they thought about the words Joshua always said to encourage them. Joshua would say to them the very words, Yahweh, the God of the Israelites, said to Him. He would command them and say, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua's words:

"Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.'"

CHAPTER


4

THE FAITH OF RAHAB


Rahab sat by her window in the cool midnight breeze and thought about the days events. She knew within her heart that God Almighty had protected the spies from the angry guards.

She walked up and down by her special spot, her window. She had butterflies within her stomach because she knew her city would eventually fall. She ran to where the men were resting and they were still awake. "I know that the Lord has given you this land, the terror of you has fallen upon us!" she exclaimed. "All the people of this land are faint-hearted because of you," she said. She knew all the great work the Lord had done, in times past, on behalf of Israel. He dried up the water of the Red Sea for the Israelites. They passed on dry land, but when Pharaoh and his army tried to pass through the same water, the waters enclosed on them and they all drowned.


"The two kings of the Amorites, Sihon and Og, were destroyed by your army," Rahab said. "As soon as we heard these things our hearts melted within us and we all became very afraid,"



she said. Rahab told the men she believed that their God ruled over the whole world. When she thought about all she had heard over the years, faith rose within her heart. She knew that God must have already given them the land and they would be victorious over Canaan and the city of Jericho. Rahab made up her mind to strike a deal with the spies and secure the lives of all her family members. She asked the spies to show her family kindness when they came back to take the land. She reminded them how kind she had been to them and made them swear to her that she and her brothers, sisters, mother, father and all that belonged to her would be saved when they returned to conquer the land.



The men promised Rahab with their lives that she and her family would be saved and they vowed to be faithful to their promise. After the men had made this bond with Rahab, they noticed the sun start shining brightly through the clouds. They quickly got up and decided to get out of the city, return to Joshua and the rest of the men unnoticed. She then let them down by a cord through her special place, her window. It was a new day.



As they ran off into the early morning fresh air, she ran after them and said, "run to the mountains and hide there for three days until the guards who are looking for you come back into the city." The men then reminded her that they would keep their promise. They pointed to the scarlet cord they had used to climb out of the window and down the wall. "Make sure that scarlet cord hangs from your window at all times. This will be a sign to us, when we come to conquer your land, that all who live in this house are to be saved and kept alive," they said.

The spies made her promise them that all her family would be kept within the safety of her walls, because they could not assure her of the protection of anyone found outside the walls. So Rahab tied the scarlet cord outside the window at her special place.

Words to think about:

*The faith of Rahab set her above the fear of man.
God commands us to show kindness to strangers.*

Verses to look up:

*James 2:25
Hebrews 11:1*

CHAPTER

5

JERICHO FALLS

Joshua said to all the people, “cleanse yourselves, because tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” He also spoke to the priests and asked them to take up the Ark of the Covenant and walk before them across the River Jordan.

Joshua heard a special word from God. It gave him assurance that he was going to conquer Jericho. Joshua chose a man from every tribe to carry the Ark of the Covenant across the River Jordan. God promised Joshua that as soon as the men carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the water, something miraculous would happen. Joshua asked the people to pick up twelve stones, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. They asked Joshua why he had asked them to pick up twelve stones. He told them that God wanted them, and future generations, to always remember His wonderful work at the River Jordan.

And so it came to pass, that as soon as the men placed their feet in the water, a rippling sound was heard through out the land. It became louder and louder and the children of Israel



looked on in wonder and admiration at the wonderful work God was doing. The water had made a clear path way and the Israelites passed over the River Jordan on dry land.



When the Kings of the Amorites, who lived to the west of the River Jordan heard about the parting of the River Jordan, they became very afraid. Likewise, the Kings of the Canaanites who lived beside the sea became petrified of the parting of the Red Sea and the presence of the Israelites on their land. Their hearts melted and the whole nation trembled.

The surrounding nations were gripped with fear at the news of their approach. The King of Jericho gave an instruction that nothing should move in or out of Jericho. The gates were shut and guards were placed around it both day and night. The walls were very high and wide. They believed that once the gates to the city were shut, nothing would be able to move in and out of the city. Everyone was talking about the Israelites and their presence on the land. Nobody knew how they would get into the city, but they trembled all the same.

The King and the men of Jericho, were ready to defend it, with all their might and strength. Joshua knew that God's promises were reliable and that Jericho would fall. He asked Joshua to tell the Israelites to do a most unusual thing. They were to walk around the walls of the city of Jericho in complete silence for six days. On the seventh day they were to walk round the city seven times and blow their trumpets. They were to shout with all their might and something miraculous would happen.

God had already promised the Israelites Canaan as an inheritance long before they even got there. However, there was work to be done. They were not to sit back and do nothing. They were to act in obedience to their faith. They had



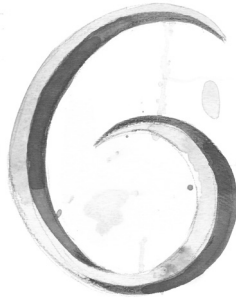


to obey God's word. Without obedience, Joshua and his army would not have conquered Jericho and inherited the promises of God. Their obedience was key to their victory.

They did just as they were told. For six days they marched around the city in silence. At the command of Joshua, on the seventh day, the rams horns were blown and there was a massive rumbling sound in Jericho. The earth shook beneath the walls of Jericho and it sunk into the ground, breaking into many pieces. So the walls of Jericho fell down with a mighty crash! All the people of Jericho began to shout and scream, as the Israelites ran over the broken walls and overcame Jericho.



CHAPTER



THE SCARLET CORD

When the conquering army saw the scarlet rope hanging from Rahab's window, they made sure that all the warriors saw it. They kept their vows and made sure that no harm came to Rahab and her entire household.

Just as Rahab was asked to find safety within the walls of her house or face death, Christ is calling us today to find a place of safety in Him. Just like Noah called for men, women and children to come into the safety of the Ark because of the flood, Christ is calling men, women and children today to come under his umbrella, and find refuge under the shadow of his mighty wings.

Rahab, a very unpopular woman in Jericho and despised by many, became a Princess in Israel. She married into the Israelite nation.

God honoured Rahab's faith and she became a great great grand mother to King David and eventually Jesus Christ. None of the women who died behind the walls of Jericho could boast of such honour.

Though Rahab lived in a country that was spiritually poor, she was rich and well nourished in faith.

By her faith and acts of kindness, Rahab's life and indeed her generation changed forever.

Being placed in the family tree of Jesus Christ meant that she played a role in God's divine plan to bring forth a King: A Messiah that would save the children of Israel, and all who believe in Him.

Words to think about:

Even though God had promised Joshua the victory, they still had to fight for the land.

Canaan was God's free gift to Israel, but they still had to fight for it. God has also given us a free gift of Salvation, but along the journey there will be trials, tests and tribulations.

All those who put their trust and hope in the Living God shall overcome. Those who trust in the Living God and obey His word never lose out. They are counted as winners.

Verses to look up:

Matthew 1:5

Matthew 5:7

Psalms 117:2

James 2:25

2 Peter 1:4

CHAPTER

7

SAVED BY GRACE

What made Rahab believe in Yahweh? Multitudes of people lived in Jericho. In fact, men and women from all spheres of life, both great and small, lived in Jericho. Some of them would have been influential, of high standing and very knowledgeable, however, none of them escaped the fall of Jericho.

If God were to judge by works and outward appearances, Rahab would have been the last person to have been saved. Rahab was a prostitute.

Anyone who believes in Christ is saved by grace.

"For By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Chosen

Sodom and Gomorrah could not be destroyed until Lot came out of it. Lot and his family, apart from Lot's wife who looked back, were spared from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:15-29).



God spared Rahab and her family when Jericho fell, just like God spared Lot from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Rahab and Lot were imperfect people. They were not chosen, rescued or saved because of their own ability or power. They were set apart because of God's grace and mercy.

It was God's decision to save Rahab. She had no influence in it. She was a woman saved by grace. There was nothing worthy about Rahab to merit God saving her. It was through a divine act of God that she helped the spies. Rahab stood justified by her faith, it was a gift from God.

It is the Holy Spirit who works on a person's heart, softening it and causing it to yield. It is the Holy Spirit who removes spiritual blindness to give spiritual eyesight. Divine understanding comes from God. It is the Holy Spirit who opens ears previously blocked to the gospel.

Nobody can come to faith in Christ by themselves, it is God who first calls them (John 6:44). Many people will be saved by grace on the last day. Just like Rahab, they will not be destroyed, but live for eternity! There are a chosen generation of people, justified by faith in Jesus Christ and set apart for God's glory. These people will escape the judgement that is to come upon this earth.

In the New Testament, Rahab is well spoken of for her faith and acts of kindness, which is a great honour.



RAHAB'S BIBLE CLUB

Dear Leaders, Parents and Teachers please assist young people reading this book to answer all questions. There are also some answers to help you along the way. Please read your bible and use this book to support your own research. Individuals, Churches, Outreach groups can have fun answering these questions.

QUESTIONS

Read Psalm 111:4

1) Think about the wonderful things God has done in your life. Can you name and number them?

Psalm 145:6

2) Make a list of the personal ways you could describe God.

3) What is a threshing floor?



4) Do you know what chaff is? If yes, describe it or ask your parent, teacher, brother, sister to research the information with you.

5) How does the Bible use the word "chaff" figuratively? (Figuratively means to use a word (out of its true meaning) as a symbol or sign or to describe an action to come.)

Read the book of Numbers 13: 1-33, 14:1 -10, 26-38

Circle the correct answer:

6a) How many spies did Moses initially send to spy out the land?

- a) 13
- b) 14
- c) 12
- d) 10
- e) 2

6b) Out of these spies how many of them were selected to go ahead into Jericho?

- a) 12
- b) 6
- c) 7
- d) 2
- e) 3

7) What fruits did the spies bring back to Israelite camp?

- a) Grapes, Pomegranates and Apricots
- b) Apples, Pears and Plums
- c) Grapes, Pomegranates and Figs
- d) Bananas, Oranges and Pineapples
- e) Garlic, Ginger and Pepper

THE FAITH OF RAHAB

8) What is Faith?

9) Describe the Faith of Rahab?



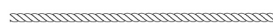
10) Who else in the Bible can be described as a man or woman of Faith. How did they demonstrate their Faith?

JERICO FALLS

11) How did Joshua conquer the land of Canaan?

- a) By telling the Israelites that Moses was a good leader
- b) By telling the Israelites that he was a good leader
- c) By sending the Israelites out according to their tribes
- d) By obedience to the Word of God
- e) By forcing the Israelites to go to war

12) Even though God had promised Israel the land of Canaan, why did they have to fight for it?



THE SCARLET CORD

13) Can anyone be saved, in spite of their background or behaviour?

14) When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes His enemies to be at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7). How can we apply this text to the story of Joshua's spies and Rahab?

15) Why did Rahab tie the scarlet cord on her window?



ANSWERS

Dear Leaders, Parents and Teachers please assist young people reading this book to answer all questions. Here are some answers to help you along the way. Please read your Bible and carry out your own research.

RAHAB'S WINDOW

Read Psalm 111:4

1) Think about the wonderful things God has done in your life. Can you name and number them?

Answer (Please include your own)

God has done so many things, please write down as many as you can remember. It would take eternity to number all of God's blessings. Please mention as many as possible. The greatest is our redemption, paying the penalty for our sin and the saving of our souls by the sacrifice of His Son.

Read Psalm 145:6

2) Make a list of the personal ways you would describe God.

Answer (Please include your own)

Here are just a few:

The Father: He is Immutable, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent.

The Son: He is a Redeemer, an Advocate, an Intercessor.

The Holy Spirit: He is Kind, Compassionate, Merciful.

THE SPIES

3) What is a Threshing floor?

A Threshing floor was used in the olden days and remote parts of certain countries to separate the wheat from the chaff. Various methods were used. Children can do some research into these methods. A Threshing floor was normally located on a hill, a roof top or high place where the chaff could easily be caught by the wind.

A Threshing floor was situated on a very windy place. The wheat or seeds would be broken using cows hooves (by the cows treading on the seeds, branches, sticks, stones and various implements would be used to break the seeds and separate the seeds from the chaff.) These seeds and chaff would then be thrown into the air together; this could be done by four women holding a large square cloth. The chaff would then be caught by the wind and blown away, leaving the precious seeds behind. A winnowing fan was also used for this same process of separating seeds, the "wheat" from the "chaff."

4) Do you know what Chaff is? If yes, describe it or check a dictionary.

Answer:

Chaff can be described as the husk of a seed. It can also be called the pod of a seed or its shell. The chaff, husk, pod or shell of a seed is normally thrown away.

Figuratively, the Bible uses the word "chaff" to distinguish between those who don't follow Christ, and those who do.

5) How does the Bible use this word "Chaff" figuratively? (Figuratively means to use a word (out of its true meaning) as a symbol or sign or to describe an action to come.

Answer:

In all of Canaan, only Rahab and her entire family were saved. Here you could describe this as "wheat" being separated from "chaff." When the spies approached Rahab's house, she was in a position to hand them over to the city guards. By her faith she showed that she believed in the God of the Israelites. In doing so, she and her whole household were saved from the destruction to come. Her faith was seen in her actions by helping the Israelites who were the enemies of her people.

Faith without works is dead: James 2:25

"Likewise was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?"

FROM A HIDING PLACE TO A RESTING PLACE

Read the book of Numbers 13: 1-33, 14:1 - 10, 26-38

Circle the correct answer:

6a) How many spies did Moses send to spy out the land?

Answer: c) 12

6b) Out of these spies: how many of them were selected to go ahead into Jericho?

Answer: d) 2

7) What fruits did the spies bring back to Israelite camp?

Answer: c) Grapes, Pomegranates and Figs

THE FAITH OF RAHAB

8) What is Faith?

Answer:

The Bible says we must approach God by “Faith”: anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Heb 11:6). We can only truly know God by Faith in His son Jesus Christ. We cannot know God and His truth until we have been born again (John 3:3).

Faith can sometimes be confused with our feelings. We can take our stand on the unfailing Word of God, despite our human feelings. Our human feelings are subject to change, they go up and down, but the Word of God remains constant and does not change.

As Christians we see ourselves as being one with Christ. This should affect every part of our lives. Our lives should bear fruit that point to Jesus Christ. By faith and obedience we can overcome the works of the evil one, the flesh and the world. By Faith we have assurance that we are accepted before God. He helps us yield to His Holy Spirit, by helping us live in obedience to Him.

Points to note and explain:

By **Faith** I see myself as God sees me.

By **Faith** I view myself as one with Christ in His death and resurrection.

By **Faith** I appropriate His victory over sin, death and Satan. (Rom 6:11)

By **Faith** I am assured of power over sin. (Rom 6:6, Col 3:1)

By **Faith** I can live in obedience to Him. (2 Cor.5:15)

9) Describe the faith of Rahab?

Answer:

By Faith, Rahab saw herself as being one with the Spies. As Christians we are one with Christ. This was the foundation of Rahab's Faith: she believed in Yahweh. Rahab, because of her Faith, was joyful when everyone else was fearful for their lives. This is because she believed in Yahweh even though in the natural, she had betrayed her country. We cannot therefore entangle our feelings with Faith. Abraham did not want to offer up his son as a sacrifice, but in Faith and obedience to God, he did what God asked of him. God was well pleased to offer an alternative sacrifice instead of his son. God was testing his Faith and obedience.

10) Who else in the Bible can be described as a man or woman of Faith. How did they demonstrate their faith?

Answer:

(Reader: There are many other examples please research and share), Here are two:

i) Father Abraham ii) Ruth the Moabitess

Father Abraham - Genesis 22: 2 - 18

- By offering up his son Isaac.

God had promised Abraham a son through his wife Sarah, even though she had been barren for many years. After receiving the promise, God tested him by asking him to give up Isaac. Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." By Faith, Abraham received the promise of a son. By faith he was also able to give up this son in obedience to God. Abraham did not rely on his personal feelings about the matter. In the real sense, the world would call Abraham a wicked man, but God called Him a man of faith.

(James 2: 20, 21)

Ruth the Moabitess - Ruth 1: 8 - 18

- By following Naomi to Bethlehem. Naomi was poor, desperate and old, but Ruth looked beyond her personal circumstances in following her. She recognised the God of Naomi and wanted to know Him more. Even though Naomi encouraged her to remarry and stay in Moab, she looked beyond her personal feelings and put her Faith in Naomi's God first. She knew that He would see them through.

"Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

JERICO FALLS

11) How did Joshua conquer the land of Canaan?

Answer:

d) By obedience to the word of God.

Christ purchased our salvation on the cross of Calvary. However, we must live in obedience to God's Word to enjoy the blessings. By faith, hope and fixing our love and devotion on heavenly things, we "posses our possessions," not only in heaven, but natural possessions, here on earth.

In Joshua Chapter One, God gave Joshua the great commission and he did not delay in carrying out, to the detail, instructions from the Lord. His actions not only honoured God, but encouraged God's people.

12) Even though God had promised Israel the land of Canaan, why did they still have to fight for it?

Answer:

Faith without works is dead (James 2: 17-26). When God gives us a promise He expects us to act in faith towards it: showing our obedience and belief. Our reaction and action to the promises of God, is a response of Faith. Without Faith it is impossible to please God. The Israelites had to be faithful to obey the instructions the Lord gave Moses, and then Joshua. Many of them were fearful of the giants along the way, and doubted whether they would enter the promised land. Obedience was a key factor in the Israelites obtaining what God had promised.

THE SCARLET CORD

13) Can anyone be saved, in spite of their background?

Answer:

Yes. Though many people despised Rahab and she was a prostitute, God still loved her and was able to save her. Jesus is described as: "the friend of Sinners" or "the Sinners friend." His mission on earth was to seek and to save the lost. The story of Rahab reminds us that anyone can be saved. Rahab married Salmon and became the mother of Boaz. Boaz was King David's grandfather. For a woman of low reputation, it is a great honour for her to be included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

14) When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes His enemies to be at peace with Him (Proverbs 16:7). How can we apply this verse to the story of the Spies and Rahab.

Answer:

The spies were divinely led to Rahab's door, she was a Canaanite and enemy of Israel. She did not respond to the King of Jericho's request to bring out the spies. Rather, she saw herself as being on the same side of the enemies. The spies found peace where they should have found trouble. God is able to make all grace abound to those who love Him. It is possible for God to make those who hate you, go out of their way to bless you.

15) Why did Rahab tie the scarlet cord on her window?

Answer:

Rahab hung a bright red scarlet cord from her window to make her house identifiable to the invading Israelite army. She had an agreement with the spies. It would be a sign and no harm would come to her or any member of her household. Rahab's house was situated by the wall of Jericho. It is quite remarkable that the wall of Jericho fell down, leaving Rahab's house standing. This could be considered a miracle. It reminds us that God is sovereign in all things and He is able to save completely, all those who put their trust in Him.

The scarlet cord runs from the Old testament into the New Testament:

The sprinkled blood on the door posts of the Israelites in Egypt caused the angel of death to recognise their houses and pass over them, when every first born in Egypt was slain (Exodus 12:13). In the same manner, Rahab was asked to place a red cord outside her window to prevent her and household from being killed.

The red cord runs through to Revelation where the 144,000 who are exempted from judgement, are sealed on their foreheads (Rev 7:3). Their identifying marks being that of obedience to the Lord (Rev 14: 1-5).

Obedience manifestly distinguishes the Christian from the non-Christian. The spies made a covenant agreement with Rahab in Joshua 2:19. Christ has also made a covenant relationship with us, separating us from those who will perish.

A Parting Word:

You can make a stand for Jesus by Faith. Make a choice who you will serve today.

Scriptures to meditate on: Luke 14:25-35,
Matthew 10:37-39

Do you have any further questions?
Why not send an email: info@gihonpublishing.com

Wishing you every divine blessing,
Ruth Ella Dickson