#  Rahab

Story of how we too are to go into this promised place and how to possess it and stay there. How to get to where God wants you to be in the spirit filled life and live there continually. What they go through physically are your steps in the spirit realm.

# Hebrews 11:31

**By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.**

Hebrews 11:31 says by faith, Rahab didn’t perish. Meaning her faith avoided something that was going to happen that was bad, not happen. How did she keep herself from both a physical and spiritual destruction? She exercised faith, put her faith to good use. What did she do? She received spies, agents of God’s people….received God’s plan of salvation with peace. Accepted grace, went after it by faith. Also, James 2:1-7.

Key components: Faith is involved; if you don’t believe….you are bound to perish; more than knowledge is involved….her action (by faith) in what she believed saved her. Question, what do you know about God and His plan and what actions are you taking to experience His peace?

# Joshua 2

 **And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. 2And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. 3And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.**

1. Spies – Joshua sent out two….required number of witnesses. (I have sent out some spies, folk I can trust to bring me back a good report and view the land)
	1. They had sent spies out before but it didn’t work well the first time, so Joshua does it differently this time. He was a former spy himself (Numbers 13) Luke 10 – Jesus sent them by two’s to go out and witness. Along the way, they get to minister and witness to Rahab. Undercover work for the kingdom so you can share with people around you.
	2. You may want to check that place out before you just roll up in there and start ministering. I always try and check a place out before I get there to do my thing.
	3. Sent with a purpose. You better be careful who you share your plans with. Everybody don’t need to know your business.
	4. Mission – go look at the land, even the land of the enemy Jericho. Just take a look at it. The land was a promise from God so what Joshua (Christ-type) is saying is go check out the promises of God. See if it’s as good as it was promised.
2. Even though they did it secretly, somebody must have been watching them and put their business out there.
3. When the business got out there, the enemy wanted to take them out. Knew they went there looking for something.
	1. Don’t be surprised if the enemy tries to stop you/us from experiencing and receiving what God’s has promised….His best. Expect the enemy to show up. But along the way, our stopping to help someone else who is not worthy perhaps, experience the power and love of God….will help us to avoid, escape and defeat the enemy.

**4And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: 5And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. 6But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. 7And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.**

1. Hid or protected the servants and plan of God. Told a lie. Does this make lying okay? No.

There are a host of opinions which celebrate Rehab’s faith but disapprove of her method of lying to accomplish hiding the spies. I have little to say on the matter except while I certainly don’t condone lying, Rahab leans on what she knows. I guess my litmus test is does God get glory from this? Might want to also ask the two spies if they had an issue with it. Rahab is celebrated for her belief and move of faith, and not for telling a lie.

1. Sent them in the wrong direction.
2. Hid them on the roof. Covered the men of God. Talk to me. Happened during the time of Passover.
3. Send the haters away in another direction.

Not sure of the spiritual application, but perhaps I want to make sure that I don’t get in the way or hinder the plan of God by exposing His servants to the enemy. That doesn’t mean I will be covering up unrighteous behaviors from His servants, but I want to be sure I’m supportive of those who are working on behalf of the Kingdom.

By hiding the spies, what did Rahab do?

* Assisted in the ministry. Protected it and supported it.
* Sacrificed her comfort and safety and put their ministry and purpose ahead of herself.
* When you put the ministry of others and the plan of God ahead of you; you can expect favor to come your way. A prophet’s reward.

 **8And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; 9And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. 10For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. 11And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.**

**12Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.**

1. She came to them. They visited her house but there was a part she had to play.

When we share with the lost, they will have to respond in order to receive His mercy and grace. Jesus will still come to your door and knock and seek you out, but you have to open the door of your heart to let Him in….He won’t bust the door down….you have a choice to make.

1. She knew three things:
	1. God had given them something in advance that she had enjoyed previously but was about to lose. Knew that the Lord was making a change and replacing them in that place. She knew that God was blessing these His people. She knew that God was keeping His promise to them.
	2. Here you go…..she knew that God had given them the Land…..the Promised Land. That was the plan. She believed in the plan of God.
	3. Powerful faith. She hadn’t seen it yet, but such great faith having only heard it. She didn’t see the miracles, the presence, the manna, shoes not wearing out…nope….but still had more faith than some of those who had seen it daily. Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe. Camp (church) folk don’t always get it, but here a harlot does.
	4. Folk are scared because of God’s people. Some folk ought to be uncomfortable when you are around.
	5. Everybody is weaker or uncomfortable about their situation and circumstances because of God’s people. So people are no longer trusting in their own strength because they don’t see any hope in that. This is the beginning of recognizing we need God in this situation.
	6. James 2:24-26 – she could have just believed and not acted on it, but that wouldn’t have gotten her saved.

Question: considering what Rahab did, what should we be doing? What does hiding God’s people look like today?

1. How did she know these things? Because she heard how the Lord delivered them from the enemy by making a way through the Red Sea…an impossible situation. How God brought them out. She heard about that. Heard about the victory they had on the other side.
	1. God knew that by putting them through this, they would have a testimony that somebody will hear, believe, and get saved. Awesome….you have to go back to Exodus 14:4.
	2. What He brought the Children of Israel through and how He brought them through, is now the source and good news that will save Rehab. Application: your testimony about the goodness of God in your life is not just about you….it can deliver someone else.
	3. Note, she says “we” so she wasn’t the only one who heard, but not everyone else believed what they heard or not everyone had faith to act upon what they believed yet. But Rehab did.
	4. Rahab overcomes through the word of their testimony. Application: how you get through this by faith may save someone else’s life.
2. They knew God’s people were coming. Knew the plan was about to be executed. Knew judgment was coming. Was hoping it would be avoided. Hoping they could be spared by having the Sea (circumstances block them); or having someone else take them out.
	1. Courage they did have to continue to do this in their own strength was gone. They had it once, but not now. Everybody ain’t celebrating your victory because it may mean that what they are enjoying now, may soon be over.
	2. They realized that Israel’s God was God, not just in circumstances there, but in heaven as well. This is a powerful verse….they know who God is through the story and testimony of Israel’s experience with God. The same applies today….share what God has done.
3. Because she understands God, the plan, to bring His people in…..she makes a request.
	1. Because she showed them kindness and protected them, she asks for their protection in return. What you do for God’s people, He will make happen for you.
	2. She asks for a token, something that can be left behind to encourage her that the promise will be kept.
4. Not just concerned about herself, request is made for her family. Save them from death.

Let’s take a closer look and determine spiritually where Rehab is. Does she follow the steps (7 feast steps from Leviticus Chapter 23)?

 Step 1 - She appears to be humble and broken. She said they (including herself) were in terror and faint from the circumstances and the impending doom (Passover – The Cross). She recognized she was in need.

 Step 2 – She repents from continuing to trust in her current circumstances and instead recognizes that God is God (Unleavened Bread - Burial). Basically, she wanted to leave her old life.

 Step 3 – she places her hope in God to be saved. In fact, she responds in faith (First Fruits – Resurrection). There is a part that she plays by faith and then she has to wait and trust in God to do the rest. She wants to start a new life serving God.

Each of us has to follow and apply these same steps to be in alignment with God and His promises. This is the Gospel!

There is a spiritual application perhaps. As we pursue God’s best and purpose in our own life, evangelism and inviting others to receive by faith the love of God and serve Him….that is part of our journey. We cannot bypass this step. Watch for this throughout this story….I believe it applies to us today.

**14And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. 15Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.**

She was a harlot…no doubt about it, but she had the facts, and believed, and acted on it. It was mental, emotional, spiritual. Mental = facts, emotional = fear, spiritual = faith, trusts in what she believes, lets down the rope.

Look at the faith of the two spies. They speak faith. They know that God has already given them the Land even though they don’t own it yet. How do they know this? How can they speak to their situation with such faith (they are currently in hiding….but speaking like they had victory)?

* The word and promises of God
* They are seeing God’s hand in protecting them
* Rahab’s testimony

**16And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.**

1. True salvation, to give your life in exchange for another life. We are saved when we give our life in exchange for the life of Christ.
	1. She is told to not turn back from protecting the mission. Hide it from the enemy.
	2. When they get the land…by faith, they will bless her. Treat her kindly. When they get theirs from God, they will hook her up. We ought to be trying to hook some folk up with kindness.
2. Note…her house was on the wall. She lived on the wall.
3. Rehab tells them to hide for three days in the mountain…a high place. When you know the enemy is after you, hide yourself in a place higher than where they are looking. Don’t try to hide where they are at…remember, the enemy went looking for them in low places near the Jordan. Stay high.

**17And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. 18Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. 19And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.**

1. Conditions of the oath. So if she doesn’t do her part of the agreement, it won’t be their fault if she doesn’t make it out.
2. Put a sign in the window when they come. Make sure everyone who is to be saved, is in this house where the sign is upon. Under a roof of faith. When the red line is seen in the window, she’ll be saved. She had to do her part, display the red line, in order for this to work.
	1. Notice, just being kind and believing one day didn’t secure her salvation. Still something she had to do. The promise was made to her because of her actions, but she had to continue in faith in order to really come out. Somebody has to see that red line in her window. What’s in your window?
	2. Notice, one time faith is nice but won’t lead you to God’s best. It takes faithfulness. Please don’t quit having faith in God after you have a break through. The process is not over.
3. There was protection in that house. Outside of it, not responsible for their actions. As long as they were in “that” house, they were saved. Now before, this would have been the wrong house and the last house you would want to be at in order to escape the judgment of God.
	1. How did the house get protected? Because she brought the people of God and the plan of God into the house. That saved the house.
	2. Faith was in the house; a believer stayed in the house; good works supporting the ministry conducted in the house. A harlot lived there, but the house was transformed. Same address, still located on the wall, but there was a change on the inside.
		1. I may look the same, but when God and faith and His promises enter the picture….when Christ enters my life, there is a change on the inside.
	3. If they went outside the house and started getting around that crowd that was about to perish, God’s people will not be able to tell the difference and so real easy for them being outside the house/agreement to get taken out as well. Don’t leave the promises, be careful hanging out with scared crazy folks. You may get caught up in the mix.

**20And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. 21And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.**

1. Oh, and you can’t play games with God…..if you say are supporting the King, and later turn back to trusting in the enemy, the promise is null and void.
	1. So not only does Rehab receive the promises of life by faith, she also has to maintain and stand on the promises….by faith.
2. Notice this. She didn’t have to put the line out in the window until they came into the city. Now this is faith….she doesn’t wait for tomorrow….she displays it today. Doesn’t know exactly when they were coming back so she didn’t take any chances, she displayed it now. Didn’t wait to follow the instructions or her part of the promise. What are you waiting for?
	1. Same cord she used by faith the first time, is the same cord that will deliver her next time or tomorrow.
	2. Matthew 21:31
	3. This part of the story sounds similar to the rapture. It seems Rehab is taking the next steps in the process. Step 4 – she has received a covenant or promise, Step 5 – she is awaiting for the return where she and her family will be saved (Feast of Trumpets).

**22And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not. 23So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them:**

**24And they said unto Joshua, Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.**

1. If you get high enough and stay there, the things pursuing you won’t find you. Gotta do more than just get there, might have to hang out there for awhile before you come down.
	1. When you know folk are pursuing you to take you out, you might want to find a good hide out in a high place. You might have to go a little higher and stay there awhile.
2. There’s a time to come down, and a time to stay up. Reported back to Joshua what they had seen and what happened to them. Evangelism report.
3. What they saw convinced them that God was about to do something great and bless them with the promise because the people that was in the land now, that place, knew their time was just about up.
	1. How did they know for sure now that God had truly given them the victory?
		1. Probably from the testimony of Rehab. Seems it is possible that even the testimony of someone very new to the faith, is an encouragement to those who have been following God and serving a lot longer.
		2. Never discount the impact of your story and experience with God and the great impact it will have to encourage others. She had not been a believer as long as them…..yet her ministry and faith is so powerful, it encourages the Children of Israel to press forward toward the prize.

Problem: She’s in the Hall of Faith but she told a big lie. Do you think this is a problem?

God accepted her faith and pardoned the lie. You better hear me on this one. You gonna make some mistakes as a new believer until you learn better but the blood covers this.

Two observations:

Rahab performed ministry. Is her ministry needed today?

Evangelism is a big part of us getting to the Promised Land.