



## Lesson 61

### Lesson 61: What Is Faith? (Part 17) Faith of Rahab

Scripture: Hebrews 11:31

#### Examining Ourselves

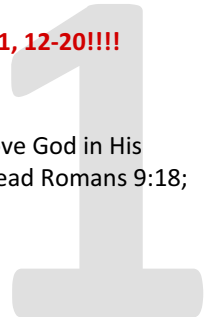
- (2 Corinthians 13:5) We are commanded to continually examine ourselves. If we do not then we sin against God.
- (Matthew 7:21-23) Christ warned us that MANY would sincerely (with all sincerity believe they have saving faith) believe and yet here upon death, "I never knew you! Depart from Me you lawless ones."
- (Luke 18:8) Christ's haunting words describing His return!
- (2 Peter 1:5-10) The Holy Spirit commands us to use all diligence to make our election sure.

#### A Notorious Sinner!!!!????

- Rahab was a **GENTILE, CANAANITE, AMORITE!**
- Rahab was a **HARLOT!**
- Rahab, along with all of her fellow-citizens, was under God's **DIVINE JUDGMENT – HIS WRATH!** (See Exodus 23:23; 33:2; 34:11; Deut. 20:16-18)
- In New Testament terms, Rahab is **by nature** "an alien from the commonwealth of Israel (citizenship in God's chosen nation), a stranger to the covenants of promise, without hope, and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:12
- ★ **Read again Ephesians 2:1-3 with 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 12-20!!!!**

#### Watch God At Work!

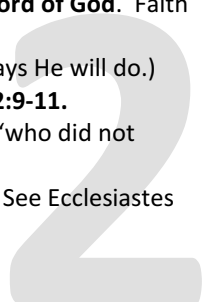
- **God and His Sovereignty:** Though Rahab is all the above God in His sovereign will **chose** to extend His mercy to her! Read Romans 9:18; Ephesians 2:4-5.



- **God and His Mercy:** Rahab was born a “child of wrath”! (Ephesians 2:3) BUT she was one of God’s elect! Compare Joshua 2:1-5 with John 4:3-4.
  - Notice Joshua 2:1 - send spies to the land, *especially Jericho!*
  - **Consider John 10:16; John 6:38-40**
- **God and His Grace:** There was absolutely **nothing** in Rahab that deserved God’s kindness. She was a vile sinner by choice! But God willed to show Himself as One “who does not respect persons.” (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; 1 Peter 1:17; Gal. 2:6; Col. 3:11; Deut. 10:17; 2 Chronicles 19:7)
- **God and His Power:** Jericho had no Bibles, no preachers, no prophets, etc., **yet** God would work out His salvation in Rahab. It is obvious from our text that Rahab was **regenerated before** the spies came!
  - ★ **SALVATION ORDER:** First eternal life is given by the grace of God (Romans 6:23), then faith, then repentance. Get this order wrong and you will get the Gospel wrong.
- **God and His Providence:**
  - **DEFINITION:** God’s **constant care** for and His **absolute rule over all** His creation, **directing all** things to their **appointed** end for His own **glory** and for the **good** of His people.
    - References:** Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:9-11; 41:22; 44:7; 45:21; Acts 15:18; Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 19:21; Daniel 4:35
  - The two spies sent out by Joshua could have never known and would have never imagined that one of God’s **elect** was living **inside** Jericho – not to mention finding her! **BUT God was at work directing their steps!** (See Proverbs 16:9; 19:21; 20:24; Jeremiah 10:23)
  - **Praying in God’s Will** (1 John 5:14-15): Learn to pray Scripture such as: Psalm 25:4, 12; 17:5; 119:116-117.

## The Faith of Rahab

- **The Ground of Her Faith:** The Word of God! (Romans 10:17) **This does not mean that faith originates from hearing the word of God.** Faith is a **gift** of God sovereignly given. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
  - See **Exodus 15:14-16** (God always does what He says He will do.)
  - The fulfillment of Moses’ song is found in **Joshua 2:9-11.**
  - In Hebrews 11:31, the Holy Spirit contrasts those “who did not believe” and Rahab’s faith.
  - All the inhabitants heard! But all did not believe! See Ecclesiastes 8:11 for **a** reason for this. **Also see John 10:26.**



- **BUT** God sovereignly **opened** Rahab's heart so that she **attended** to the things she heard. See Acts 16:14.
- It takes the **WORD of GOD** **and** **POWER of GOD** for anyone to be saved. See 1 Thess. 1:5; Matt. 22:29; 1 Thess. 2:13)
- **The Effect of Her Faith:** Saving faith **works!** – See Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-26
  - Faith **without** works is NO FAITH AT ALL!
  - Rahab demonstrated her faith by receiving the spies. James 2:25.
  - She received the “children of God” into her home (see 1 John 3:10, 14; 1 John 5:1-2), she spoke of spiritual things, she provided for them, and refused to betray them.
  - She did not continue as a harlot once saved! Saving faith brings with it true repentance.
  - You **cannot** have faith and continue in sin. (1 John 3:9)
  - Her faith was demonstrated in her **self-denying** – Luke 9:23. She sided with “the enemy” and the consequences could mean death!
- **The Steadfastness of Her Faith:** She was the **only one** in Jericho that believed – **yet she persevered.**
  - “It is the easiest thing in the world to believe as everybody else believes, but the difficulty is to believe a thing alone, when no one else thinks as you think!” (AWP)
- **Her Confession of Her Faith:** (see Joshua 2:9-11)
  - Faith without a confession is NOT Biblical faith. See Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:33; Luke 9:26)
  - (v. 9) She says, “**I KNOW . . .**” Christianity is a faith that is **certain.** (See 1 John 5:13, 20; Romans 2:2; 3:19; 7:14; 8:22, 28; 1 Cor 8:4; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; **and 17x in 1 John**)
  - (v. 10) She confessed the power of God in His works! (v. 10).
    - We are to speak of God wondrous works! (1 Chron. 16:9, 12, 24; Psalm 77:11-12; **78:4**; 105:2, 15; 107:8; 119:27)
  - (v. 11) She acknowledged the **supremacy** of God. See Deut 4:32; 1 Kings 8:60; Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 54:5.
  - (v. 12) She sought **mercy** for those who were close to her. She pleaded for God's mercy!
- **The Imperfection of Her Faith** (Joshua 2:1-5)
  - ★ **THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION!**
  - This is **not** for our imitation, but our learning! We must **learn** and **remember** that though we have been saved all saints have **weak** faith at times. Consider Psalm 130:3; John 8:7; 1 John 1:8, 10
  - Her lie was put on Christ and Christ died for that sin! (Isaiah 53:6)

- God commended Rahab's faith (Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25) - NOT HER LIE! - LOOK AT OURSELVES - ALL SIN! (Romans 3:23)
- ★ BUT there is NO MENTION of Rahab's lie in the NT!!! (Remember Hebrews 8:12; Isaiah 43:25)
- **The Perseverance of Her Faith** (Joshua 2:20-21)
  - Notice the **"if"** in verse 20.
  - ONLY THOSE WHO PERSEVERE TO THE END WILL BE SAVED. (Matthew 10:22; 24:13)
  - ★ NOTICE the **"if's"** in Romans 8:13; 11:22; Colossians 1:23; Hebrews 3:6, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:2.
  - ★ **THOUGH OUR SALVATION IS SECURE "IN CHRIST" GOD STILL DEMANDS OUR OBEDIENCE.**
- **The Reward of Her Faith**
  - Though under the divine judgment of God wrath (see Joshua 6:21) she is SAVED! (See Joshua 6:22)
  - Her "salvation" was secured with an **"oath"** or a **"covenant"**!!! (v. 22)
  - She became a "fellow-citizen" in the commonwealth of Israel. (See Joshua 6:25; Ephesians 2:19)
  - She married a "prince of Judah" named Salmon who fathered Boaz (she must have been a good mother) and she was one of the great grandmothers of Jesus Himself! (Matthew 1:5)
  - Three times she is mentioned in the New Testament and her **lie** is never mentioned!!

The faith of Rahab is written for our encouragement!

Romans 15:4

Have you been encouraged?

