

Rahab Hides the Spies

Key Verse: “As soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”
—***Joshua 2:11, New King James Version***

Selected Scriptures:
Joshua 2:1-24; 6:17

In Rahab we find an intriguing and conflicting array of character traits. Identified in scripture as a harlot, Rahab also demonstrated great personal integrity. She was both a woman of her word, and yet was one of the most adept liars in recorded history. She was a Gentile, an outsider to the covenants and promises given to Israel, who yet revered their God—Jehovah. She had heard of the Lord through various reports of his divine favor to the people of Israel. The parting of the Red Sea forty years prior to this time was evi-

dently still being spoken of by the people of the land.

Rahab provided some very useful intelligence to the spies who were sent to evaluate conditions in Jericho. She said to the men: “I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are faint-hearted because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.”—Josh. 2:9,10, NKJV

Rahab's statements confirm the Word of the Lord to Moses: "This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the nations under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you." (Deut. 2:25, *NKJV*) The nations, including Jericho, feared and were in dread of Israel. Rather than embracing fear, Rahab embraced the might and majesty of the one true God! This was an act of faith on her part. Some believe in God and tremble while others believe in him and rejoice. (James 2:19) Rahab rejoiced in her faith. New Testament scriptures commemorate this. "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace." (Heb. 11:31, *NKJV*) Her faith led to works on behalf of God's people. "Was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?"—James 2:25, *NKJV*

Rahab's works proved the depth of her faith, which motivated actions. It was not a passing fascination with legends or current gossip, but was real. Her faith was so real, in fact, that Rahab was honored with an amazing role in God's plan. "And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho." (Josh. 6:25, *NKJV*) However, there is much more. The Bible record is that "Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king."—Matt. 1:5,6, *NKJV*

David, the king of Israel, was ancestor to our Lord Jesus Christ. The lesson is—simple acts of faith may achieve abundant and mighty results! James reminds us: "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."—James 2:17,18, *NKJV* ■