

The Book of Joshua

Preparing for the Conquest of Canaan

The Faith of Rahab

- I. Rahab and the City of Jericho
 - A. Joshua sent two spies to investigate and report on the city of Jericho.
 - B. Upon arriving at the city, they lodged in the house of Rahab, a harlot.
 - 1. This word indicates that Rahab was, indeed, a prostitute.
 - 2. It does not mean that the Israelites sought her out for immoral reasons.
 - 3. Her house was a place where they could go without raising suspicions about their true purpose of spying out the city.
 - C. Nevertheless, word came to the king of Jericho about the spies' arrival.
 - D. He instructed Rahab to turn them over to the servants of the king.
 - E. Instead, she hid the Israelites and lied about their presence in her house.
 - 1. Nowhere in Scripture is Rahab's deception given approval or praise.
 - 2. The Bible simply records the fact that it happened.
 - 3. It is not the first time that God caused something good to happen out of man's sinful behavior.
 - 4. Twice, Abraham lied about Sarah being his wife - and both times he received material wealth as a result (Gen. 12, 20)!
 - 5. This does not mean that God approved of his deception.
 - 6. Like Abraham, Rahab is commended for her faith and obedience - never for her sinful actions.
 - F. Rahab told the spies that she and the inhabitants of the land had heard of all that God had done for the Israelites in bringing them out of Egypt.
 - G. She declared that the people were very afraid of Israel and their God.
 - H. Then, she asked for mercy - to be delivered from the destruction that was to come upon Jericho.
 - I. They promised to protect her if she would not tell about their visit.
 - 1. They instructed her to bind a scarlet line (cord) to the window of her house.
 - 2. She was to bring her family into her house for their protection.
 - 3. Anyone who departed from her house would be under the threat of death.
 - J. She warned them to hide in the mountains for three days, then let them down from her window outside the walls of Jericho.
 - K. After hiding for three days, the spies returned and reported to Joshua.
 - L. Their words were encouraging:
 - 1. God has delivered the land into our hands.
 - 2. The people are afraid of us.
- II. The Faith of Rahab
 - A. Source - *hearing* (vs. 9-11; cf. Rom. 10:17)
 - B. Effect - *heart changed* (vs. 11)
 - C. Nature - *personal* (vs. 12)
 - D. Character - *trusting, imploring* (vs. 12-13)
 - E. Result - *obedience* (vs. 21)
 - F. Strength - *enduring* (vs. 15-16, 20)
 - G. Benefit - *salvation* (Heb. 11:31; Jam. 2:25; Matt. 1:5)