

The power of Biblical Women in the background. (Pg.#2)

(We rejoin this account after the fall of Jericho to Joshua and the Israelites.)

Joshua 6:22-25... Joshua then told the two men who had served as spies, "Go into the prostitute's house, and bring her and her family out, as you promised her." (23) So they went and brought Rahab out, along with her father and mother, her brothers, and the rest of her family. They took them all, family and slaves, to safety near the Israelite camp. (24) Then they set fire to the city and burned it to the ground, along with everything in it, except the things made of gold, silver, bronze, and iron, which they took and put in the LORD's treasury. (25) But Joshua spared the lives of the prostitute Rahab and all her relatives, because she had hidden the two spies that he had sent to Jericho. (Her descendants have lived in Israel to this day.)

-- Q.8 How did Joshua reward Rahab?

– Joshua spared her life. – Joshua spared all her family. – Joshua also spared her family's slaves

(We jump ahead in time to the New Testament teachings on Rahab.)

Hebrews 11:29-31... It was faith that made the Israelites able to cross the Red Sea as if on dry land; when the Egyptians tried to do it, the water swallowed them up. (30) It was faith that made the walls of Jericho fall down after the Israelites had marched around them for seven days. (31) It was faith that kept the prostitute Rahab from being killed with those who disobeyed God, for she gave the Israelite spies a friendly welcome.

-- Q.9 To what is Rahab's faith compared?

– To the faith that allowed Moses and Israel to cross the Red Sea.

– To the faith that brought Jericho down. – To her faith in Joshua as a mighty warrior.

-- Q.10 How can the faith of Moses be compared to that of Rahab?

– They both trusted in God's power to spare their lives if they submitted to His authority.

– Rahab didn't have faith, she just negotiated an escape.

(Now let's read how James regarded the account of Rahab.)

James 2:21-26... How was our ancestor Abraham put right with God? It was through his actions, when he offered his son Isaac on the altar. (22) Can't you see? His faith and his actions worked together; his faith was made perfect through his actions. (23) And the scripture came true that said, "Abraham believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous." And so Abraham was called God's friend. (24) You see, then, that it is by our actions that we are put right with God, and not by our faith alone. (25) It was the same with the prostitute Rahab. She was put right with God through her actions, by welcoming the Israelite spies and helping them to escape by a different road. (26) So then, as the body without the spirit is dead, also faith without actions is dead.

-- Q.11 What does James say of faith?

– Rahab's faith in God was proved through her actions. – That we also must put our faith into action.

To see the long-term effect a Canaanite prostitute's faith had on God's plan, we turn to...

Matthew 1:1-2... This is the list of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was a descendant of Abraham. (2-6) From Abraham to King David, the following ancestors are listed: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and his brothers; then Perez and Zerah (their mother was Tamar), Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz (his mother was Rahab), Obed (his mother was Ruth), Jesse, and King David.

-- Q.12 What do we know about the women listed here, who were part of the lineage of Jesus?

– Rahab was a Canaanitess (*Joshua 2:1-9*). – Ruth was a Moabitess (*Ruth 1:1-5*).

– Tamar was the daughter-in-law of Judah (*Genesis 38:6*).

- To read a story of romance in the scriptures, you find the account of Ruth and Boaz from the book of Ruth.
- If you want to read of a woman who was rejected in marriage, read about Tamar in Genesis 38.
- However, today our focus is on Rahab, who once was a Canaanite prostitute.

From this lineage, God chose to bring forth His Messiah, Jesus...

What do you think God might be trying to communicate to us about our ideas of prejudice and pride?

**-- So this humble account of Rahab leads us into our next two studies on the way to Christmas.
Does it surprise you that God would ordain His only begotten Son to be born in a stable? (KK)**