

# HEROES OF OUR FAITH

## PART 4 · RAHAB

The time has come. After the high of escaping slavery in Egypt and walking on dry land through the Red Sea, then sinking to the depths of unbelief and 40 years of nomadic desert wandering, the next generation of God’s people were finally willing to step into their inheritance – their sights firmly on the Promised Land.

But first, the gateway to the Promised Land, the strongest of all cities in Canaan – Jericho. Fortified by not just one wall but a dual twenty foot high wall system surrounded the city, the barrier was all but impenetrable. The width between the dual walls was that of a room, so that if an enemy succeeded in scaling the outer wall, he would be trapped between in ‘no man’s land’ and an easy target. At intervals around the city, houses spanned the gap between the two sets of walls. It was in one of the ‘wall houses’ near the city gates, that Rahab the Harlot lived.

Encamped at Shittim, on the opposite east side of the swollen Jordan River were the 12 tribes of Israel.

This was a time of war, spies, questions of survival and loyalty against a backdrop of impending destruction.

### Who was Rahab?

Name: ‘Rahab the Harlot’

Residence: Jericho outer wall

Occupation: Prostitute

Destiny: Condemnation, Impending Destruction

### What she brought...

*Joshua 2: 1, Joshua 2:2-11, Hebrews 11:30 -31, John 6:28-19, Genesis 15:6*

- + .....
- + .....

**What she needed...**

*Joshua 2:12-13, Deuteronomy 7:1-3, Deuteronomy 20:16-17*

+ .....

Not

+ .....

**What she received...**

*Joshua 2:14-21, Joshua 6:1-5, Joshua 6:15-17, Joshua 6:20-25, Matthew 1:1-6, 15-17*

+ .....

There are four main reasons why God provides promises:

- 1. Builds the foundation of faith
- 2. Leads us in the right direction
- 3. Demonstrates God’s faithfulness
- 4. Encourages us during difficult times

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Name: ‘Rahab the Heroine’

Residence: Israel: Tribe ‘Judah’

Occupation: Wife and Mother

Destiny: Redemption, Restoration, Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith

## In closing...

Our enemy wants each of us to believe that nothing good can come from a person with a past. But our God, God in heaven above and on earth below, is a God of grace, mercy, restoration, second chances and new beginnings. Remember, sin is not something that the scarlet blood of Christ cannot overcome. It's not going to be SIN that keeps you from God, it will be a fortified heart unwilling to ask a Saviour for favour.

Think about John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

We can have absolute confidence in both the unshakable faithfulness of God to keep His promises, and that through His unending love He is able to 'make all things new'. Revelations 21:5.

Matthew Chapter 1 provides us with the genealogy of Christ.

*Rahab and Salmon had a son Boaz.  
Boaz, the Kinsman Redeemer who married Ruth.  
Boaz and Ruth had a son, Obed.  
Obed the father of Jesse.  
Jesse the father of King David.  
And from the line of King David,  
the promise of the Messiah  
the Redeemer himself,  
Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.*

Rahab reminds us that being joined to the family of God has nothing to do with our past. It has everything to do with God's grace. Our future alone matters to God.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.  
Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,  
and I will listen to you.  
You will seek me and find me  
when you seek me with all your heart."  
Jeremiah 29:11-13*

## Discussion Questions

### The Stand Joshua 2: 8-14

- + Why had people's hearts melted in fear and no courage remained?
- + What declaration does Rahab make about God?
- + What does Rahab ask of the spies?
- + Upon whom is that promise based?

### The Escape Joshua 2: 15-24

- + What warning and condition of rescue did the spies give Rahab?
- + What signal was Rahab to use?
- + What is the significance of this signal throughout scripture?

### The Wait Joshua 6: 1-14

- + List the battle instructions Joshua gave to the people.
- + Imagine Rahab and her family tightly shut up within the walls of Jericho, waiting for the impending battle, watching from the wall. Holding on to the faith that they would be spared, rescued. Read Psalm 27:14 What kind of waiting place are you in?

### The Rescue Joshua 6:15-25

- + What instructions were given regarding Rahab?
- + Whom did Joshua send to rescue Rahab and her family?
- + When your world is falling apart or crumbling down around you – where do you place your faith? What or whom have you chosen to rescue you?
- + There is a rescue plan obtained through faith in God. What do you learn about God's ways in both Joshua 6:25 and John 3:16-17

### The Restoration

*Joshua 6:25, Matthew 1:5, Hebrews 11:1,31 & Isaiah 1:18, Ephesians 2:8, Revelation 21:5*

The Bible, time and time again, provides us examples 'faults and all' of people considered 'Heroes of Faith'. In 1 Corinthians 10:11 it tells us that Biblical heroes were recorded for our instruction.

**Discuss what insights from the story of Rahab we should embrace as a church (particularly as we move to 17 Mile Rocks), to be 'ministers of grace and mercy'.**