

## Bible Class Notes – Studies in The Old Testament – Lesson 83

### The Christian Pilgrimage – Judgement and Deliverance

**This week** – We continue our lessons teaching us about how to live now, anticipating Heaven.

***For the LORD your God, He is God  
in Heaven above, and in earth beneath.***

*Joshua 31 2v11*

#### Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Joshua 2 v1-24 (Rahab hides the spies)	
Monday	Joshua 4 v1-14 (God miraculously parts the Jordan)	
Tuesday	Joshua 4 v15-24 (God magnifies Joshua)	
Wednesday	Joshua 6 v1-14 (Joshua obeys God's command)	
Thursday	Joshua 6 v15-27 (Jericho taken, Rahab saved)	
Friday	Hebrews 11 v17-31 (Rahab listed among the faithful)	
Saturday	James 2 v1-28 (Faith without works is dead)	

**Important Thought for us Today:** Did God approve of Rahab's lie? No He did not. A lie is breaking God's 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment. God commended Rahab for her faithfulness, (See Hebrews 12v31), but all those other faithful people listed in Hebrews 11 also sinned and made mistakes. **Note:** 1. Simply because the Bible commends an individual for a righteous act it does not mean that God condones everything they did. 2. Rahab, (who was a Canaanite with a heavily pagan culture), had just stopped being a gross sinner, finding the Lord's forgiveness for her sin. When we are converted we are forgiven and want to obey God, but our old ways die slowly - it is a life-long battle. 3. By courageously protecting and saving the spies she actively demonstrated her faith in God, (however uninformed, inexperienced, and flawed her faith still was). 4. Her **dishonesty is never condoned in Scripture**. She was commended and graciously spared from the destruction of Jericho because of her **overall** faith and works at the time—despite the fact that her newly found, courageous faith was still '**work in progress**'. Yes, she lied to the king's men, but she also (1) confessed belief in God, (2) appealed to Him for help, (3) showed kindness to the Israelite spies, (4) courageously hid them and helped them escape. God expects us to tell the truth at all times and He will protect us.

#### **A hymn that speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ's care for us as our Shepherd: (23v5)**

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| 1. The Lord my Shepherd is,<br>I shall be well supplied;<br>Since He is mine, and I am His,<br>What can I want beside? | 4. While He affords His aid,<br>I cannot yield to fear;<br>Though I should walk through death's dark shade,<br>My Shepherd will be there. |
| 3. If e'er I go astray,<br>He doth my soul reclaim;<br>And guides me in His chosen way,<br>For His most holy name.     | 6. The bounties of Thy love<br>Shall crown my following days;<br>Nor from Thy house will I remove,<br>Nor cease to speak Thy praise.      |

*EDT Bible Class Take Home Sheet*

## Rahab Weighs The Evidence

### • Background to today's lesson

- The nations around had heard how the God of Israel had miraculously delivered 2 million slaves from Egypt (the mightiest nation on earth at that time), and had preserved and guided them in the desert for 40 years. They knew that this God had promised their land (Canaan) to His people Israel, who were now, at God's command, under their new leader Joshua, heading for war towards them. The great walled city of Jericho was the first city to be attacked and conquered.

### • The Canaanites knew that the God of Israel was:

- **All powerful** – This one, true God had mightily overcome all Israel's enemies.
- **Holy, setting Holy Laws** – This true God was righteous - not encouraging sin like Jericho's idols. With just punishment for those who wilfully break them.
- **Approachable** - By sacrifice with repentant hearts, receiving forgiveness.

*YET they refused to accept Him as the only true God; preferring their man-made gods.*

### • Only the sinful harlot Rahab Was Different as She:

- **Faced the facts** - God's judgement on evil Jericho was justly deserved. The walls of Jericho, however thick, could not offer her any safe protection.
- **Was convicted** – She knew she personally deserved punishment for her sin.
- **Repented** – She turned from her sin and trusted God for forgiveness; wanting to be changed so that she could obey and serve Him.
- **Gave up** her old sinful ways - she must now make a stand for her new God
- **Hid the two Israelite spies** – Risking her life by helping them to escape.
- **Asked for protection** – Knowing that God would give the victory to Israel.
- **Trusted God to keep her safe** – She believed the promise the spies gave her.
- **Was delivered** – Israel, in obedience to God, marched around the city walls once a day for six days, and then for seven times on the seventh day. When the Israelites shouted the walls of Jericho fell down, but the section of the wall where Rahab lived remained - the promise to save her was kept.
- **With her family, joined Israel** - becoming a child of God and one with Him.

### • Are we like Rahab? Have we:

- **Faced the fact** we are sinners deserving God's Holy wrath and punishment?
- **Been convicted of our sin**, trusting only in the Saviour's death on Calvary?
- **Trusted God's gracious promises** to protect us and bring us safe to heaven?

***Seek God's forgiveness and then you will have the same blessings that Rahab experienced – peace with God, and a certain place in Heaven.***

***By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.***

*Hebrews 11v31*