

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 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 2v1-24 (Rahab, in faith, hides the spies)	
Monday	Joshua 4v1-14 (God miraculously parts the Jordan)	
Tuesday	Joshua 4v15-24 (God magnifies faithful Joshua)	
Wednesday	Joshua 6v1-14 (Joshua obeys God’s command)	
Thursday	Joshua 6v15-27 (Jericho taken, Rahab saved)	
Friday	Hebrews 11v17-31 (Rahab listed among the faithful)	
Saturday	James 2v1-28 (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 9th 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—even though 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.

Hymn 23v5 which speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ’s care for us as our Shepherd:

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

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

Rahab Weighs Up 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 Israel’s 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 her heart’s desires 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, 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 today and then you will have the same blessings that Rahab experienced – sins forgiven, peace with God, and a certain place in eternal Heaven.

“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” Hebrews 11v31.