

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Nineteen

GOD CALLED RAHAB THE HARLOT

(Josh. 2; 6:17-25)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called Rahab, the sinful harlot, and saved all of her family from destruction because she turned her heart to God and joined herself to His people, risking her life by hiding the two men of Israel on her rooftop when they came to spy on Jericho. Because of her kindness to them they answered her request to save her and all her family alive when the army of Israel destroyed Jericho and burned it with fire. After that, Rahab dwelt in Israel (John. 6:25) and married a leader of God's people, Salmon (Matt. 1:5), and even became an ancestor to Christ!

Memory Verse: "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace" (Hebrews 11:31)

Facts to Teach:

1. Joshua sent out two spies into the land of Canaan to spy on Jericho, the first city that was to be destroyed of the enemies who dwelt in the land.
2. They spied on Jericho and even stayed in the house of one of its people, Rahab the harlot. She was probably one of the most sinful persons in the city. But she realized that the Lord had given the whole land to the Israelites so she received the two spies into her house. That was the wisest decision she made in her whole life.
3. The king heard that the two spies were in her house and commanded her to bring them out. At the risk of her own life she lied to the king and told him that they had already left the city. Actually, she hid them on her rooftop under stalks of flax.
4. Before the spies went on their way, Rahab made them swear by the Lord that because she had saved their lives, when they destroyed the city, they would save all her family alive; her father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all their children.
5. The spies agree. She then lowered them down by a scarlet rope from her house (which was built upon the great wall of the city) to safety outside the city.
6. The day of battle soon arrived. After circling Jericho each day for six days with the priests blowing their trumpets followed by the marching army of Israel, Jericho was frightened.

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Lesson Nineteen (Continued)

7. On the seventh day they circled the city seven times. On the seventh time around the priests blasted their trumpets and all the people shouted with a great shout, and the walls of Jericho fell down flat!

8. Rahab's house, however, was safe. As she had agreed with the spies, she hung her red rope out of the window of her house. That was the sign agreed upon so that the armies of Israel would know which house was hers and would not destroy the people in that house.

9. That scarlet red rope must have appeared like a stream of blood flowing down from the wall to the ground. This is a picture of how Christ would redeem his sinful people and bring them to safety and salvation through faith in him and His precious sin-cleansing blood.

10. Joshua had the soldiers bring Rahab and her entire family out of the condemned city. They were kept safe and sound, just as the spies had sworn. This was her reward for safely hiding the two spies from the king of Jericho and saving their lives.

11. The city was then burned with fire and all that were in it died. Only Rahab and her family were saved alive.

12. Rahab dwelt in Israel (Josh. 6:25) and married a leader of God's people, Salmon (Matt. 1:5), and even became an ancestor to Christ.