



RAHAB THE PROSTITUTE

There is good news for those of us who have made serious mistakes in our past. Let's look into some Biblical case studies.

1. According to Joshua 2:1, where did Rahab live? _____
2. What did Rahab do to earn money? (Josh. 2:4) _____
3. Where was her house (Josh. 2:15) _____
4. Who was in her family? (Josh. 2:13) _____

Rahab lived in a Canaanite city called Jericho. It was an evil place with plenty of vulgar, sexual activities going on. Rahab was described as a "harlot" which is the same as a prostitute. Her house was actually in the wall of the city, and it appears that she lived with her father, mother, brothers, and sisters. Usually, the very poor lived in the wall.

5. Y N Is there any mention of a husband in these verses above?
6. Y N Is there any criticism about Rahab in these verses above?
7. When Joshua sent the spies out the Land of Canaan (the name before "Israel"), where did he send them? (Josh. 2:1) _____
8. When the spies arrived at the city, where did they do? (Josh. 2:1) _____
9. I am curious; why did they go to her house. There were a lot of people living there? _____

She was a hard-working lady; she must have been to support her large family. No husband is mentioned; either she never had one or he died. Isn't it interesting that even though she is called a "harlot", nothing else bad is said about her. THE BOTTON LINE IS THAT SHE LIVES IN A ROTTEN TOWN AND LIVED AN EVIL LIFE. She was a Canaanite. They didn't accept the one true God; they believed in many gods. There was no future for her. She just survived in her no-good, worthless life.

10. Y N When the two spies entered the City of Jericho, no one saw them come in. (Josh. 2:2-3)
11. Why had the two spies come to Jericho? (Josh. 2:3)

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12. Before the two spies arrived at Jericho, what decision had Rahab already made? (Josh. 2:11) _____
13. Y N Is it possible that in the middle of her sinful life, she had made a decision to follow the God of Israel?
14. Y N God may have sent the spies to her house on purpose.

Some have thought that she was an innkeeper who provided lodging for travelers; it could have simply been overnight hospitality, or it could have been sexual services. Some have suggested that her house in the wall was close to the front gate so that travelers could easily find her. That would explain her knowing the news all over the land of Canaan. It could be that she was no longer engaged in prostitution, but that she still had a reputation in the town of being a "loose woman". COULD SHE EVER GET PAST THIS SINFUL LIFESTYLE? COULD THE TOWN EVER JUST SEE HER AS A CHANGED BUSINESS WOMAN?

15. Why did Rahab hide the two spies? (Josh. 2:3)
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16. Where did Rahab hide the two spies? (Josh 2:6) _____
17. She knew why they were there, and she knew what was going to happen to Jericho. What did she request? (Josh. 2:12-13)
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18. They agreed to grant her request. What did she do for them next? (Josh. 2:15-16) _____

Israel and the Canaanites were enemies yet Rahab agreed to hide the spies, help them escape, and not tell anyone why they had come to Jericho. She was turning on her own people, or was she turning away from a lifestyle. This low-life woman was actually helping the cause of God. Could her life amount to something good? Was this when her life turned around?

19. How many people did Rahab think would be killed when Jericho was conquered? (Josh. 2:13) _____
20. Let's review. What did the spies promise her in Joshua 2:14?

21. How long did the spies hide out? (Josh 2:22) _____
22. How long did it take for the tribal leaders to go through the Jewish camp to plan the river crossing? (Josh. 3:2) _____
23. After six days had passed, which day was the crossing planned? (Josh. 3:5) _____
24. How big was Joshua's army? (Josh. 4:13) _____
25. YN The fall of Jericho probably happened approximately 16 days after the spies left Jericho. A guess.
26. YN Did Joshua keep the promise to deliver Rahab and all of her family from certain death? (Josh. 6:22-25)

Rahab was potentially a new believer. She might have wondered if these followers of the God of Israel would keep their promise. She watched them walk 1 mile around her city everyday for six days; she watched them make that same walk seven times on day seven; it was scary for her. "Will they remember me in all this military destruction? Am I worthy of being saved?"

27. After the destruction of Jericho, where did Rahab and her family go? (Josh. 6:25) _____
28. YN Rahab was an outsider, an evil outsider. Israel took her in; God took her in. Incredible!!
29. YN Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe; she believed in the God of Israel. Heb. 11:31)
30. Can you believe it? Rahab married a Jewish man and became the _____ of King David. (Matt. 1:5)
31. Rahab's son was Boaz who married _____. (Mt. 1:5)
32. Forty-seven generations after Rahab and Salmon had their son, Boaz, who was born in the tribe of Judah? _____ (Matt. 1:1)

If God gave Rahab a second chance like this, He will give you and me a second chance to let God change our lives to serve & honor Him. AMEN!