

## **BIBLE STUDY LIVE PHEONIX**

Joshua Study – “It’s Your Season to Be Blessed!”

Joshua 2: 1 – 26

### **The Wonders of Grace**

**Heb 11:31** By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. KJV

In the so-called “hall of faith” within the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews, we find the names of only two women; Sarah, the renowned wife of Abraham the father of the faith and Rehab the Gentile, pagan born prostitute. One could scarcely imagine how two women could be so different. One a woman of esteemed position and the other of ill repute; and yet their names share the same page in my bible. Even more so, Matthew’s gospel 1:5, Rehab’s name appears in the lineage of Jesus! God’s grace is truly “amazing!” – and his mercy is most certainly everlasting!

**QUESTIONS:** We have considered Sarah and Rehab’s differences, but what things might they have in common? What message might God be trying to send us by using a woman like Rehab to accomplish his divine purpose? Indeed, God’s grace has no limitations. The favor and esteem of men are often limited and restricted to those individuals that meet our personal criteria.

**QUESTION:** Why does God often use people who have been disenfranchised, marginalized and rejected by others to do his will? **READ I Cor. 1: 26 – 29**

### **Defining Moments and Pivotal Decisions**

**James 2:25** Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? KJV

Every life will experience defining moments and pivotal decisions. These are moments when the decisions we make changes our life’s trajectory altering the course of our lives. Unfortunately, we may not recognize them or their extreme importance until the decisions are made and the moment has gone. Nevertheless, we must always keep in mind that our decisions have a life and some of those decisions might actually out live us. Rehab experienced such a defining moment and she made a pivotal decision when she betrayed the king of Jericho and received the two Israelite spies in to her home and decided to exercise faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**QUESTIONS:** Can you recall any defining moments or pivotal decisions in your life? Did you recognize the extreme importance of the matter at the time? How should the Christian deal with such moments?

**READ Proverbs 3:5 -6** – This is to say we are to consult God at the onset, counsel with God during the process and inquire of God even when the matter reaches its conclusion. So from beginning to end God gets all the glory!

## **Qualifying Traits of Incredible Faith READ Josh 2: 9 - 11**

Rehab, a Gentile and pagan worshipper had no formal religious training concerning the God of the Israelites yet she somehow manages to preach faith and confidence concerning the power and victorious strength of Jehovah to these two Israelite spies. Often those outside the faith are best positioned to testify of the realities of God.

**READ: Mark 15:39 QUESTION:** How is this verse an example of God using a worldly witness? As we examine Rehab's conversation with these two spies, certain attributes of her faith can be seen in the level of confidence she had in God.

### **I. Rehab had complete confidence in the WORD of God! READ: Josh 2:9**

Our faith is no stronger than the object that we have attached our faith to. If I tie a rope to a nail in the wall and have faith that I can use that rope to climb out the window of a four story building; then my faith is no stronger than that nail in the wall. **READ 1 John 5: 9 – 10** Our confidence in who we are in Christ comes from the witness of God's word before us and the witness of the Spirit of God within us! The bible tells us in Rom. 10:17 that faith in God comes by hearing the word of God. **QUESTIONS:** If faith comes from hearing God's word, what comes to us in the absence of hearing God's word? What are most Christians hearing almost daily? In some drug rehabilitation programs, to facilitate their recovery, participants are encouraged to put their faith in some higher power; why is this technique employed?

### **II. Rehab had complete confidence in the POWER of God! READ: Josh 2: 10 – 11**

The scriptures teach us that we are not just to believe that God "is" but to also believe that God has the power to reward those that diligently seek him. Rehab states that the residents of Jericho were aware of all the God of the Israelites had done; and given their fearful response they must have believed at least some of what they had heard. **QUESTIONS:** If the residence of Jericho believed in the God of Israel why didn't they repent of their idolatry and serve the true and living God? Is believing in God the same as having faith in God? **READ James 2:19** Apparently, just believing in God doesn't put you or I in the best of company seeing that demons exercise that same practice. Faith for the Christian must always be an action word. Our faith in God encompasses every area of our existence and can never exist without works.

## **The Only House Left Standing READ Josh 2: 12 - 14**

Rehab had entered her season and though she was aware the threats of the King of Jericho, she elected to put her trust in God. When you become aware of God's purpose in your life forces will be released to stop your purpose. Part of the opposition we experience comes from our own insecurities (self-doubt and poor esteem) while other parts of the opposition comes from forces of darkness that will attempt to use our human frailties and those of other people against us. (jealousy, envy and hatred); Whatever Satan can take from you he will, including our purpose! Rehab seized the opportunity to move into her season in God. The agreement for her safety involved: (1) Keeping her promise, (2) Showing a public sign and (3) Staying in her house. **QUESTION:** How does the condition for Rehab's salvation compare to our in Christ?