



JOSHUA - THE GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED

Read Joshua 2:1-24

It is a matter of days until Joshua will lead the Children of Israel across the River Jordan to the Promised Land. In this passage, Joshua begins to make the final preparations before they attack Canaan.

Joshua 2:1-7

1. What was the first preparation Joshua made for the attack on Canaan?

2. What can we discover about Rahab from these verses?

Joshua 2:8-14

3. What startling discovery did the spies make?

4. *Luke 17:5-6* How did Rahab show that she was different from the other people in Jericho?

Joshua 2:15-21

5. How was it so easy for the spies to escape from the city?

6. What did Rahab do after the spies had gone?

Joshua 2:9, 22-24; 6:16

7. What message did Rahab, then the spies, then Joshua pass on?

8. Since this was before the fall of Jericho, what did it show?

9. *Hebrews 11:31; James 2:21-25* For what is Rahab commended in these verses?

Joshua 6:20-25

10. When the two spies saw the walls collapsing, what might they have wondered (see Joshua 2:15)?

11. Where did they take Rahab and her family?

12. *Matthew 1:1, 5-6* What can we find out about Rahab from these verses?

13. *Luke 15:7* How does this link in with the story of Rahab?

The End Bit!

FAITH SO SMALL

Rahab's faith was no more than a mere spark, a tiny mustard seed. Imagine what this woman's life must have been like before this time – sordid, immoral and tragic. Then she heard about a God who was all-powerful, who rescued His people from bondage, protected them in their journeys and defeated their enemies – and a glimmer of hope came into her sin-stained life.

When the army of this awe-inspiring God drew near her city, she knew that only He could save her and her family from death and destruction and she had the faith to believe that He would.

FAITH BEING PASSED ON

That was all the faith she had, but look what she did with it. She passed it on. She said to the spies, "I know that the Lord has given you this land." The spies returned and told Joshua, "We are sure that the Lord has given us the whole country." Later Joshua said to the people of Israel, "The Lord has given you the city!" Rahab's faith was being passed on.

FAITH IN ACTION

Rahab might have used the same words as the jailer in Philippi did when Paul was in prison there: "What must I do to be saved?"

The answer for Rahab was that she was to put her faith completely in a piece of scarlet cord to save her life and the lives of her family. She could have said, 'What use is this scarlet cord? Can it really save me?'

In the same way, the Israelites in Egypt might have said at Passover time, 'How can blood on our doorposts possibly save us from death?'

Today, when some people consider the death of Jesus on the cross, the shedding of His blood for our redemption, they ask, 'How can something that happened 2000 years ago have any relevance for me today?'

The reply to all these questions is that God has provided only ONE WAY to be saved

- The scarlet cord for Rahab
- Blood on the doorposts for the Israelites

Both looking ahead to:

- The atoning death of Christ for you and me.

FAITH TESTED

Can you imagine how Rahab must have felt when the city walls began to crumble? Remember her house was built into the wall! Did her friends and neighbours scream at her to come out? But she had to stay in the house – the house divinely protected by the scarlet cord. God was putting her faith to the test in a very exacting way, but she came through the test with flying colours. Her faith was also strong enough to convince her relations, so she must have been 'passing it on.'

FAITH GROWING

Can't you imagine that it was a new and different Rahab who was taken away from her old life of sin to safety beside the camp of God's people? What a testimony she would have! I'm sure she was eager to find out all that she could about the wonderful God who had saved her because she trusted Him. Her faith would grow and grow as she witnessed what God continued to do in her life.

FAITH FITTING IN TO GOD'S PLAN

Our last glimpse of Rahab shows her as a happy, naturalised Israelite wife and mother. She married a man called Salmon of the tribe of Judah, whose father had been a wealthy leader of this respected tribe. Rahab bore a son whom they called Boaz, and as a boy he must have heard many times the exciting story of how his mother had been rescued from Jericho. Once again she had the opportunity to pass on her faith.

Boaz grew up to be a fine, godly man and Rahab was destined to be the great-great-grandmother of King David, from whose line was the Son of God.

What is God saying to us through the life of Rahab?

Pass it on

Verse to remember

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

James 2:26