

RAHAB: A STORY OF GOD'S GRACE

Joshua 2

(Josh 2:1-24), "And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. {2} And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. {3} And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. {4} And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: {5} And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. {6} But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. {7} And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate. {8} And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; {9} And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. {10} For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. {11} And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. {12} Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have showed you kindness, that ye will also show kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: {13} And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. {14} And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. {15} Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. {16} And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way. {17} And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. {18} Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. {19} And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. {20} And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. {21} And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window. {22} And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not. {23} So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them: {24} And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us."



IN ISRAEL TODAY, at the *HOLOCAUST MUSEUM*, are planted trees

that make up what is called **THE WAY OF THE GENTILES**. If you are ever in Israel, you would do well to take time to go to the *Holocaust Museum*. It recounts the horrors of WWII when six million Jews were put to death in Nazi gas chambers. As you walk to the museum, you pass along *The Way of the Gentiles*. It is a long row of trees with a person's names and their story posted at the base of the tree. One of the trees is planted in honor of Corrie Ten Boom. One is planted in honor of Oscar Schindler. The Jews are simply honoring those gentiles (non-Jews) who have helped them in a time of crisis.

THE NAME **RAHAB** from Joshua 2 is not listed in *The Way of the Gentiles* as far as I know, even though she was a **gentile** and she **helped** the Jews in a time of crisis. Though she is not found there, we are told that she has been highly honored among many **JEW**s. She was **HONORED IN THE O.T.** as we will see in the course of this message. Not only that, she is honored in the **N.T.** for being **ONE OF ONLY TWO WOMEN** whose names are recorded in *God's Great Hall of Faith* found in **HEBREWS 11**. She is **ONE OF FOUR WOMEN** mentioned in **THE GENEALOGY** of the Lord **JESUS**.

UPON FIRST READING, JOSHUA 2 APPEARS to be a chapter about **ISRAEL**, two **SPIES** and **A CITY** named Jericho. **DEEPER CONSIDERATION SEEMS TO INDICATE** this chapter is about a woman named Rahab who needed help from God. God loved her so much, just as He loves all people, that He put the plans of a nation on hold until she could be **FOUND AND HELPED**. It is from that perspective that Joshua 2 has **GREAT MEANING**.

- I. SHE NEEDED SALVATION
- II. SHE EXPERIENCED SALVATION
- III. SHE DEMONSTRATED HER SALVATION
- IV. SHE WAS REWARDED IN HER SALVATION

I. SHE NEEDED SALVATION

S She needed salvation for **TWO REASONS**

#1. SHE WAS A SINNER

KNOWN **FACTS** ABOUT RAHAB

- 1) She was a **GENTILE**. We are not sure which of the seven people groups she was a member of in the Land of Canaan. Deuteronomy 7:1 lists seven tribes that occupied the Land of Canaan. Perhaps she was Canaanite, or Amorite. Sometimes all seven groups were referred to as Canaanite because they lived in what was called the Land of Canaan.
- 2) She lived in **THE CITY OF JERICHO**
- 3) Her house was **ON THE CITY WALL** of Jericho
- 4) She **HAD A FAMILY** that lived in the City of Jericho. She had a father, a mother, brothers, and sisters living in Jericho (v. 13).
- 5) She was **A HARLOT**:
(Josh 2:1), "And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into **AN HARLOT'S HOUSE, NAMED RAHAB**, and lodged there."

- **BOTH JEWISH & CHRISTIAN WRITERS** have had great difficulty **ADMITTING THE CHARACTER OF RAHAB**.

They have chosen to interpret the HEBREW WORD FOR "HARLOT" ("zanah"), as "HOSTESS" (as if from "zun" meaning "to nourish"). Their desire was to **CLEAR RAHAB OF A DISREPUTABLE CHARACTER** by calling her **AN INNKEEPER**, rather than a harlot. (bibliography: C. E. Macartney, Great Women of the Bible (1942), pp. 43-59; C. J. and A. A. Barber, Your Marriage Has Real Possibilities (1984), pp. 135-55.)

- Even **JOSEPHUS**, the noted Jewish historian who wrote for Rome (Antiq. V, 8 [i.2]), attempted to remove any **cloud of suspicion** from the spies who stayed at Rahab's house by calling Rahab an "**INNKEEPER**" (NIV). **THE PROBLEM** is that "**innkeeper**" and "**prostitute**" **WERE SYNONYMOUS** terms in that culture (TWOT, p. 246, NIV Expository Commentary).
- **THREE REASONS** make us conclude that Rahab truly was a prostitute:
 - 1) The Greek translation of the O.T. Hebrew Bible, CALLED **THE SEPTUAGINT** translated the Hebrew "**ZANAH**" using the Greek word "**PORNE**," i.e., "**HARLOT**." They began to translated the Septuagint around the year 200 B.C. *Porne* is the word from which we derive *pornography*.
 - 2) **THE CANAANITE CULTURE** of Rahab's day was conducive to such an immoral lifestyle. It was common to find the pagan religions of **BAAL AND ASHERAH**. In the name of **agriculture** and **good crops** sex was made an acceptable, even required, part of religion. There is no indication that Rahab was a religious prostitute, but most certainly the land of Canaan was full of them. Rahab lived a culture where **HARLOTRY AND IDOLATRY WERE CONDONED** and **ACCEPTABLE**.
 - 3) **TWO NEW TESTAMENT VERSES** testify regarding Rahab's lifestyle.
 - (**Heb 11:31**), "By faith the **HARLOT** (porne) Rahab . . ."
 - (**James 2:25**), "Likewise also was not Rahab the **HARLOT** (porne) . . ."

S **RAHAB NEEDED SALVATION BECAUSE SHE WAS A SINNER**

S **THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD IS THAT EVERY PERSON NEEDS SALVATION BECAUSE EVERY PERSON IS A SINNER.**

- (**Rom 3:23**), "For **ALL** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
- **THE GREEK WORD FOR "ALL" IS VERY INTERESTING.** Do you know what it means? Get this, **IT MEANS "ALL."**
- **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. THE PHARISEE** in **Luke 18:10-14** felt he was an exception, but he was not.
- Everyone in the world has sinned. There **ARE TWO KINDS OF SINNER**; there are **unforgiven sinners**, and there are **forgiven sinners**, but everyone is a sinner.

- I like the **BUMPER STICKER** that reads, “Christians are not perfect, they are just forgiven.”

#1. SHE WAS A SINNER

#2. AS A SINNER, SHE WAS UNDER CONDEMNATION

S **GOD’S JUDGMENT ON THE CANAANITE CULTURE WAS VERY CLEAR.**

S **GOD SAID TO ABRAHAM MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER**

(Gen 15:13-16), “And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them **four hundred years**; {14} And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. {15} And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. {16} But in **the fourth generation** they shall come hither again: **FOR THE INIQUITY OF THE AMORITES IS NOT YET FULL.**”

- **THAT AMORITE AND CANAANITE CULTURE HAD ABANDONED THE GOD OF CREATION** as was typified by their practice of prostitution.
- **THAT CULTURE HAD FORSAKEN GOD** to the degree that in the name of religion they **WOULD TAKE A LITTLE CHILD** and sacrifice it on an altar and think they were doing God a service.
- **TODAY, AT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT MEGIDDO**, there is **A STONE ALTAR** that has been unearthed upon which the very culture discussed here carried out the acts addressed in this message.
- **RAHAB, ALONG WITH ALL THE PEOPLE IN HER GODLESS CULTURE** were **UNDER THE CONDEMNATION OF ALMIGHTY GOD.**
- **LISTEN TO GOD’S INSTRUCTION THROUGH MOSES** regarding God’s judgment on the people in the Land of Canaan. **(Deu 7:1-5)**, “When the **LORD** thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; {2} And when the **LORD** thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt **SMITE THEM**, and **UTTERLY DESTROY THEM**; thou shalt **MAKE NO COVENANT** with them, nor show mercy unto them: {3} **Neither** shalt thou make **MARRIAGES** with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. {4} For **they will turn away thy son from following me**, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the **LORD** be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. {5} But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall **DESTROY THEIR ALTARS**, and **BREAK DOWN THEIR IMAGES**, and **CUT DOWN THEIR GROVES**, and **BURN THEIR GRAVEN IMAGES WITH FIRE.**”

(Deu 7:23-24), "But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall **DESTROY THEM WITH A MIGHTY DESTRUCTION, UNTIL THEY BE DESTROYED.** {24} And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou **SHALT DESTROY THEIR NAME FROM UNDER HEAVEN:** there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them."

- THAT IS CALLED "**CONDEMNATION.**" I know that people do not like hearing such harsh words of judgment, but it is true none the less.
- **THEIR CONDEMNATION IS A PICTURE OF OUR CONDEMNED WORLD TODAY.** What was true of them then, **IS TRUE OF EVERY LOST PERSON TODAY.**

S **(John 3:17-19)**, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. {18} He that believeth on him **IS NOT CONDEMNED:** but he that believeth not **IS CONDEMNED ALREADY,** because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. {19} And **THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION,** that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

S **CONDEMNATION RESTS UPON ALL WHO REJECT CHRIST.**

S **(1 Th 5:3)**, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; **THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMETH UPON THEM,** as travail upon a woman with child; and **THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE.**"

I. SHE NEEDED SALVATION

II. SHE EXPERIENCED SALVATION

ABOUT THAT FACT THERE IS NO DOUBT

(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?"

S THERE IS **DEBATE AS TO WHEN RAHAB WAS SAVED.** MANY PEOPLE ARE **CONVINCED** that she had already come to know the LORD before the two spies ever visited Jericho and had already renounced her sinful lifestyle. That is certainly **A POSSIBILITY.** They cite the presence of **FLAX** (v. 6) and **THE CORD OF SCARLET THREAD** (v. 18) **AS EVIDENCE** of a changed life. She hid the Hebrew spies under the flax on her roof and eventually lowered them to the ground using a scarlet cord.

- **FLAX** was a plant used as early as recorded history. It could grow to a height of **3 ft.** Because it had a **very fibrous stalk,** the mature plant would be **placed in water** to separate the fibers from the stems. It would then be laid on rooftops to dry. It would

later be woven into **WICKS FOR LAMPS** (Is. 42:3) and **LINEN FOR CLOTHES**. For example, **THE PRIESTS GARMENTS** were made of pure linen.

- It has been proposed that **THE PRESENCE OF SO MUCH FLAX** on Rahab's rooftop was indication that she had begun making a living by manufacturing and dying linen.

S **WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN** Rahab experienced salvation, **WE DO KNOW AS FACT THAT RAHAB CAME TO KNOW THE LORD** and found the forgiveness of her sins.

S **THE LORD USED AT LEAST TWO THINGS TO HELP BRING HER TO SALVATION:**

#1. GOD USED HIS WORD

RAHAB RECOUNTED TWO STORIES:

1) **(V. 9-10)**, "... **I KNOW** that the LORD hath given you the land, and that **YOUR TERROR IS FALLEN UPON US**, and that all the inhabitants of the land **FAINT BECAUSE OF YOU**. {10} For **WE HAVE HEARD** how the LORD dried up the water of **THE RED SEA** for you, when ye came out of Egypt; . . ."

S **DIVIDING THE RED SEA** (Ex 14:21-31) **HAD TAKEN PLACE FORTY YEARS EARLIER**. It was as fresh on Rahab's mind as if it had happened yesterday.

2) **(V. 10)**, "... **WE HAVE HEARD** . . . what ye did unto **THE TWO KINGS OF THE AMORITES**, that were on the other side Jordan, **SIHON** and **OG**, whom ye **UTTERLY DESTROYED**."

S **THEIR DEMISE** is found in **NUMBERS 32**. **SIHON** and **OG** were **FORMIDABLE OPPONENTS** who had been defeated in recent days **EAST OF THE JORDAN RIVER**.

S **BOTH EVENTS STRUCK TERROR** INTO THE HEART OF THOSE LIVING IN CANAAN. Their terror was in fulfillment of prophecy forty years earlier (**Exo 15:14-16**).

RAHAB'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

(V. 11), "And as soon as we had heard these things, **OUR HEARTS DID MELT**, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: **FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD, HE IS GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE, AND IN EARTH BENEATH**."

S **THAT WAS RAHAB'S STATEMENT OF FAITH. GOD'S JUDGMENT HAD ITS PROPER EFFECT IN HER LIFE.**

- **(Prov 9:10)**, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: . . ."
- **(Luke 12:5)**, "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

S **JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING** for **AMERICA, TOO**. Read the Book of **REVELATION**. There are some dark days ahead for

mankind. Rather than sitting back and **PROTESTING THE JUDGMENT OF GOD** America **OUGHT TO BE REPENTING** of her sins **LIKE RAHAB**.

- S **IS IT NOT INTERESTING** that what caused the King of Jericho to want to kill the spies, is what caused Rahab to befriend them. Their presence hardened the hearts of all in Jericho except for Rahab. It has been stated, ***THE SAME FIRE THAT MELTS WAX, HARDENS CLAY.***”

#1. GOD USED HIS WORD

#2. GOD USED HIS GRACE

- S **GOD HAD BEEN WARNING** the Land of Canaan **FOR AT LEAST FORTY YEARS**. Camped **SOUTH** of the Land of Canaan for forty years was **A MESSAGE OF COMING JUDGMENT FROM GOD**. God was giving them time to repent.
- S **GOD HAD TURNED THE HEAT UP SEVERAL NOTCHES**. Israel was no longer south of the Land of Canaan. They were **EAST OF THE JORDAN RIVER**. It was no longer years until God’s judgment would fall, it **WAS JUST DAYS**.
- S **IN ADDITION TO THAT, GOD SENT TWO SPIES** into the very city He would soon judge. **FROM AN EARTHLY PERSPECTIVE** those two spies represented **GOD’S COMING JUDGMENT**. **FROM A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE**, those two spies represented **GOD’S SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM**. Those two spies represented **THE GRACE OF GOD**. God had one of His family members in that city, and He would not judge the city until she had been delivered.
(**1 Th 5:9**), “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,”
- S **OUT OF ALL THE INHABITANTS IN JERICO, HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE THOSE TWO SPIES FOUND THE HOUSE OF RAHAB?**

FOUR POSSIBILITIES:

- S **ACCIDENT** (no explanation at all, it just happened)
- S **SINFUL INTENT** (Their motives were not pure. That has to be rejected. Israel had already been severely judged because of immorality with the Moabite women. They were not going to repeat that mistake again.)
- S **STRATEGIC LOCATION** (their escape was possible if it became necessary.)
- S **DIVINE APPOINTMENT**. The spies thought they were to gather strategic military information. The spiritual reason they were there was to rescue one of God’s people. There was a heart that had reached the end of its rope. A life had lost its **meaning** and **purpose** and there was a deep **longing** to find and know God.

- (**V. 11**), “. . . **FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD, HE IS GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE, AND IN EARTH**

BENEATH.

- **(Jer 29:13)**, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

S I THINK OF THE STORY OF JOHN NEWTON who wrote *AMAZING GRACE*.

#2. GOD USED HIS GRACE

S **PAUL WROTE TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH (1 Cor 6:9-11)**, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, {10} Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. {11} And **SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU**: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

I. SHE NEEDED SALVATION

II. SHE EXPERIENCED SALVATION

III. SHE DEMONSTRATED HER SALVATION

S THREE PROOFS HER LIFE HAD CHANGED

#1. SHE WENT TO WORK RISKING HER LIFE TO HELP GOD'S PEOPLE

(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?”

S She **HID THE TWO SPIES** and **HELPED THEM ESCAPE** at the risk of her life.

S **THE BOOK OF JAMES** was written to convince folks that a non working salvation, is not a salvation at all. Works do not save, but salvation does produce works.

S **(Eph 2:10)**, “For we are his workmanship, **CREATED** in Christ **JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS**, which God hath **BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.**”

#2. SHE SOUGHT TO SHARE HER FAITH

S **(V. 12-13)**, “Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the **LORD**, since I have showed you kindness, that ye will also **SHOW KINDNESS** unto **MY FATHER'S HOUSE**, and give me a true token: {13} And that ye will save alive my **father**, and my **mother**, and my **brethren**, and my **sisters**, and **all that they have**, and deliver our lives from death.”

S **YOU WILL DISCOVER A NEW BELIEVER** has a strong desire

to **TELL HIS FAMILY** about God's salvation. You find new converts sharing in the New Testament. Many times the whole family was saved (Acts 16).

- #1. SHE RISKED HER LIFE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE
- #2. SHE SOUGHT TO SHARE HER FAITH

#3. SHE OBEYED THE LORD

THE TWO SPIES COMMANDED HER

(V. 18), "Behold, when we come into the land, THOU SHALT BIND THIS LINE OF **SCARLET THREAD** IN THE WINDOW which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee."

(V. 21), "And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And **SHE SENT THEM AWAY**, and they departed: and **SHE BOUND THE SCARLET LINE IN THE WINDOW.**"

- S **Rahab didn't wait** until they returned to put the scarlet thread in her window. **AS SOON AS THEY WERE GONE**, she tied the cord in her window. She wasn't about to take a chance.
- S She **DIDN'T DEBATE** the instructions given to her by the spies. She did not call their command "foolish" (1 Cor 1:18).
- S **JESUS SAID**
 - **(John 14:15)**, "IF YE LOVE ME, keep my commandments."
 - **(John 14:23)**, "... IF A MAN LOVE ME, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."
- S **WHAT HAS GOD COMMANDED YOU TO DO?**
 - a) Be **BAPTIZED**
 - b) Obey the **GREAT COMMISSION**
 - c) **etc.**
- S **BY THE WAY, WHAT COLOR IS "SCARLET?"** It is the color of **CRIMSON**. It is a **DEEP BRIGHT RED**. What color is **BLOOD**? That scarlet cord was to Rahab and her family what the blood of the lamb was to Israel the night of the **PASSOVER**. By faith she obeyed God putting the red cord in her window.

- I. SHE **NEEDED** SALVATION
- II. SHE **EXPERIENCED** SALVATION
- III. SHE **DEMONSTRATED** HER SALVATION

IV. SHE WAS REWARDED IN HER SALVATION

FIVE SETS OF PASSAGES TELL THE STORY

- 1) **(Josh 6:25)**, "And Joshua **SAVED RAHAB** the harlot alive, and **HER FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD**, and **ALL THAT SHE HAD**; and **SHE DWELLETH IN ISRAEL EVEN UNTO THIS DAY**; ..."
- **ENVISION HER FAMILY** crowded into her house.
- SHE **TOOK GREAT RISK** TELLING HER FAMILY.

- 2) (**Ruth 4:20-22**), “And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat **SALMON**, {21} And Salmon begat **BOAZ**, and Boaz begat **OBED**, {22} And Obed begat **JESSE**, and Jesse begat **DAVID**.”
- **RAHAB BECAME THE WIFE OF SALMON**
 - Rahab went on the marry and **HAVE CHILDREN**
- 3) **MATTHEW 1:5** REPEATS THAT LINEAGE AGAIN in **THE GENEALOGY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**.
- 4) (**Heb 11:31**), “By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”
- 5) (**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?”

THAT IS THE STORY OF RAHAB’S LIFE

HOW DOES YOUR STORY READ?

WE ARE ALL WRITING A LIFE-STORY

HOW WILL YOUR LAST CHAPTER READ?

Years ago I heard the story about a man called **BIG TOM**. It was originally told by an evangelist and Methodist minister named **PETER PHILPOT**. **BIG TOM** was **AN OLD BLACKSMITH** whose life led to his own conversion to Jesus Christ. In the community this blacksmith was known as Big Tom. He was known as **THE MEANEST, ROUGHEST CHARACTER** in the community. He worked in the blacksmith shop. On most afternoons after work he stopped in the bar and got drunk. Every weekend he got drunk and would go home and beat his wife and family. He was mean and rough.

One morning Tom came to work and announced to the men who worked in the shop, "**MEN, I WAS CONVERTED** over at the meeting last night and from this day on I'm gonna seek to be a Christian man.

The men didn't know what to do. Some began to snicker, but they quit when they looked at Tom. They didn't know what to do. Some of them got out behind the shop and took bets about how long it would last. Most were sure it wouldn't last past Friday night. They believed there was no way that Tom could pass up the tavern come Friday. Friday night came and Tom went straight home. Sunday morning arrived and Tom got up and walked with his family to church. The next week the same thing happened. The same came with the 3rd, 4th and 6th weeks. The shop was amazed as they watched the man whose life was transformed by the power of God. He was different. His language was different. His conduct was different.

After about six weeks Tom was working at the anvil with a piece of hot iron and the hammer slipped and he hit a finger and mashed it. Just like an eruption there came out of his lips that terrible language that was there before meeting Christ. He cursed. He blasphemed. There came a deadly stillness over the shop. Everyone had stopped working and were looking toward Tom. Then they went back to work lest they should embarrass Tom and he turn on them in rage as in days past. But to their amazement, Big Tom did something totally unexpected.

That big hulk of a man, that blacksmith slipped down on his knees beside the

anvil, buried his face in his grimy hands and began to sob. The tears ran down his hands. They heard Big Tom as he said to God, "God, I just did a terrible thing. I promised you I would never talk like that again. I just used your name in vain and cursed. God, could you forgive me some way."

He got up and looked at the men and said, "Men, you heard me. I've asked God to forgive me. Would you forgive me?"

How did we come to know the events that took place in that blacksmith shop that day? There was a young **12 OR 13-year-old BOY** standing in the edge of the crowd listening that day. His name was **PETER PHILPOT**. Peter said what Tom did that day was like an arrow in his heart. He said I knew that man knew God and that he (Peter) needed to know God like that.