

**Summary:** Joshua; he is now God's appointed leader of the Israeli people.

## JOSHUA - FACTS ABOUT JOSHUA

Today we'll continue with our study of Heb.11: -- the "hall of faith" chapter.

Listen as I read our text from;

Heb.11: 30 -31

### **SLIDE**

**By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days**

### **SLIDE**

**By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.**

Today I want to lay a little foundation to do with Joshua; he is now God's appointed leader of the Israeli people.

Joshua was born while the people were slaves in Egypt.

He went through the great events of the Passover in Ex. 12:

and the Exodus with Moses and all the Hebrew people who escaped from slavery in Egypt at the hand of their Redeemer God.

In the Wilderness of Sinai, Moses took his assistant Joshua with him when he went into the mountains to talk with God.

Ex. 24:12-13

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**<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."**

**<sup>13</sup>So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.**

Moses went up higher while Joshua waited.

Though Moses tarried with God on the mountain for forty days and forty nights, Joshua waited patiently for his return.

God was training Joshua for the great task ahead.

Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim.

Numbers 13:8 **Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea (Joshua) the son of Nun.**

Joshua's name, an Old Testament form of Jesus, means °the Lord is salvation.;

By his name and by his life, he demonstrated the salvation that comes from God.

~At Moses death, Joshua was chosen as his successor (Josh. 1:1-2).

**1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant,**

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**2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.**

In Joshua 13- He supervised the division of the territory among the 12 tribes, and led the people to renew their covenant with God later in "

**(Josh. 24:30)<sup>30</sup> And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.**

As Moses, successor, Joshua completed the work that this great leader "Moses" had begun. Moses led Israel out of Egypt; Joshua led Israel into Canaan.

Joshua typifies Jesus in several ways;

Joshua led Israel in a limited and partial way into God's rest

Jesus Christ would do the same in a perfect and final way. –

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Hebrews 4:8 ESV: **For if Joshua had given them rest,** God would not have spoken of another day later on.

The reference to Jesus in verse 8 involves Joshua of the Old Testament.

The two names are identical, both in Hebrew and Greek.

Joshua provided Israel with their inheritance.

**Joshua 11:23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.**

The inheritance of the church is from Jesus Christ.

**Eph. 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance –**

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**Rom. 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;**  
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As Joshua followed Moses, so also did Jesus Christ, but in a different way.

**John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

**> Gal. 3:24-26<sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.**

**<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,**

**<sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.**

What that means is the law convicts of sin, restrains from sin, and condemns for sin; but the law cannot save from sin.

The law reveals what sin is.

**1 John 3:4. Everyone, who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.**

Joshua interceded for Israel when they sinned.

## SLIDE

Joshua 7:6-8. Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads.

<sup>7</sup> And Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord God, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan!

<sup>8</sup> O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies!

Jesus intercedes for us when we sin.

## SLIDE

1 John 2:1 <sup>1</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

<sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world

Heb. 7:25 <sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost<sup>l</sup> those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

He is able to save us completely and perfectly.

Let's read Joshua chapter 1:

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant,

<sup>2</sup> “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

**<sup>4</sup> From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory.**

**<sup>5</sup> No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.**

**<sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.**

**<sup>7</sup> Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success<sup>[a]</sup> wherever you go.**

**<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

**<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”**

*Joshua Assumes Command*

**<sup>10</sup> And Joshua commanded the officers of the people,**

**<sup>11</sup> “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.’”**

**<sup>12</sup> And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said,**

**<sup>13</sup> “Remember the word that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, ‘The LORD your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.’**

**<sup>14</sup> Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them,**

<sup>15</sup> until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

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<sup>16</sup> And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

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<sup>17</sup> Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!

<sup>18</sup> Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”

**In Our remaining time this morning** let's skip over to Joshua 2: and we'll see how that Rehab and her Family is saved alive when Joshua leads Israel around the city walls of Jericho.

**Summary**

I truly believe that the story of Rahab gives hope to all the sinners of the world that they too can become children of God by faith in the Christ who will cast none out who come to Him in faith.

But, before we peel back Rahab, let us ask ourselves two Questions #1

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**Questions #1**

How is your faith?

**Question #2**

Do you think that your past will stop you serving the Lord?

We will be looking at Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25

Rahab was a lost pagan woman who lived in the city of Jericho.

Yet she became one of the most honored women in the Bible.

She is mentioned in Hebrews 11 and in the book of James.

In Hebrews 11 she stands as an example of faith;

in James, she is exemplified as an illustration of works.

Putting the two together, we see in Rahab the picture of what we should all have

**– a belief that behaves.**

The Bible doesn't have a whole lot to say about the life of this woman.

It seems that the only account we have of her is found in Joshua chapter 2.

Initially, it seems that Rahab isn't exactly heroine material.

She is first introduced as a harlot

– not someone you would expect to be praised in the scriptures!

Let me give you an illustration that I think is a good one.

There once was a rather rough, uncultured man who for some reason fell in love with a beautiful vase in a shop window.

Eventually he bought the vase and put it on the mantelpiece in his room.

There it became a kind of judgment on its surroundings.

He had to clean up the room to make it worthy of the vase.

The curtains looked dingy beside it.

The old chair with the stuffing coming out of the seat would not do.

The wallpaper needed redoing.

Gradually the whole room was transformed.

**When you put Christ on the mantel of your heart, your whole life is transformed.**

It is this kind of transformation we witness here in the second chapter of the book of Joshua.

As the Israelites were about to enter Canaan and claim their promised land, the first city they would have to face was the great walled city of Jericho.

If they could take this city, they could easily split the country in two and then move from there to conquer the north and the south.

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### **I. Rahab – The Doomed Sinner (Joshua 2:1)**

Rahab is first introduced to us as a member of a disgusting degenerate race of people – the Canaanites.

Their religion was foul and vileness of every kind was elevated to an act of worship.

Even her name sums up the day in which she lived – proud.

However, her days were numbered;

The Hebrews were on their way home and God's divine judgement was on the way.

Rahab lived in a day and age just like ours.

We are living in a world that is ready for divine judgement.

So called **“alternate lifestyles”** are now given the nod of approval, it is almost against the law to even say anything bad about these lifestyles.

The Jews are already going back to the Promised Land again

**– Judgement is on the way.**

Verse 15 tells us that Rahab lived upon the town wall.

Most people would have thought Rahab occupied an extremely strong position on that wall.

In Joshua's day, Jericho was surrounded by two walls, both thirty feet high.

The outer wall was six feet thick, and the inner wall was twelve feet thick.

Between the two walls was a space of twelve to fifteen feet.

This space was covered over and houses were built bridging this gap.

Rahab's house was placed on high with the massive walls of Jericho a sure foundation.

This was just a false sense of security; those walls would be the first thing to fall when judgement came.

There are many people living in Jericho today.

They think that they are secure despite their sinful life.

They live on the man-made walls of religion, self-righteousness and self-respectability.

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## **II. Rahab – The Delivered Saint (Joshua 2:8-11)**

God sent two spies into Jericho.

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God always has two spies in the human soul: one is **Holy Spirit** the other is **memory**.

**The Holy Spirit** is there to rebuke us for our wrongdoing; memory is there to remind us of our wrongdoing.

Between the two of them we stand fully exposed before the eye of God.

Rahab confesses her fear to the two spies when she receives them into her house.

She realises that it is God she will have to deal with and answer to.

Five things:

1. She could not save herself

There was no hiding place for her.

She knew that her position on the wall was only as good as the wall, and the wall, as strong as it seemed, would not stand the test of the coming judgement.

2. Jericho was “shut up”

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**Joshua 6:1 1 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in.**

Those in power wanted to make sure that everyone in Jericho remained in Jericho.

There was to be no contact with the enemy.

The king of Jericho, who I see as a picture of Satan, wanted to hold onto his own to the very end.

3. Salvation was discouraged by those who had rule over her

Satan vigorously opposes any thought of salvation.

When someone is under conviction Satan has many ways of making salvation look unattractive.

Persecution, what would your friends say, what would your family think?

He ridicules the very thought of salvation.

Often times though, he soothes the anxious soul and lulls it into a false sense of security.

4. Salvation had to come from the outside

5. Salvation came from those she had been taught was the enemy.

**Joshua 2:10-11**

**<sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction**

**<sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.**

How did Rahab know – she was a harlot – from travellers – from pillow talk?

Rahab confessed to a knowledge of that “so great salvation”

God had already provided for His people.

She knew that God had put them under the blood, brought them through the water, and gathered them around the table.

He had fed them with bread from heaven and had given them water from the rock.

He had brought them to Sinai and taught them how to order their lives.

He had already begun to put His hand upon their enemies.

Their God was a God of Salvation.

Rahab had heard and believed – she knew where salvation was to be found.

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**Hebrews 11:31 <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.**

God’s salvation was available to everyone, but only Rahab believed.

The plan of salvation, as taught to Rahab by the two spies, was simple

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**Joshua 2:18 <sup>18</sup> Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into**

**your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.**

The scarlet line was to Rahab and her family what the blood on the doorposts had been to the Hebrews in Egypt.

The way to salvation is always the same – the shed blood of the Lamb.

The scarlet line runs all the way through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

We get the first hint of it in Eden when God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins and protected them from His wrath.

The scarlet line can be seen in that “more acceptable offering” that Able offered to God.

Cain thought that he could come to God in the merit of his good works.

Able knew that without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

Everywhere in the Levitical law, the emphasis is on the shedding of blood.

We see the scarlet thread in the major offerings, in the feast days, in the great Day of Atonement, in the dedication of the Temple, throughout the Old Testament era, rivers of blood flowed from the alters of Israel. It was the scarlet line.

At last we stand at Calvary and understand the significance of it all.

We see Jesus take the cup and say, “This is the new covenant in my blood.”

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**1 Peter 1:18-19 <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.**

And so in Our Bibles it is from cover to cover.

The Old Testament saints were saved by faith, looking forward in their sacrifices and offerings to the shed blood of Christ on Calvary's cross.

We are saved by looking back by faith to Calvary.

No scarlet line on the doorpost – no salvation.

No scarlet line in the window of Rahab's home – no salvation.

No scarlet line bound, by faith, to our hearts – no salvation.

That was the faith that Rahab exercised Joshua 2:21

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### **III. Rahab – The Dedicated Servant (Joshua 2:12-)**

It did not matter about her past, God could use her.

**Ephesians 6:6 <sup>6</sup>not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,**

Our heart and right motive is what pleases God. – is it work? No it is **Jesus....**

Rahab's heart had changed and as a result her burden for her family changed.

No sooner had she been saved she had set about working for the Lord.

She was determined to tell her family about the true God and by the looks of Hebrews 11:31 she told everyone else as well

– she did not perish with those that believed not...

I wonder what her family said as she witnessed to them?...

One might have said, "Don't be an idiot Rahab, there's no danger, especially for you, you live on the wall.

You are in the strongest position in Jericho!"

Another may have said, "You're crazy Rahab, how on earth is that silly piece of string going to save you?"

If we are going to be saved, and I personally don't think we are in need of saving, then we would save ourselves."

Then someone else says, “I’ll wait it out. I’ll make my decision when I see that the Hebrew’s have breached our walls and stormed our gates.

There’s plenty of time. They don’t even have any battering rams...”

However, these were not their excuses

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**Joshua 6:23<sup>23</sup> So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel.**

Rahab witness to them and they believed and saw that they were in the same state as her.

They weren’t “harlots”, but they were headed for God’s judgement.

They believed and were saved.

She brought her whole family into the family of God.

## **IV. Rahab – The Divine Seed (Matthew 1:5)**

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**<sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,**

Rahab was taken from the house of shame and wound up in the hall of fame.

While the identity of the two spies is not specifically given, we can speculate that one of them was Salmon of the tribe of Judah.

His father Nahshon was the leader of that tribe during the earlier wilderness wanderings

**Numbers 2:3 And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah.)**

Since Judah was the leading tribe (**Num. 10:14**) and since Nahshon had died in the wilderness, it is likely that his son Salmon would have taken his place.

Whether it was on this occasion or later is inconsequential for, in either case, as found in (**Matt. 1:5**). Salmon of the princely line in Judah, the royal tribe of Israel, became the husband of Rahab

She became the mother of Boaz, which is why Boaz was not concerned about “marring his inheritance” (Ruth 4:6) .

The nearer-kinsman in the book of Ruth, refuses to redeem Ruth because she was a Moabite.

He did not want to contaminate his family tree by introducing Moabite blood into his line..

Boaz had no problem with his bloodline being contaminated as his mother was a Jericho harlot (saved by the grace of God)

The amazing thing is that Rahab’s past made no difference to God whatsoever.

Because of her faith, God would blot out her past, Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

This woman became an ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God took her from the very gutter and made her eternally famous.

He gave this trusting sinner a place in His eternal, divine plan.

## **Conclusion**

Final Questions:

God has provided us with salvation.

As a result, we are changed...

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- What are we doing with our new life?
- How are we using it?

- Are we using it for God and for His glory?
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- Will our descendants in generations to come, say that they came to know Christ just like their great-great..... etc...