

The Scarlet Thread in the Window

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (**Josh 2**) (**Josh 6:25-26**) “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; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.”
 - b. New Testament mentions Rahab three times
 - c. She is worthy of notice – even mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ
 - d. Great Story
 - i. Not a Jew – heathen
 - ii. Lived in Jericho – Ready to be conquered
 - iii. Was a harlot
 - iv. Received and hid two spies
 - v. Made a covenant with them – Seeks Salvation
 - vi. Was saved from death
- II. Rahab teaches us a Lesson on Faith
 - a. (**Heb 11:1**) “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
 - b. Rahab spoke of things not seen as if they were
 - c. She knew these things to be a fact
 - i. (**Josh 2:9**) “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.”
 - d. How did Rahab obtain this faith?
 - i. (**Josh 2:10-11**) “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. 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.”
 1. She heard and believed
 - ii. We get faith in the same way
 1. (**John 20:30-31**) “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
 2. (**Rom 10:17**) “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - e. Rahab sought to be saved
 - i. They believed and their “**hearts did melt**”

1. (**Josh 2:11**) “And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did **melt**, neither did there remain any more **courage** in any man”
 - ii. Rahab not only believed she sought salvation
 1. (**Josh 2:12**) “Now therefore, **I pray you**, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token.”
 - iii. She is told what to do and she does it and is saved
- III. Rahab is an Example of Obedience
- a. She had faith, but not faith only
 - i. (**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?”
 - ii. (**Heb 11:31**) “**By faith** the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had **received** the spies with peace.”
 1. Perished not when she had received – not only faith but obedience to that faith
 - b. Faith must be accompanied by obedience – else dead faith
 - i. (**James 2:26**) “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
 - ii. (**Gal 5:6**) “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but **faith** which **worketh** by love.”
 - c. Can a promised salvation have conditions?
 - i. It was a promise (oath) of salvation for her and her family
 1. (**Josh 2:14**) “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.”
 - ii. It came with conditions!
 1. (**Josh 2:18**) “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.”
 - iii. Another ‘if’ – on the condition
 1. (**Josh 2:20**) “And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.”
 - d. Yet Hebrews tells us she was saved by faith
 - i. (**Heb 11:31**) “**By faith** the harlot Rahab **perished** not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”
 1. Acts of Obedience are done ‘by faith’
- IV. The Scarlet Thread
- a. Maybe no significance
 - i. May have been chosen because it was handy
 - ii. Easily seen

- b. Scarlet reminds us of the Blood
 - i. Without blood there is no salvation
 - 1. **(Heb 9:22)** “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”
 - ii. Blood was required in the days of Adam
 - 1. **(Heb 11:4)** “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”
 - a. Abel’s sacrifice was “the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof.” (Gen 4:4)
 - iii. Blood was required for the first testament
 - 1. **(Heb 9:18-21)** “Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.”
 - iv. Blood was required for the new testament
 - 1. **(Heb 9:11-14)** “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
- c. Scarlet Thread reminds us of the Passover
 - i. The final Plague
 - 1. **(Ex 11:4-6)** “And Moses said, Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more.”
 - ii. The condition of being saved

1. (Ex 12:12-13) “For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. And the **blood** shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when **I see the blood**, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”
- iii. The Result of this Plague
 1. (Ex 12:29-30) “And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.”
- d. The Blood of Christ saves us today
 1. (Matt 26:28) “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the **remission of sins.**”
 - ii. We contact this blood or salvation by Faith – like Rahab
 1. (John 3:16-17) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
 2. (Rom 3:22-23) “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
 - iii. When the scriptures talk about salvation by faith it is speaking of true living faith, that is faith accompanied by obedience
 1. (Acts 16:30-34) “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?** And they said, **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **thou shalt be saved, and thy house.** And they spake unto him **the word of the Lord,** and to **all** that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and **washed their stripes;** and was **baptized,** he and **all his,** straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, **believing** in God with all his house.”
 - a. The word of the Lord produces faith
 - i. (Rom 1:16-17) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the

Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

b. Straightway

i. “Παραχρημα” – Instantly

c. ‘Believing’ – How did they believe – living obedient faith!

2. (**Gal 3:26-29**) “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

iv. We contact this blood by our obedience to God’s will – living Faith – like Rahab’s faith

1. (**Matt 7:21**) “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

v. When we come in contact with this blood it will cleanse us from all sins

1. (**1 John 1:7**) “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

V. Conclusion

a. An unlikely subject

i. Heathen

ii. Harlot

iii. Liar and traitor

b. But believes

i. She was saved by this faith

c. Anyone of us can be saved

i. No matter who

ii. The plan is the same

iii. The remedy is for all