



# CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

AUGUST 12 2023

**Scripture Story:** Joshua 2; 5:13-15; 6; 7.

**Commentary:** *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 45.

## behind the walls



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### flashlight

“God will do great things for those who trust in Him. The reason why His professed people have no greater strength is that they trust so much to their own wisdom, and do not give the Lord an opportunity to reveal His power in their behalf. He will help His believing children in every emergency if they will place their entire confidence in Him and faithfully obey Him”

(*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 493).

### keytext

“The city [Jericho] shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.”

(Joshua 6:17, NASB)

# what do you think?

Are there some people today who, because of their professions or previous actions, are thought unworthy of being lights for God?

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The Bible includes many stories of people with bad reputations, sinful pasts, and unfavorable circumstances who have come to know God and their lives had been changed by His saving power. As a result, they became channels of God's love to others, showing that our heavenly Father restores broken people who accept His marvelous gift of grace!

## did you know?

**T**he inhabitants of Canaan had been granted ample opportunity for repentance. Forty years before, the opening of the Red Sea and the judgments upon Egypt had testified to the supreme power of the God of Israel. And now the overthrow of the kings of Midian, of Gilead and Bashan, had further shown that Jehovah was above all gods. . . . All these events were known to the inhabitants of Jericho, and there were many who shared Rahab's conviction, though they refused to obey it, that Jehovah, the God of Israel, 'is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath.' "—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 492.

## INTO THE STORY

"Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim."

"So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: 'Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.' . . .

"She said, 'Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.' (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)"

"Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, 'I know that the LORD has given you

this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

"Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death."

"Our lives for your lives!' the men assured her. 'If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land.'

"So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall."

"Now the men had said to her, 'This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.'

"Agreed," she replied. 'Let it be as you say.'

(Joshua 2:1, 3-6, 8-15, 17, 18, 21, NIV)

# OUT OF THE STORY

How would you describe Rahab: wise or foolish? smart or stupid? loyal or a traitor? Explain your answers.

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What would you have done if you had been Rahab? What would you have done if you were the spies?

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List the “out of the ordinary” events that occurred in this story:

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How did God honor Rahab for what she did that day? (See Matthew 1:5.)

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Why was she honored? (See Hebrews 11:31.)

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Of what event in Israel’s history does the scarlet cord remind you? (See Exodus 12:12, 13.)

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How are we saved from our “doomed neighborhood”? (See Romans 5:1, 2.)

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## punch lines

“**By faith Rahab** the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace” (**Hebrews 11:31, NASB**).

“**In the same way**, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?” (**James 2:25, NASB**).

“**For God so loved** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (**John 3:16, NASB**).

“**Therefore, having been** justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God” (**Romans 5:1, 2, NASB**).

“**Nevertheless knowing** that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified” (**Galatians 2:16, NASB**).

## further insight

“It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and suffered and died. . . .

“... There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ.”—Ellen G.

White, *Steps to Christ*, pp. 13, 18.

# connectingtolife

## Sabbath

Read Joshua 2:9-13 and Daniel 9.

Rahab's plea about honoring God and then pleading for her salvation is similar to the prayer of Daniel, when he is pleading for the lives of his people. In fact, this was the way all the Israelites prayed when in need of help. Notice how Daniel starts the prayer: by honoring God. List the similarities and differences between Daniel and Rahab's plea.

Similarities:

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Differences:

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## Sunday

Read Esther 2-8.

Esther was another woman who had faith in God. She had no idea what would happen when she went to the king when he had not called her. But she trusted God to take care of it all! Because of her faith, thousands of people were spared, and in Israel today, they still celebrate "Purim," a day that was turned from sorrowful to joyful; all because Esther and her people had faith.

Is there a situation in your life that you need to go forward in and trust God to take care of it?

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## Monday

Read Numbers 14.

In the *Flashlight* section of this week's lesson, Ellen White brings an issue to our attention. The Israelite nation as a whole had

gone through times when they trusted more in themselves than in God. In fact, their lack of faith in God and their trust in themselves set them back a whole forty years, which they spent wandering around in a dry desert! Some land of milk and honey! The fertile land of Canaan could have been theirs, except for their inability to have faith in God.

What warning can you heed for your life from today's reading?

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## Tuesday

In Monday's lesson Israel's lack of trust was mentioned. It's interesting to note that Rahab was saved by her faith in God; quite the opposite from Caleb and Joshua's generation, who wandered around in the wilderness until they all died. Read the *Punch Lines* for this week and notice the ones dealing with faith. Which one speaks to you the most?

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## Wednesday

Read Joshua chapters 2 and 6.

This week's lesson is indeed a fascinating one; a bit puzzling too. Make a list of all the things that are out of the ordinary you can find in Joshua chapters 2 and 6. Look up "Rahab" in Ellen White's writings and see what else you come up with!

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## Thursday

Read Galatians 2:16.

Read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 45, "The Fall of Jericho." In this chapter

are described the trials and victories that the Israelites had because of their faith. When they didn't follow God, and instead followed their own plans, they failed miserably, and lives were lost. But when they trusted in God and had faith in His power as Rahab did, they were victorious! Faith is so crucial in life. You can't survive without it!

Can you think of circumstances in your life in which you followed your own plan and failed? or when you trusted in God and were victorious?

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## Friday

Read Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 5.

This week we have been talking a lot about trust, faith, and our salvation by grace through faith. It is God's grace, and the faith in that grace, that saves us. In today's reading we see how God saves even the most sinful of sinners if they just believe in Him. Like Rahab, we have the evidence of what God can do if we trust Him, and like her, we ought to give Him a chance.

### this week's reading\*

*Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 45.

\**Beginning of the End* is a special adaptation of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press®. Get more information about it at [www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rB09s](http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rB09s). By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.