Doctrinal Studies Bible Church PT: Ron Adema Series: Book of James (#43)

audio

### RAHAB'S LIVING FAITH

It is interesting that James put the terms Harlot and Faith together with a believer named, Rahab. What she did in life before salvation defined who she was in life by others.

Only the Grace Gospel of Christ can put Saving Faith with Harlot and refer to this person as absolutely Righteous.

(2 Cor.5:21) "He made Him who knew no sin to be <u>sin on our behalf</u>, so that <u>we might become the</u> righteousness of God in Him."

#### Five aspects of Rahab's Living Faith recorded in Real Time

This lesson will study <u>five aspects</u> of Rahab's Living Faith recorded in real time in (Josh.2:1-24) (Josh.2:9-14; 6:22-25; Heb.11:31).

#### 1. Rahab's need for salvation was not because she was a Harlot, but because she was a sinner.

She is a sinner because of Adam's original sin (Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:22).

(1 Tim.1:15) "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, among whom I am foremost of all."

When speaking of "Justification" by saving faith, the working object is the Gospel of Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

(Rom.5:1-2) "Therefore, having been justified (diakaioo/ a.p.ptc.nplm) 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 which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God." (Rom.4:24-25)

1<sup>st</sup> Salvation's formula: An (unbeliever's) Faith + the working object (the gospel of Christ) = grace salvation and justification.

#### 2. There are two sides to justification by saving faith: subtraction and addition.

These are taught in the <u>50 Things FREE</u> of Grace Salvation.

#### • Subtraction side:

• The removal of <u>13 judicial charges of Adam's original sin</u> once and forever (Rom.5:1-2, 12).

- Addition side:
  - The <u>8 works of The Holy Spirit</u>,
  - The 9 communion factors of blood of Christ,
  - o The 20 status-privileges of royal family of God

## 3. Rahab was one of five women listed in Matthew's genealogy of messianic Savior, Jesus Christ (Matt.1:5).

What did this show?

Matthew showed to a Jewish audience that a Gentile woman, considered among the top of sinners, was listed among Abraham's list of Justified believers in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt.1:1-17).

- Rahab was a testimony to what God is free to do for the worst of sinners by the gospel of grace salvation (Eph.2:8-9).
- She was a testimony to justification by saving faith, just like everyone listed with Abraham (Gal.3:8; Rom.4:23-25).

James put Rahab the Harlot (Jas.2:25-26) in the same righteous category as Abraham the Patriarch (Jas.2:21-24). **"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."

# 4. Note that the writer of the Book of Hebrews called the Israelite "spies" (kataskopos) [reconnaissance scouts] in (Heb.11:31); but James called them "messengers" (tous aggelos) in (Jas.2:25).

The next thing of interest in our lesson text is the connection of two Aorist Participles (a.ptc) in (Jas.2:25).

- First Aorist Participle was "she received (<u>hupodechomai/ a.m.ptc.nsf</u>) the messengers."
  - She believed the message of the spies as an important to her salvation (Josh.2:9-14).
- Second Aorist Participle was "she sent (ekballo/ a.a.ptc.nsf) them out another way."
  - As a believer, she acted upon faith in word of God as important to her rescue from invasion (1 Cor.10:13) [a way of escape]. "In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way." (Jas.2:25)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Second formula:** (A Believer's) Faith + the working object (The Word of God / Categorical Bible Doctrine) = Divine Production (Good Works) in the Christian way of life.

#### 5. Like all are "Saved by Grace", Rahab was a trophy of God's "Amazing Grace".

Only God could have known how her life would turn out in Christ.

Rahab married Salmon (one of the two spies). Salmon was the tenth from Abraham in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

In marriage, Rahab was fourth from King David (Matt.1:1-6).

This means that Rahab, the Harlot from Jericho, married into the messianic royalty of biblical history (Matt.1:1-17).

#### Hymn for all the Rahabs of the world: Amazing Grace (John Newton/ 1725-1807)

"Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."

"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear. And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!