

Rahab's Address

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Joshua 2:15

Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.

The author wanted to make sure the reader knew the location of Rahab's house. He states it twice—"her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall." In the real estate business location is important. If you ask a real estate agent to list the three most important things a property should have, you'll likely hear: "location, location, location." Rehab had a good location. She was on the city wall.

The Bible in verse one of our chapter says that Rehab was a prostitute. Normally, you wouldn't think someone of Rahab's profession having prime real estate, they're usually on the "wrong side of the tracks," but Rahab's house was located properly. This is integral to the story. She had the city and could look out her window and see the beautiful countryside, thus the best of both worlds.

The children of Israel had crossed the Jordan and Joshua sent two spies to do reconnaissance work in Jericho, the first targeted city for a military strike and conquest. If these two spies had been born after the Exodus from Egypt, it is very possible that they had never been in a city before. I can only imagine the amazement and wonder that the metropolis must have given them. The huge city was six acres. That might not be huge for you but you have to remember that back then that was a huge city. Truly, it was the country meeting the city.

It is very possible that Rahab was also an innkeeper and that is why the spies turned into her lodgings. According to some of the best Hebrew lexicons the word *prostitute* in Joshua's day was also translated *innkeeper*. But regardless the reason, it was reported to the king of Jericho that Hebrew spies from Israel were staying at the house of Rahab.

The king sent messengers to the house of Rahab but she hid the two men of Israel and lied to the king saying in verses four and five, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

Before the spies returned to Joshua. Rahab made them promise her that when they invaded Jericho they would spare her and her family. The spies said to her in verse seventeen and following:

“So the men said to her: “We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, 18 unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home. 19 So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. 20 And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear.” 21 Then she said, “According to your words, so be it.” And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.” (Joshua 2:17-21)

Interesting story, isn't it? You know how the story turned out. She set the scarlet cord in the window and Joshua and his army finally did invade. But before Joshua invaded, God appeared to him as a man with a sword drawn and God gave him the blueprint to their victory: march around the city once a day with the Ark of the Covenant. On the seventh day, march around seven times and on the seventh time, blow the trumpets and shout as loud as you can. What happened when that occurred? The Bible says the walls of Jericho came tumbling down.

I want to first direct our attention to and warn you about carnal securities. Carnal, fleshly, worldly securities.

I. Carnal Securities

A. The City Wall Was Jericho’s Security.

The citizens of Jericho put their trust in the massive walls to protect their city. According to archaeologists, that have discovered the ruins of the ancient city and the rubble of the original walls of Jericho, the wall was about 6 feet thick and 46 feet high. Humanly speaking, it was virtually impossible for the Israelites, or any army, to penetrate the impregnable fortress of Jericho. Many armies had tried and failed before so they had a great deal of security in their safety because of these massive walls.

Interestingly enough, when they discovered the walls a few short years ago, they discovered there was a portion of the wall that remained standing. It was a northern and narrow portion, just as the story tells us: just where the scarlet cord hung out of the window of Rahab, that part of the wall did not fall, nor did it waver or even shake. God preserved Rahab and all her family.

B. Carnal Securities Fail.

Whatever man tries to build and thereby achieve prosperity and protection will, in the end, always fail. This has been the history of the human race since the fall. When men believe that by their carnal, earthly efforts they have achieved lasting peace, peace evaporates.

I think of the last century when World War I ended it was touted and proclaimed throughout as the war to end all wars. Did you know that 21 years later a German soldier that had been fighting in the trenches rose to the premier chancellor of Germany and World War II began under the rulership of Adolf Hitler. The whole world was thrown into a greater conflict than the previous World War.

After World War II, the world began to tout peace and safety because of nuclear advancements. “We have now the great atomic bomb, no one will dare to do anything like this again.” And since then we’ve had nothing but wars and conflicts. Here we are, once again, as a country, involved in a kind of war we would never have imagined—terrorism where people do not wear uniforms and do not line up in battle formation but pursue to overthrow us in vicious, terroristic ways. All carnal security in the end will fail.

We are in the throes of a presidential election and I am constantly amazed, not by the world—I expect the world to look for security in their political party and certain politicians—but when so many Christians seem to bank their whole hope of the future of this nation upon a political party or politician. I am amazed.

Right now we have some who are enthusiastically behind their particular presidential candidate, others who aren’t happy with either one, and there is such a gloom and despair thinking all hope is gone because we can’t find a good leader. We can’t find somebody we can follow and have confidence in. My dear friends, when did government ever become our hope?

One of the serious mistakes of the evangelical church in the last century, starting around the time of the sexual revolution of the ‘60s, is that churches and church leaders began to put their hope in politicians. We started backing certain men because we believed the hope of turning this nation around and back to God was in the hands of politicians. Look where that has got us.

If ever before, religion has been driven away from the marketplace. It’s no longer permissible to speak of Jesus and the Bible in public arena. We’re further from where we once were as a result of putting our hope in these carnal securities.

Hope in government, wealth, or any other resource cannot protect against all harm or hurt. The Bible has warned us, it resounds throughout all Scripture: put your trust in the arm of flesh and it will fail you.

Here were the people of Jericho putting their confidence in their city walls. Isn’t it unusual and quite remarkable what Rahab told those spies? She says, “We have heard what God has done for you and our hearts have melted within because of it.” See, the people of Jericho had withstood other enemies before but never had they withstood an army whose God was the Lord.

The Bible says Rahab told the two spies that the word from Egypt had gotten to them long ago. They had heard of their great exodus and how they had brought the most powerful civiliza-

tion at the time to its knees by the miracles of Moses. They had heard how the Red Sea had opened and allowed them to cross and then swallowed and destroyed the army of Pharaoh. They heard how God had miraculously sustained a people of almost two million for 40 years in the wilderness. And just recently they heard how the Jordan River had opened up and they once again crossed over on dry ground into Canaan. Now their carnal securities were not so secure and they were afraid.

Beloved, when you put your hope in anything but Jesus Christ, you will always be disappointed. Even if you have wealth, popularity, power, and amass to yourself all the right connections, in the end God will make sure none of them will sustain you.

Some of the most miserable people we hear about are people of wealth or fame, searching still yet in their carnality and worldliness for something to sustain and prop up their hearts and give them some sense of peace and satisfaction. But everything alludes them. There is no peace other than in Jesus Christ. Carnal securities will always fail.

Did we not learn this in 2008 when so many people's retirement and savings were wiped out in a day? People amassed wealth, saving and putting back for a rainy day or for retirement, and in a few hours the stock market plunged and took away trillions of dollars of wealth. There is nothing lasting or eternal made by the arm of flesh.

When circumstances come and shake, whatever security you have besides the Lord Jesus Christ will not endure. The writer of Hebrews says there is a time coming, and now is, when God's people will be shaken so that that which cannot remain will be removed. We are now more in that shaking than we've ever been.

II. Circumstances Shaken

The Bible says when they circled around the city the seventh time and the shout of the people went up that the walls came down.

A. Rahab's World Was Rocked.

Literally, her world came crashing down around her. But this is not the point of the story. We could moralize the story and say God will protect you when your world comes crashing down around you. That's true! But that's not the primary message of this event. It's secondary and why should we major in the secondary things when we've got something even better to discuss?

Yes, circumstances will shake. There is a shaking going on in the American church and church of the west. There are people leaving the church by the droves because their security is not in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ but in something they have built. Friends, when the challenges of life come to you, how can you stand if your whole basis of standing before the judgment of God is what you have done? How can you survive God's searing, penetrating, righteous stare? He

knows all things and sees all things—how will you be able to stand before God hoping to pass His judgment by your good works or trying to do better than you have been in the past? That won't withstand the shaking of God's judgment.

The moral of this story is there is only security in that which is spiritual.

III. Spiritual Securities

A. Rahab's Security Was a Scarlet Rope.

The promise between her and the two spies was conditioned on the fact that she put the rope outside the same window through which she had let them down to safety. What does this represent? What does this tell us? It represents the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is the object of this event. See, God, from the Old Testament all the way to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, has sprinkled a trail leading to the cross. There is a sacred thread running from Genesis all the way to the cross of Jesus Christ where God has used stories and events as illustrations pointing to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This event, the walls of Jericho coming down and Rahab's salvation, is one of those bread crumbs on the trail leading to the Bread of Life. It is a story of God's redemption through something scarlet covered. What does the Bible say about those who put their faith in Christ?

“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Here's the salvation of God's people—the scarlet fountain of Jesus Christ. His blood is our salvation and security.

*“. . . Jesus Christ . . . Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”
(Revelation 1:5)*

There is no other cleansing agent. There is no other fountain. There is no other power by which man can lose his sins but the precious blood of the Lamb of God shed for us. It is in that scarlet fountain represented by the scarlet rope that you can lose your guilty stains today. It's by the blood of the Lamb of God that you can have peace with God. It is that fountain that flowed from His precious back and veins, from the wounds in His hands and feet by the nails which tacked Him to the tree; it is by that healing stream that you can come to God and find refuge and safe haven.

I pray this morning you would run to the Lord Jesus and come under the fountain and banner of His blood. His banner over me is love and I tell you there is no greater banner than Jesus.

Would you gather His blood and put it upon you this day? Would you do as the Passover—another type and picture of the blood of Jesus Christ—would you put the blood over your doorposts and lintels?

Have you heard the story? The night before they left Egypt for the last time, after 400 years in that land, God commanded Moses to have every man and head of household to take a lamb and gather its blood and paint it over the doorposts and windows so that at the midnight hour when the death angel passed, he would see the blood and pass by. Then the death of the first-born child would not occur and the child would be saved.

Friends, is the blood over your door? Is the blood of God written on your forehead and hands? Has He washed you in the blood? Is His banner over you today so that when His judgment comes He will pass over and you will be saved? This is what we see in this beautiful story.

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

This is in the present tense. Isn't that remarkable? It means not only has the blood saved me in the past but it still saves me. There is still a cleansing. There is still power in the blood for me today and all those who believe and are cleansed. I thank God that sacred fountain has not dried up. Nothing has dammed it up—not even my sins can dam up the blood of Jesus Christ. I'm safe because of the blood.

This is the believer's safe haven. There is no other refuge; there is no other hiding place other than in Jesus Christ.

B. Rahab's Security Was a Promise Given.

The scarlet cord is backed up by an oath. Better yet, it is more correct to say that the scarlet cord is the sign of the oath between the spies and Rahab. This too is a type of something that occurred beyond the boundaries of time. There was a covenant between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

It's at this moment I plead ignorance. It's at this moment I tell you that I cannot tell you much about that covenant. So, whatever I now say, I say with the greatest of reverence and yet with some fear that I may mislead you, because we are dealing with the greatest of all mysteries. We're moving outside time and space and speaking of eternal things. How can we do that? You and I only think in chronological order—in a sequence of events—it's the way we were made, but God transcends time, having made it. He is the I Am that I Am.

But because we do not know how to communicate this sacred reality that is revealed in the sacred Word of God, we have to use limited terms to help us understand. Theologians call them *anthropomorphisms*; all that means is that you give God man-like qualities in order to communicate

infinite truth. When you say God has hands or when the psalmist says God will hide you under the shadows of His wings, well, God doesn't have wings or feathers but it's an anthropomorphism trying to give God some kind of understandability to help us comprehend.

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 13:20 that there is an everlasting covenant.

“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,”

What covenant is this? It is the covenant that God made within the triune Godhead. I know I'm stretching us to our very intellectual limits, but God is one. We do not serve three Gods. But our one God is revealed to us in Scripture as being comprised of three persons having the same essence and substance. They're not three different persons having different substance or essence. No, “the Lord Thy God is one,” but there are three persons.

In order to understand the everlasting covenant, men before me and men after will say things like this, “At some point the Father devised the plan of our redemption and the Son carried it out and the Holy Spirit brings it to us in conviction and reality.” Even then we've made a mistake. God never devised anything, meaning there is a point in time when He didn't know it and then He did. This covenant is everlasting, eternal, and the definition of *eternal* is to have no beginning, not just no end.

You and I are immortal, that means we have no end but we are not eternal because we did have a beginning. Only God has no end and no beginning. God does not exist in eternity, He is eternity. He is the ever-present now. The Father made a covenant with the Son and the Spirit. Listen to what Paul says to Timothy.

“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,” (2 Timothy 1:9)

Jesus Christ was given to us as our Redeemer before time had been invented. Before the words of Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” were spoken, before then, Jesus had been slain in the plan and economy of God. It was already established. It was already done and finished in the heart of God that His Son would be your sacrifice, in your place, the substitute of your penalty. When? Before time began.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,” (Ephesians 1:3-4)

“Before the foundation of the world.” Before God made Adam, God had already planned Adam's salvation and that of his posterity. I tell you that covenant, that oath between the Father and the Son, is the foundation of why you and I are saved today.

There is not only an oath among the Persons of the Trinity, but God has made an oath between you and me.

In Hebrews 8, the writer of Hebrews goes back to Jeremiah where God promised a new covenant. Not the Old Covenant of the Mosaic law but a new covenant, and he cites this quote from Jeremiah as proof that God has made a covenant with His people—those who would believe in Jesus.

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. I I None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. I 2 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”
(Hebrews 8:10-12)

What a promise. What a covenant. What an oath. This is what God has said He will do to all who will believe in His Son. He will take out our stony hearts that you could not soften and give us a heart of flesh. And He’s going to write in that heart of flesh His commandments. Here is salvation. Here is what the blood of Jesus does in power and affect. It gives you a heart that wants to do God’s will and delights in it. Never has anybody been saved that doesn’t have a heart that wants to obey. Salvation is to be saved from the very nature of sin. It’s not just your actions of sin that will condemn you before God, it is your very person because you have a heart that doesn’t want to do God’s will, it takes no delight in the ways of God, it despises them and God.

Recently, somebody told me they even hated God and resisted Him because they felt like God was trying to make them do it His way. Well, of course. What they expressed to me was the very explanation of a depraved, corrupted, and wicked heart with which we are all born. It’s a miracle when God reaches into the spirit of a man and somehow switches, converts, changes, transforms, that inner man, that person from which we live out and make our decisions so that where we had once hated and resisted the way of God we now love and are inclined to.

Not only that, God says, “I will be your God.” Nobody will have to teach you to know the Lord. From the least to the greatest, all of God’s people know Him as Father and thereby cry out, “Abba Father.” My Father.

Not only that, He has promised to remove our sins from us, no longer remember them against us. Why? The scarlet fountain! The rope of my salvation, the blood of Jesus covers my sins and removes them from me as far as the east is from the west. The tie of the blood takes away my sins. God has made His covenant.

Remember the night of the betrayal at the last supper? What does Jesus say as He hands the cup to the apostle?

*“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
(Matthew 26:28)*

Blood is the sign of the security and surety of the covenant of God with His children.

C. Rahab Believed the Promise of Security.

Rahab’s salvation was conditioned on her belief and obedience. As it always is. Are you listening carefully? God saves us on condition of our faith and obedience. I do not mean that our works saves us or that our acts of obedience save us. What I mean is that faith without works is dead. The faith that really trusts in Jesus will work for Jesus. Why? Because it trusts. It believes. It takes God at His word. If God says, “This is the way, walk in it. This is the way to blessing.” You so trust Him that you do what He commands, and you do it gladly.

Rahab’s salvation was conditioned that she believed the spies and the covenant they made with her and that she obeyed.

The end of Rahab’s salvation reads this way:

*“And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father’s household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.”
(Joshua 6:25)*

She put out the scarlet cord; she did exactly what the covenant required.

God has made an oath to you, He’s made a promise to you, He has sworn to you and sealed it with the blood of His Son. How could He go back and renege on that promise? If God can renege on His promise then you can loose your salvation. But to all who has put their faith in God He has made a promise. The writer of Hebrews says in the sixth chapter that God made a covenant and swore to it, made an oath, for your assurance. He didn’t have to but He did it anyway.

“Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability (unchangeability) of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,”

God showed you, who would receive the covenant, that it’s sure and unchangeable. It is unwavering. It is done. You can count on it. So He made a promise. Then He confirmed it by an oath. He swore by Himself. Look at verse 18:

“that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.” (Hebrews 6:17-18)

The two immutable things are His promise—His Word—and His oath. Those two things back up your confidence. You can have strong consolation that Jesus is your Savior.

Safety is offered to all who will come under the security of the blood and oath of God. Safety. Rescue. Deliverance. Salvation. It's all offered to you this very moment, if you will simply come under the refuge of the blood of the Lamb of God, and the oath of God that promises, that backs it up, can never be changed because God cannot go back on His word. If you will simply take God at His word you will be saved.

Notice what I did not say: "If you have an experience with God where you have these overwhelming emotions, ah, then you can be sure you're saved." That is not what the spies told Rahab. I wonder what happened in Rahab's heart during the time after their leaving and the time of the seventh day and the seventh time around the city? All she had was a promise. Did her heart waver? Did it quiver ever so slightly? "Oh, I hope it's true. I hope they keep their promise. I hope they remember." I would not be surprised if some of that occurred. It only seems logical to me. But God still saved, in spite of any wavering. Her faith was strong enough to obey.

Believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the only work God requires of you. All that means is taking what you heard today and saying, "Lord, sink or swim, live or die, I'm trusting Jesus Christ and He promised to save. No longer will I trust in my carnal securities, my good works, my doing better than I used to do. I'm trusting in Jesus and Jesus alone." Regardless of what you feel this morning, regardless of whatever experience might be offered to you—you've got to be careful with experiences, the devil can give you almost every experience that God brings—if you are willing to be resolved today and say like Rahab, "I have only one hope, I will take those spies at their word and I will cast out the scarlet rope and it will be my banner and my sign that I have believed the promise," I'm telling you, friend, God has made a promise: all who believe in the scarlet fountain flowing from Immanuel's veins will be saved.

Come. Find refuge. And when the whole world shakes, by the power of the glory of the Lamb of God who sits on the throne, you can stand resolute, hopeful, and sure that there is a hiding place for you and His name is Jesus. Amen.