

Faith Spreads

Joshua 2 & 6

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

By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. (Hebrews 11:30-31, NASB)

God arranged the entire Exodus event to demonstrate that He was completely sufficient for His people, no matter how great their needs. He declared that this was an event unprecedented in all history.

“Indeed, ask now concerning the former days which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and inquire from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything been done like this great thing, or has anything been heard like it? ...Has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within another nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

“To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him.” (Deuteronomy 4:32-35, NASB)

The faith that God inspired through the Exodus spread far beyond Moses. Joshua, Moses' long-time assistant and successor, shared Moses' faith. He was given a job almost as daunting as the one God gave Moses. He had to lead Israel into Canaan. It was already occupied by many other nations, larger and stronger than Israel, better trained and better equipped.

As Israel crossed the Jordan River into Canaan, their first obstacle was the mighty city of Jericho, with its seemingly impregnable walls. But Joshua and Israel simply trusted and obeyed God, and He took care of the walls.

But in the story of Jericho, faith also comes from a surprising source. Rahab was a harlot who lived in a house on Jericho's city walls. When the two Jewish spies entered the city and were being hunted by the king of Jericho, she hid them, at great peril to herself and her family. What motivated her to turn against her own city and risk her life to save the spies? She explains:

“I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. 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 utterly destroyed. When

we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.” (Joshua 2:9-11, NASB)

Strong words of faith from a Gentile and a prostitute! And remember that the crossing of the Red Sea had happened forty years before. They were still talking about God’s mighty deliverance, and peoples far away were coming to believe that this God was Lord of heaven and earth.

Rahab’s faith glorified God in ways she could have never imagined. She is apparently the same Rahab included in Jesus’ genealogy in Matthew 1:5. She married into Jesus’ family line and became one link through which Jesus Christ Himself was born.

During His ministry, Jesus repeatedly encountered other Gentiles whose strong and simple faith surprised and delighted Him.

Truly, saving faith and all its blessings, both now and through eternity, are available to all who will simply trust God.

When Jesus heard [the faith of the Roman centurion], He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 8:10-11, NASB)

*Father, salvation is always something You do.
All I do is bow and
allow God to be God in me.*

Hymn: [See the Seed of Faith](#)

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