

UNLIKELY HEROES #3

RAHAB: AN UNLIKELY MATRIARCH

“Unlikely heroes are simply complicated people who distinguished themselves through the simplicity of faith in God”

Hebrews 11:31 (KJV 1900)

31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

BIO FOR SARAH:

1. Husband: Salmon
2. Offspring: Boaz (son), Obed (grandson), Jesse (great grandson), David (great, great grandson)
3. Nationality: Canaanite (Pagan culture)
4. Religion: Worshiper of the moon god
5. Occupation: Harlot
6. Scriptural Setting: Her story is told in Joshua chapters 2 & 6

INTERESTING FACTS:

1. She is known for:
 - a. Being a prostitute in Canaan. Likely involved in a perverse religious cult.
 - b. Exercising faith and saving the spies sent in to the promised land by Joshua.
 - c. Hanging a scarlet cord from her window.
 - d. Being in the lineage of Jesus
2. She is one of only three women mentioned by name in lineage of Jesus
3. She was saved by a scarlet cord symbolizing the blood of Jesus.

NOTABLE EVENTS IN HER LIFE:

1. Joshua 2:1-2 – Receives the two men sent by Joshua to spy out the land.
2. Joshua 2:3-6 – She chooses sides and hides the spies from her king.
3. Joshua 6:17-25 – Rahab is spared by the conquering Israelites
4. Joshua 6:25 – Rahab finds a home in Israel and marries Salmon.

NOTABLE NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES:

1. **Matthew 1:5** – And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;
2. **Hebrews 11:31** – By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.
3. **James 2:25-26** – Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

TAKE HOME STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Rahab makes a very definitive statement about God fighting for Israel. How could she make such a statement? (Josh 2:8-10)

