

## **“SCARLET CORD IN THE WINDOW”**

### **INTRODUCTION**

When God gave the Ten Commandments through Moses, the people agreed to keep them, but not many years passed until they broke them and departed from God and wandered 40 years in the wilderness. Moses sent 12 spies into Canaan, and only 2 (Joshua and Caleb) came back with faith that they could conquer the land. Upon Moses' death, God chose Joshua to succeed him, and emphasized to him that Israel must keep the law, and not turn to the right or left, but meditate on and observe the law if they wanted to inherit the land He had promised to Abraham. Joshua informed Israel of this matter, and again the people agreed to keep the law. In preparation to get into the land, Joshua (one of the two faithful spies) decided to send only 2 spies to Jericho. The king of Jericho learned of their investigation, and pursued the 2 spies. Rahab the harlot hid them from the king and his army. Rahab allowed them to stay on the roof of the home of Rahab and her family to keep them safely. She let them escape by letting them down the window on a scarlet rope or cord. In appreciation, the spies told her that when the invading army of Israel came in, that she should put the “scarlet cord in the window” of their house, and when the soldiers came in, they would see the cord, and spare that house.

There are many lessons we can draw from the events involving the scarlet cord that we shall examine in this lesson. Rahab eventually married into the Israelite race, and was involved in the genealogy of Jesus, and is commended in the New Testament for her faith and works. Now let's look at some of the circumstances in Rahab's life involving the scarlet cord.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. In the 1<sup>st</sup> place, Rahab RECOGNIZED HER NEED FOR DELIVERANCE.**

Josh. 2:13: “...deliver our lives from death.”

A. Rahab knew about God and His accomplishments in the past. Josh. 2:8-11 (Read)

1. She then asked for “deliverance.” v. 12-13
2. She waited until the 2 spies told **her** to do, without any advice from her.

B. No one today will have the desire for deliverance from Satan's power until a recognition of guilt, and the power of God to provide that deliverance.

1. Man today needs to know that he is lost in sin. Isa. 59:1-2; Acts 2:36-37; 9:1-6
2. Man needs to know that he will die someday, and lose his soul in hell if he has done nothing to prevent that loss.

#### **II. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Rahab DID NOT SET THE TERMS OF DELIVERANCE.**

A. Rahab did make a suggestion as to how they could escape their present danger. v. 16

1. She did not suggest that they find a white horse for her to ride out on when the Israelite army came in, or to perform a miracle, or call in a band of angels to save her and her family.
2. She waited on the 2 spies to **tell her** what she she had to do, which we shall examine in few moments.

B. Today, man is the offender, and has no power to save himself as a sinner. Jer. 10:23

1. Many today, however, say they want to be saved, but only on **their** terms, and listen to men, or themselves, as to what they think they need to do to be saved.
  - a. Some think they can be saved by **“faith only.”** cf Jas. 2:24
  - b. Some think they can be saved by saying the **“sinners' prayer.”**

- 1) Saul prayed, but he was still lost. Acts 9:6,11,18; 22:16
- 2) Cornelius was a praying man, but was still lost. Acts 10:1-2; 11:13-14
- c. Some think they can be saved by their own **“good morality”**, as they do not steal, get drunk, or gamble.
  - 1) Cornelius was good morally, but still lost. Acts 10:1-2, 22, 48
  2. Saul was a sincere, conscientious person, but still lost. Acts 22:3-4; 23:1; 26:9
2. If I run into your automobile and am fully at fault, would I have the right to try to settle the damage for \$1, without YOU having anything to say about it?
3. The **Lord** is the One who sets the terms of our deliverance from the power of darkness, as **He** is the Light. John 8:12; 14:6
  - a. The Lord says we must believe. John 8:24
  - b. The Lord says we must repent. Luke 13:3
  - c. The Lord says we must be baptized in water to be saved. Mark 16:16

### **III. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the TERMS OF DELIVERANCE FOR RAHAB WERE SPECIFIC.**

Josh. 2:18-19 “...when we come into the land, **you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window** through which you let us down, and **gather to yourself into the house** your father and your mother and your brothers and all your household. And it shall come about that **anyone who goes out of the doors of your house** into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be free; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if a hand is laid on him.” (NASB)

- A. Now let’s notice the 3 specific terms of deliverance Rahab was given.
  1. 1<sup>st</sup>, she was to tie the scarlet thread or cord in the window. Josh. 2:18ab
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup>, she was to get into the house. Josh. 2:18c
  3. 3<sup>rd</sup>, she was to remain in the house. Josh. 2:19
- B. Rahab was told the **place** to remain in when the Israelite army came—her **house**.
  1. The family of Noah had to enter **into** and remain **in** the ark to be saved from the flood. 1 Pet. 3:20 (note: “where**in**”, not “where**out**”)
  2. We have to enter **into** and remain **in** “Christ” or His spiritual “body” to be saved from sin. Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 15:4-6

### **IV. In the 4<sup>th</sup> place, Rahab was BLESSED BY HER OBEDIENCE.**

- A. Her **immediate** blessing was being delivered, but it was **conditional** on her having placed the scarlet cord in the window, entering into the house, and remaining in her house as the Israelites invaded Jericho. Josh. 6:22-23
  1. She did not have a choice which one of these three things **she** felt good about keeping, nor could she keep most of them and still be safe;
  2. She had to do **all** the commands that applied to her, as **we** are to keep **all** of God’s commandments for us in the gospel age.
- B. Her **ultimate** blessings were 2-fold.

1. 1<sup>st</sup>, she met Salmon, an Israelite, and became the mother of Boaz, grandmother of Ruth, great great grandmother of David the king, and was in the lineage of Jesus in His physical birth. (Matt. 1:5-6, 17)
2. 2<sup>nd</sup>, she is honored in the New Testament as an example of faith and works., Heb., 11:30-31; Jas. 2:24-25

#### **CONCLUSION**

- I. God also has a plan of salvation for us to follow before we are blessed with salvation, and given a place in His book of life.
  - A. Some make fun of us sometimes and call us “five steppers”, since there **are** truly 5 steps in His plan (Hearing, Believing, Repenting, Confessing faith, and Baptism), but their words are but mockery of the truth.
  - B. Our modern-day critics would have called the spies’ “three steppers” for requiring 3 things of Rahab (putting the scarlet cord in the window, entering into her house, and remaining in the house when the Israelites invaded Jericho).
- II. Our salvation and the hope of heaven are based upon **our** obedience to Christ. Heb. 5:8-9

**Don Tarbet**