

Rahab: The God-Fearing Prostitute

(Joshua 2 & 6:15-25)

I. **THE HOLINESS OF GOD**

A. **The Terror of God's Wrath**

1. **A Matter of Criminal Justice** — to protect victims and punish offenders
2. **A Matter of Public Health** — to stop epidemic contagion
3. **A Function of Love** — to protect and defend what is precious
4. **A Serious Reality** (Jn 3:36; Rom 1:18; Eph 5:5-6; 2 Pet 3:3-7)—He has done it before and He will do it again

B. **The Horror of Human Sin** (Gen 6:5, 11-13; Lev 18, Deut 18:9-12)

1. **Sin as a Moral Issue** (Deut 30:19)—rebellion, transgression; you're guilty and you need *forgiveness*.
2. **Sin as a Medical Condition** (Jer 17:9; Ezek 16:30)—disorder, affliction; you're sick and you need *therapy*.
3. **Sin as a Catastrophic Corruption**—insidious disorientation and malfunction of every aspect of our being; you're guilty, sick, *helpless*, and *dangerous*; you need forgiveness, healing, *rescue*, and *complete transformation*

C. **The Tragedy of the Human Condition** (Gen 3:16-19; Job 14:1;)

1. **Suffering is unavoidable.** (Job 5:7 & 14:1; Ecc 4:1-3)
2. **Death is inescapable.** (Ps 89:47-48; Ecc 3:18-20)
3. **Evil is insidious.** (Rom 8:6-8; Jam 1:14-15)—stealthy, deceptive, treacherous, deadly, spreading

II. **THE GOODNESS OF GOD** (Ps 145:8-9)

A. **His Intervention** (Gen 18:20; Ps 9:12)—**goes to war to save what is precious.**

1. **He hears the cry of the afflicted.**
2. **He avenges the blood of the innocent.**
→ Even God's wrath is a severe mercy to preserve humanity.

B. His Patience (Gen 6-7; Gen 15:16; Mat 13:28-30)—**He is slow to anger**

1. **God warns.** (2 Chron 24:19; Jer 25:4)
2. **God gives time to repent.** (Rom 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9)

C. His Mercy—He is kind and compassionate; it is impossible for us to be kinder or more compassionate than He is.

1. **He saves some.** (Gen 18:32; 2 Pet 2:9) – ***the righteous, the repentant*** (*Not racism or genocide; but eradication of rampant, localized, concentrated evil*)
2. **He does not hold our past against us.** (1 Cor 6:9-11) – Rahab is remembered for her faith, not her sins; contributed her DNA to the Messiah.

III. THE PROVISION OF GOD — Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World

A. The Lamb of God (Jn 1:29; Heb 9:22 & 10:19-22)—***the forgiveness of our sins;*** He paid the debt and purchased the salvation of everyone who would plead for the mercy of God through Him.

B. The Great Physician (Isa 53:5; Jer 17:9, 14; Ezek 36:25-27; Lk 5:31; 1 Pet 2:24)—***the healing of our souls;*** He does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

C. The Savior of Sinful Women (Mat 21:31-32; Jn 3:36; 1 Tim 1:15)

1. **Jesus took the wrath of God for us.** (Isa 53; Mat 26:42; Rom 5:6-11; 1 Cor 5:7 & 15:3; Gal 3:13; Heb 2:9; 1 Pet 2:24; Rev 5:9) Because of His great love, God, Himself, paid for our sin.
2. **Jesus brings salvation to people of every race.** (Isa 49:6 & 56:3-8; Acts 10:34-35 & 13:47; Eph 2:11-19) Rahab's salvation a foreshadowing of the gospel
3. **Jesus turns no one away.** (Joel 2:32; Rom 10:13; Acts 2:21; Jn 6:37) — Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Listen to "The Lord Is My Salvation" (Getty/Shane & Shane)

<https://youtu.be/NjOGX5zT8KU>

Lesson 4: Rahab

Read Joshua 2 and 6:15-25

1. Who is Rahab and what is her situation in life?

2. Read Leviticus 18 and list the sins of the Canaanites that defiled the land and caused God to decree their extinction.

3. Consider these additional biblical examples of God totally destroying an entire civilization because of its complete, horrific, unbridled wickedness: Genesis 6:5-13 and Genesis 19.
 - a.) Note how bad things had gotten.

 - b.) Genesis 19:13 notes the outcry against the people of this city going up before the LORD; who do you think was crying out against them?

4. How does Rahab show true faith in Israel's God?

5. How is Rahab remembered and honored in Scripture?
 - a.) Joshua 6:25—

 - b.) Matthew 1:5—

 - c.) Hebrews 11:31—

 - d.) James 2:25—

6. What does Rahab's story show us about the nature of God?

7. Is there anything that troubles you about God in this episode of history—anything that frightens you, that you feel is unjust, or that makes you question His character?

8. How does Jesus bring hope to the story of Rahab? (Isaiah 56:3-8; John 3:16-17; Acts 10:34, 44-48; Romans 5:6-11)