

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

“...we his servants will arise and build...”

“The Hope of the Harlot”

Josh. 2:9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

10 For **we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you**, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And **as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt**, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: **for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.**

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

13 And **that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. ...**

17 And the men said unto her, We *will be* blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

18 Behold, *when* we come into the land, thou shalt **bind this line of scarlet thread in the window** which thou didst let us down by: and **thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.**

19 And it shall be, *that* whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood *shall be* upon his head, and we *will be* guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head, if *any* hand be upon him. ...

21 And she said, According unto your words, so *be* it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and **she bound the scarlet line in the window.**

This morning we will begin a new series about “*building up our homes*” that will take us up to our “Home Coming Day” on October 20th. Please pray with me that the messages will motivate us to “Arise and Build” our families.

The Word of God gives us an account of a woman who is a very unlikely candidate to be recognized in any “Hall of Fame of Faith,” but yet, there she is in Heb. 11:31:

Heb. 11:31 By faith **the harlot Rahab** perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Rahab, plagued in the present by an unsavory lifestyle, found hope in the God of Israel.

We will look at Rahab’s situation, how God gave her an opportunity not to survive her grave future, but also be the source of delivery for her entire family. We will begin in Josh. 2:1:

I. THE INTRODUCTION TO AN UNLIKELY ALLY

Josh. 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. **And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.**

A. The Assignment – “... to spy secretly...even Jericho...”

B. The Avoidance – “...**And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.**”

Psa. 37:23 **The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD:** and he delighteth in his way.

Psa. 119:133 **Order my steps in thy word:** and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Prov. 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but **the LORD directeth his steps.**

- ❖ Rahab and the spies were unlikely allies. How much more is it a wonder that such a holy God would accept such sinners like mankind!

II. THE INITIATIVE FOR AN UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENT

A. Rahab Faced the Situation, 2:3

Josh. 2:3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

❖ When confronted by two evils, choose the greatest good.

Prov. 22:3 A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. (Prov. 27:12)

❖ Rahab risked her life to save the spies.

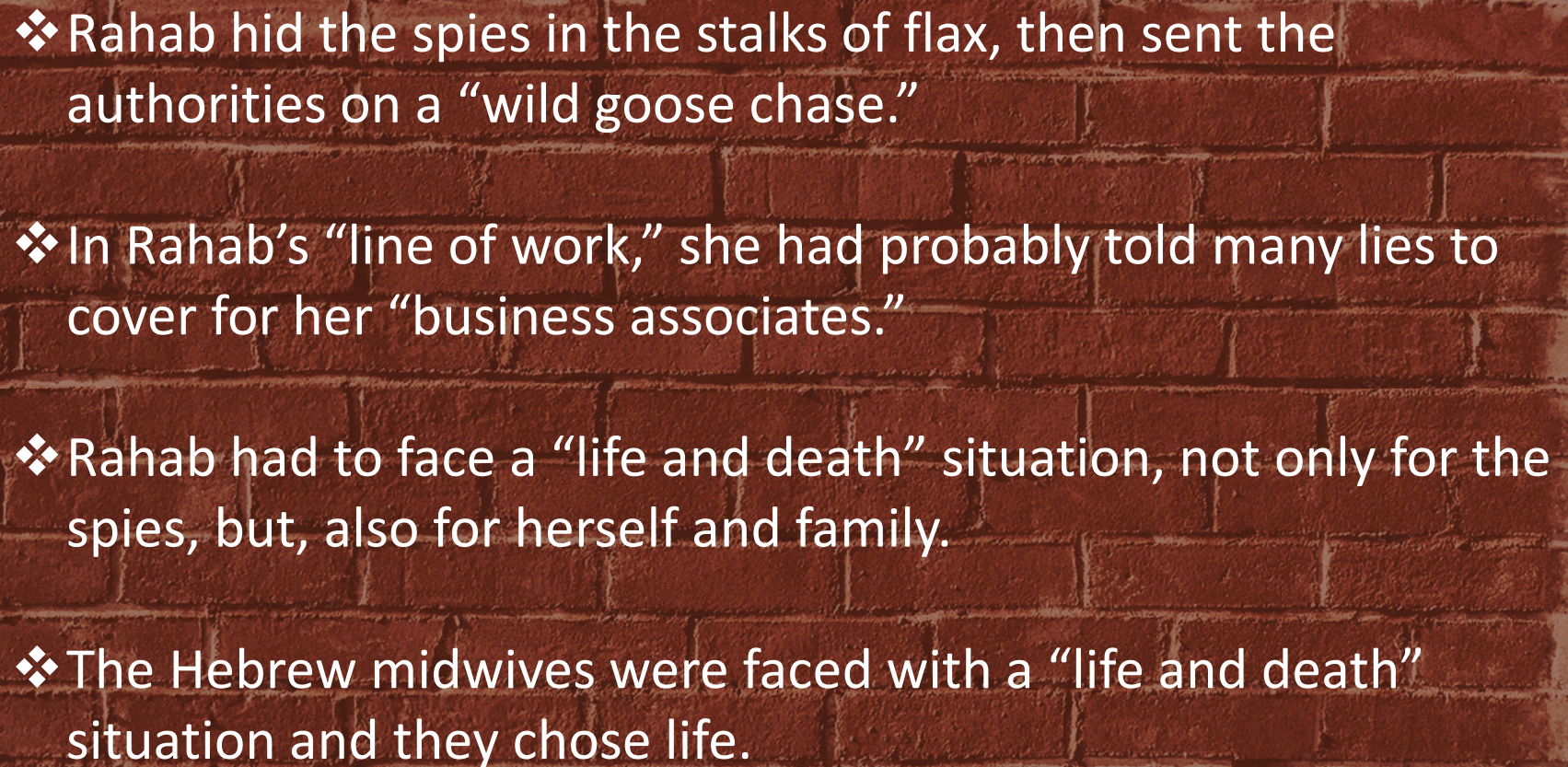
B. Rahab Found the Solution, 2:4-7

Josh. 2:4 And **the woman took the two men, and hid them**, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they *were*:

5 And it came to pass *about the time* of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: **pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.**

6 **But she had brought them up to the roof** of the house, and **hid them with the stalks of flax**, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

7 And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

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- ❖ Rahab hid the spies in the stalks of flax, then sent the authorities on a “wild goose chase.”
 - ❖ In Rahab’s “line of work,” she had probably told many lies to cover for her “business associates.”
 - ❖ Rahab had to face a “life and death” situation, not only for the spies, but, also for herself and family.
 - ❖ The Hebrew midwives were faced with a “life and death” situation and they chose life.

Ex. 1:15 And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:

16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; **if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him**: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live.

17 **But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.**

18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women *are* not as the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied and waxed very mighty.

21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

❖ Life situations must be faced, and solutions be found. (Prov. 3:5-6)

Jer. 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself:
it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Psa. 37:23 **The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD:**
and he delighteth in his way.

Psa. 119:133 **Order my steps in thy word:** and let not any
iniquity have dominion over me.

III. THE INTRICACIES FOR AN UNBELIEVABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Josh. 2:9 And she said unto the men, **I know that the LORD hath given you the land**, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land **faint because of you**.

10 For **we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you**, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And **as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt**, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: **for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath**.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

13 And **that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. ...**

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...

21 And she said, According unto your words, so *be* it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and **she bound the scarlet line in the window.**

A. Overcoming a Past

Josh. 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. **And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.**

❖ Throughout the Scriptures, Rahab is identified with her “profession.”

Jas. 2:25 Likewise also was not **Rahab the harlot** justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?

Heb. 11:31 By faith **the harlot Rahab** perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

B. Overwhelmed in the Present

Josh. 2:9 And she said unto the men, **I know that the LORD hath given you the land**, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that **all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.**

10 For **we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you**, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And **as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt**, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: **for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.**

❖ The testimony of God's deliverance of Israel impacted their generation.

❖ When our families and friends realize that God is working in our lives, we can be used of God to impact them, too.

Mt. 5:16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

C. Overjoyed at the Potential

Josh. 2:12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

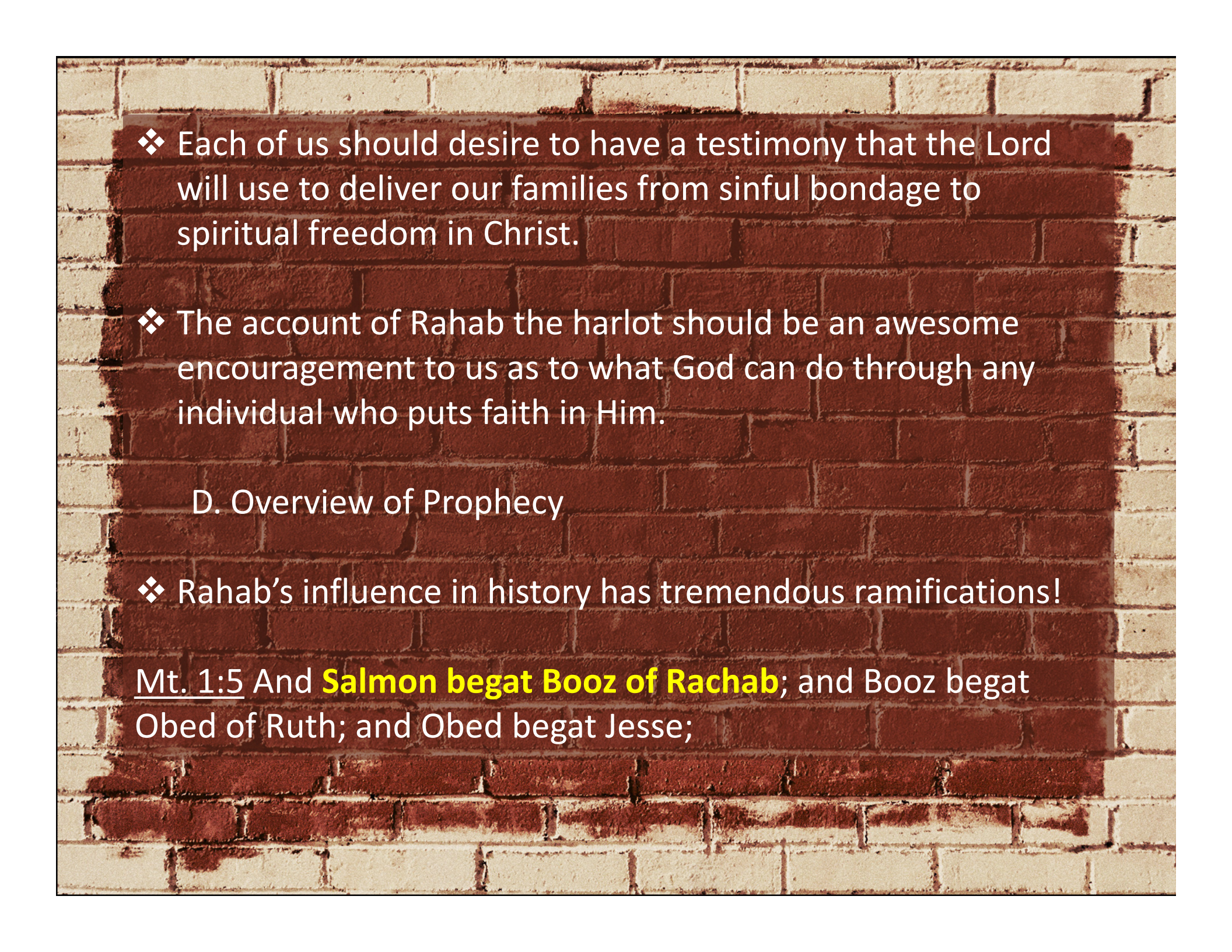
13 And **that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. ...**

❖ Rahab, an unlikely source, was the deliverer of her entire family.

Josh. 6:17 And the city shall be accursed, *even* it, and all that *are* therein, to the LORD: **only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that *are* with her in the house**, because she hid the messengers that we sent. ...

23 And the young men that were spies went in, and **brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred**, and left them without the camp of Israel. ...

25 And **Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel *even unto this day***; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

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- ❖ Each of us should desire to have a testimony that the Lord will use to deliver our families from sinful bondage to spiritual freedom in Christ.
 - ❖ The account of Rahab the harlot should be an awesome encouragement to us as to what God can do through any individual who puts faith in Him.

D. Overview of Prophecy

- ❖ Rahab's influence in history has tremendous ramifications!

Mt. 1:5 And **Salmon begat Booz of Rachab**; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;



Ruth 4:21 And **Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,**
22 And **Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.**

- ❖ Regardless of one's past, the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ can dynamically impact the present, but also, greatly impact the future.
- ❖ Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that due to your influence in your family, that a future preacher, missionary, will impact their generation for the glory of God!

Conclusion

- ❖ Rahab's faith in God produced a radical change in her life.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become new**.

- ❖ Her relationship with God also changed the lives of her family, forever.

Psa. 103:12 **As far as the east is from the west**, so far hath **he removed our transgressions from us**.

Isa. 38:17 **Behold, for peace I had great bitterness:** but **thou hast in love to my soul** *delivered it* from the pit of corruption: for **thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**

- ❖ Rahab, in Jericho, had no hope, but then God sent her a couple of messengers that changed her life forever.
- ❖ Her faith motivated her to impact OUR LIVES!

Prov. 13:12 **Hope deferred maketh the heart sick:** but *when* the desire cometh, ***it is a tree of life.***