



Persevering Faith Follows God Like Rahab the Harlot

Forty-Seven • Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2:1-21; 6:15-25

Why Stop to Study Rahab the Harlot?

1. We are a **COMPLEMENTARIAN** local church.
2. Rahab is the **CLIMAX** of the *personal examples and powerful events* in 11:4-31.

SEE CHART for Overview of Hebrews 11 So Far!

Persevering Faith Follows God to Victoriously Watch Him...

bring us out of sin's bondage (11:28, *Passover Celebration*),

to *bring us through* life's chaos (11:29, *Red Sea Crossing*)

to *bring us into* our promised inheritance (11:30, *Jericho Conquest*)

to *bring others out with us* to be His worshiping, wandering, weighing, and watching people (11:31, *Rahab's Conversion*)!

3. Rahab's **CONVERSION** is a powerful reminder that God is eager to save sinners – *anyone, anytime, anywhere!*

See HANDOUT: "Fifteen Ways Rahab Illustrates Persevering Faith"

Four Ways Persevering Faith Follows God Like Rahab the Harlot

1. Follow Rahab's Persevering Faith in the **PERSON** and Promises of God.

Background to Rahab's Conversion: *Joshua 2:1-13*

What Did Rahab Believe? *The Gospel as Revealed in the Old Testament So Far!*

- She believed that God is who He reveals Himself to be: The **I AM** God! (Joshua 2:9-12; Hebrews 11:6a)
- She believed that God will become the **REWARDER** of those who draw near to Him. (Joshua 2:8-9; Hebrews 11:6b)
- She believed in God's **PROMISES** in the Abrahamic Covenant. (Joshua 2:9; Hebrews 2:16; 6:13-18)
- She believed in the covenant **KEEPING** God of Israel and His coming Messiah! (Joshua 2:12-21; Hebrews 11:3)
- She believed persevering faith pleases God by **RESPONDING** as a sacrificial worshiper, relational walker, fearful worker, courageous weigher, and victorious watcher! (Hebrews 11:31)

2. Follow Rahab's Persevering Faith in Identifying with the **PEOPLE** of God.

Background to Rahab's Identification: *Joshua 2:14-21; 6:16-17, 22-25*

Rahab Identifies with God's People by Harboring Joshua's Spies – Joshua 2:1-7, 6:25

- **HANDS OVER** insider information on whether Jericho was a military threat.
- **HIDES** the spies and lies to her king like the Israelite midwives and Moses' parents.
- **HELPS** them escape the city and evade their pursuers.

3. Follow Rahab's Persevering Faith to Be Saved from the **PUNISHMENT** of God.

Rahab Watched God Save Her Despite the Odds

- **HARDENED** odds considering the hard hearts of the Canaanites. (Joshua 6:17-25; Genesis 15:13)
- **HELPLESS** odds considering Israel's Passover celebration and the Red Sea crossing. (Joshua 2:19-21)
- **HOPELESS** odds since they were facing the LORD, who rules over heaven above and the earth below. (Joshua 2:10-11)
- **HELL-BOUND** odds because Rahab - *like every human born* – deserved God's wrath. (Hebrews 9:27)
 1. Her **PROFESSION** was immoral.
 2. Her **LOCATION** was ironic.
 3. Her **DESPERATION** was inclusive.

4. Follow Rahab's Persevering Faith Because It **PRESERVES** You for Salvation.

"But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul!"
Hebrews 10:36

Only Those Who Persevere Are Preserved for Salvation Through Judgment.

- Forever known as a **TROPHY** of God's grace that went from *harlotry* to *royalty*! (Ruth 4:13-22; Matthew 1:5, 16)

"It is as though God intended this genealogy to say, 'Oh, Christ is the kind of person who is not ashamed of sinners—in fact he even puts them in his family tree.'" – Martin Luther
- Forever known for a persevering faith that *saves, obeys, and* **WORKS!** (James 2:20-26)

"Unhappily, some people ask, '*But is it fitting that this woman should become a princess in Israel and an ancestor of Christ?*' I would reply with all the strength that is in me: it is most fitting! In having been unfaithful to the Creator, is not the whole human race a harlot? The truth is that we are all prostitutes in the sight of God. The wonder of the Bible is that God saves people like this."
– Francis A. Schaeffer, *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History*

Fifteen Ways Rahab Illustrates Persevering Faith to Motivate and Active Us to Persevere by Faith to Salvation Through Judgment!

1. Faith is the reality of things hoped for (11:1a): *By faith Rahab believed that even she – a Canaanite woman who was a prostitute – could be and would be saved by the Lord!* (Joshua 2:12-13; 6:17, 24-25)
2. Faith is the evidence of things unseen (11:1b): *By faith Rahab heard the same news about Israel (celebrating Passover/Exodus, crossing Red Sea, conquering two kings) as all the citizens of Jericho, but she saw the unseen God and His unseen salvation through judgment before it happened!* (Joshua 2:9-10; 6:17, 24-25; cf. Hebrews 11:27)
3. Faith receives God's testimony of pleasing Him: *By faith Rahab's name is mentioned three times in the New Testament as God testifies of His approval of her!* (11:2; Hebrews 11:31; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25; cf. Joshua 6:17, 24-25)
4. Faith is demonstrated on stage of this fallen creation that God created out of nothing (11:3): *By faith Rahab's confessed that "the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."* (Joshua 2:11)
5. Without faith it is impossible to please God for one must believe God is who He reveals Himself to be (the "I AM" God who is the LORD!) and will be the Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (11:6): *By faith Rahab confesses four times that the God of Israel is the "LORD" and seeks Him and the reward of His eternal inheritance!* (Joshua 2:9-12)
6. By faith God's people please Him by being sacrificial worshipers who relationally walk with God and fearfully work for God (11:4-7): *By faith Rahab is closely tied to Abraham, the friend of God, who worshipped and walked with God and her faith is praised for working!* (Joshua 2:21; 6:17; James 2:19-26; 6:25)
7. By faith God's people obediently wander as sojourners who are longing and looking for the coming City of God (11:8-12, 17-19): *By faith Rahab heard God's call and left Jericho, the City of Man, to become an obedient wanderer in the midst of Israel like Abraham and his fellow heirs!* (Joshua 6:25; cf. Hebrews 11:9)
8. All these died in faith without receiving the promises but saw them and welcomed them from a distance, because they desired a better fatherland, so God is not ashamed to be called their God (11:13-16): *In faith Rahab died having welcomed the Israelite spies in peace and knowing God was never ashamed to be called "the God of Rahab" – a Canaanite woman and a harlot!* (Joshua 6:17, 25; Hebrews 11:31; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25)
9. By faith God's people are far-sighted and pass on a legacy of persevering faith to bless future generations (11:20-22): *By faith Rahab passed on a living legacy of persevering faith to bless future generations in the lineage of Jesus!* (Ruth 4:13-22; Matthew 1:5)
10. By faith God's people courageously weigh the cost of choosing God over the world (11:23-28): *By faith Rahab was a courageous weigher like Moses and his parents who hid God's people, chose to identify with God's people, stayed in her home with the scarlet cord in her window, and went out of Jericho through judgment!* (Joshua 2:1-21; 6:17, 24-25)
11. By faith God's people victoriously watch as God saves them through judgment against all odds (11:28-31): *By faith Rahab watched as the walls of Jericho fall all around her and she was brought out, brought through, and brought into God's people!* (Joshua 2:17-21; 6:15-25; esp. 6:25)
12. By faith God's "righteous ones" live by faith and refuse to shrink back to destruction (10:36-39): *By faith Rahab lived by looking for the coming One and never turned back to destruction!* (Joshua 6:25; Hebrews 11:31; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25)
13. By faith God's people serve according to His creation design of complementarity where men lovingly lead and women respectfully submit (11:11-12): *By faith Rahab embraced God creation design like Sarah – the only other woman to be named in the Hall of Faith! God did not call her to be a patriarch like Abraham or to lead like Moses or Joshua, but she was equal in worth and faith (Joshua is not even named here!). By faith she fulfilled her role as woman according to God's creation design.* (Hebrews 11:31; cf. Sarah in 1 Peter 3:1-7)
14. By faith God's people unite what they hear about God and persevere with God's people to enter His final rest and their future salvation, unlike the unbelieving wilderness generation (3:7–4:10): *By faith Rahab entered into God's physical rest in the Promise Land as she united her faith with the likes of Joshua and Caleb, while still waiting with them for God's eternal rest through the better Joshua, Jesus the sinless God-Man and eternal Priest-King!* (Joshua 6:25; Hebrews 11:39-40; 12:1-3)
15. By faith God's Old Covenant people persevered to partially receive what God had promised (11:33), but they did not receive the better New Covenant fulfillment in Jesus Christ (11:13, 39) and will not be perfected without us (11:40): *By faith Rahab persevered and will be perfected with us in Jesus, the pioneering Trailblazer and Perfecter of faith, and she will join us in the City of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem!* (Hebrews 10:36; 12:1-3; 22-24)

*"And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect."
Hebrews 11:39-40*

Hebrews 11 • By Persevering Faith Keep Moving Forward to God’s Final Rest and Our Future Salvation!						
Point	11:4-7 Persevering Faith PLEASES GOD Despite the Culture!	11:8-22 Persevering Faith OBEYS GOD Despite the Unknown!	11:23-28 Persevering Faith CHOOSSES GOD Despite the Cost!	11:28-31 Persevering Faith FOLLOWS GOD Despite the Odds!	11:32-38 Persevering Faith	11:39-40 Persevering Faith
Progress	PRIMEVAL PROTOTYPES <i>Pleasing Worshipers</i> <i>By Faith</i> ABEL Worshiped Sacrificially <i>Martyred in Testing!</i> <i>By Faith</i> ENOCH Walked Relationally <i>Raptured After Testing!</i> --- Intermission --- <i>Without Faith</i> IT’S IMPOSSIBLE to PLEASE GOD Must Believe God Is the “I AM” and Become the Rewarder of All Who Draw Near --- Continuation --- <i>By Faith</i> NOAH Worked Fearfully <i>Delivered Through Testing!</i>	PATRIARCHAL HEIRS <i>Obedient Wanderers</i> <i>By Faith (3x)</i> ABRAHAM & SARAH Wandered Obediently into the Deadly Unknown STEP OUT When Called! LIVE OUT as Wanderers! REACH OUT for God’s Ability! --- Intermission --- <i>In Faith</i> ALL THESE FELLOW HEIRS Died Without Fulfillment Wandering Patiently HOLD OUT Until Death! See and Welcome the Promises from a Distance as Confessing Pilgrims! --- Continuation --- <i>By Faith</i> ABRAHAM Wandered Obediently into the Face of Death RULE OUT Compromise Even If Deadly! Willing to Sacrifice a Future Legacy in Resurrection Hope! <i>By Faith (3x)</i> ISAAC, JACOB, JOSEPH Wandered Far-Sightedly Beyond Death STAND OUT at the Finish Line of Death! Wanting to Bless a Future Legacy in Resurrection Hope!	PROPHET-MEDIATOR <i>Courageous Weighers</i> <i>By Faith</i> MOSES’ PARENTS Weighed Courageously to Resist Compromise with Worldly Laws RESIST by Not Fearing Worldly Authority! CHOOSE Risk Over Safety! <i>By Faith (3x)</i> MOSES Weighed Courageously to Refuse Carnality of Worldly Living REFUSE by Looking Forward to Heavenly Reward! CHOOSE Reproach Over Status! Weighed Courageously to Reject Cohabitation with a Worldly Land REJECT by Not Fearing Worldly Anger! CHOOSE Unseen Ruler Over Seen! Weighed Courageously to Rest in the Refuge of the Passover Sacrifice from the LORD of Lords REST in the Fear of God Who Forgives and Frees! CHOOSE Redemption Over Slavery!	POWERFUL DELIVERANCE <i>Victorious Watchers</i> <i>By Faith</i> CELEBRATING PASSOVER SACRIFICE Watched Victoriously Despite Hardened Odds BROUGHT OUT by Passover Blood, While Unbelieving Firstborns Were Destroyed! <i>By Faith</i> CROSSING the RED SEA Watched Victoriously Despite Helpless Odds BROUGHT THROUGH on Dry Land, While Stronger Enemies Were Swallowed Up! <i>By Faith</i> CONQUERING JERICHO’S WALLS Watched Victoriously Despite Hopeless Odds BROUGHT IN by Worship, While the Disobedient and Their Walls Perished! <i>By Faith</i> CONVERTING RAHAB the HARLOT Watched Victoriously Despite Hell-Bound Odds BROUGHT OUT from Being Destroyed and BROUGHT INTO God’s People, Having Received God’s Promise and Welcomed God’s People!		
Problem	RESISTED Corrupt Perversion	RESILIENT in Continual Predicaments	REJECTED Cultural Pressure	RESOLVED Conflicting Possibilities		
Passage	Genesis 4–11	Genesis 12–22 / 23–50	Exodus 1–13	Exodus 11–Joshua 6	Judges–Malachi	Old Covenant Good Promises in the Christ! New Covenant Better Fulfillment in Jesus!

By Persevering Faith Rahab Went from Harlotry to Royalty

JOSHUA & RAHAB Compared & Contrasted • Joshua 1–6

RAHAB & ACHAN Compared & Contrasted • Joshua 2, 6, 7

Male	Female	Female	Male
Jew By Faith Enters His Inheritance!	Gentile By Faith Becomes an Heir!	Gentile By Faith Becomes an Heir!	Jew Dies Without His Inheritance!
Israelite	Canaanite By Faith Becomes an Israelite!	Canaanite By Faith Becomes an Israelite!	Israelite
Covenant Keeper	Law Breaker By Faith Becomes a Covenant Keeper!	Practices Immorality But Identifies with God's People by Treasuring God!	Professes Morality But Identifies with Ungodly People by Treasuring Idols!
Draws Near to God	Far from God Will Draw Near to God!	Sinner Against God But Used of God in the Battle!	Soldier for God But Ultimately a Traitor in the Battle!
Bought by God In the Passover/Exodus!	Sells Her Body Will Be Bought in Mini-Passover!	Obedient	Disobedient
Conquers for God Yet Conquered by the Captain of the Lord's Army! Both Joshua and Rahab Were Sinners Saved by Grace Through Persevering Faith in the Promised Seed Yet to Come – the Better Joshua! Together as a Man and Woman in This Story They Complement and Complete One Another According to God's Creation Design in Redemption!	Conquered by God Yet Conquered by the Captain of the Lord's Army!	Faithful	Faithless
		Draws Near to God	Falls Away from God
		Repented of Sin	Rebelled in Sin
		Confessed Her Sin	Covered His Sin
		Saved Her Family at Least Physically	Cursed His Family at Least Physically
		Delivered Through God's Judgment	Destroyed by God's Judgment

All Three Were Sinners but Only Two Had Persevering Faith that Did Not Disobey and Fall Away, While the Other Disobeyed by Unbelief and Was Destroyed Like the Citizens of Jericho and Suffered God's Judgment.

"But My righteous one shall live by Faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul." Hebrews 10:38-39