

Rahab – Conceals Men from Tribes of Israel

In the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament we meet a woman named Rahab. The Israelites were camped on the outskirts of the Promised Land awaiting the time to enter. They knew that a fortified city named Jericho just across from the Jordan River would stand in their way. Joshua, who had taken the place of Moses as the leader of the people, sent two men to spy out the land, especially Jericho. They came to the house of Rahab, who was a prostitute. Rahab knew about the Israelites crossing of the Red Sea before their forty-year wilderness trek in the desert, and she recognized God as the true and only God. The king of Jericho heard of the spies and came to Rahab to ask her if they were in her house. She made the decision to hide the two men sent by Joshua in the flax of her roof. The people of Jericho were frightened because they knew that God had given the Promised Land to his people. Rahab was promised by the two spies that she would be taken care of when the Israelites came into the land. God needed to again help the Israelites cross a body of water before they could enter the Promised Land. Joshua followed God's command and gathered the people and prepared to cross the Jordan River. God divided the waters of the river for the people and sent the Ark of the Covenant ahead. God had told Joshua to have a man from each of the twelve tribes to take a stone from the river and carry it over to the dry land. They were to place the stones in Gilgal where they camped after crossing the Jordan. Those stones are said to remain today as a way of telling generations to come that the people of Israel crossed over to enter the Promised Land at this place. Rahab was saved when the walls of the city of Jericho fell just as she was told.