



A study in Joshua 2

“For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Matt 7:13-15

Rahab, Saved by Faith

God's Hall of Faith – Hebrews 11

- Enoch – Who Walked with God
- Abel – Who Offered God a Sacrifice by Faith
- Noah – Who believed God and built an Ark
- Abraham – Who went wherever God commanded him



and

- Rahab – Who was a prostitute
- “By faith, the harlot Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient...” Hebrews 11:31





Who Was Rahab?

- She was indeed a harlot
 - Two words for harlot in Hebrew
 - One is for a temple prostitute – Canaanite and Amorite worship was based on sex and fertility rites
 - The word used for Rahab indicates that her motive was monetary
 - She was living alone. Only prostitutes lived alone.
 - Likely a teenager who was supporting her family
 - 1 Cor 6:9-11
 - Living in Jericho, a fortress city
 - Part of a people marked for destruction by God for their wickedness
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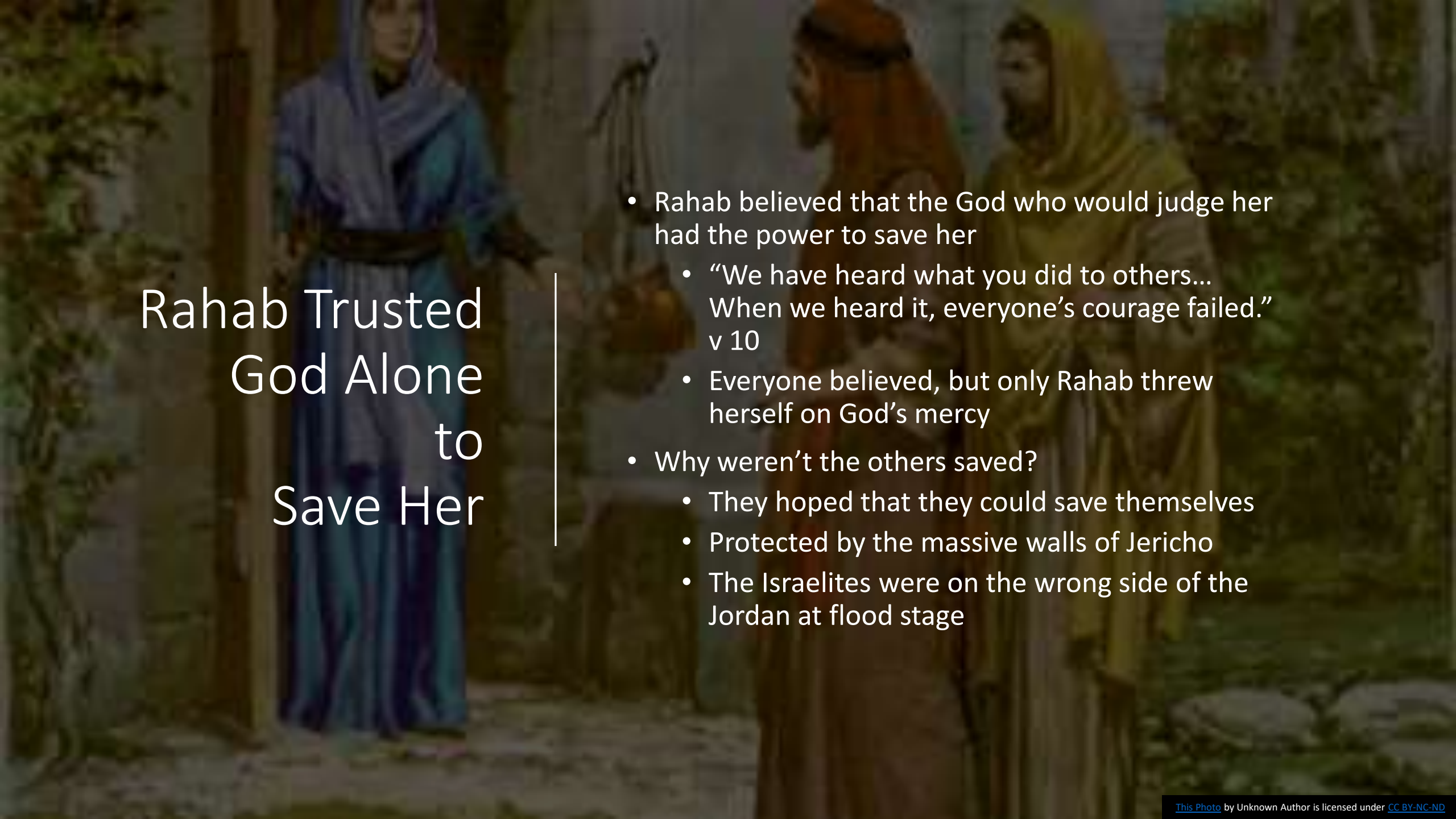
The Two Spies

- Discovered and followed shortly after entering Jericho
- Sought refuge at the home of someone who could be bought
- They had been seen and they knew they had been seen
- Most likely the spies were Caleb and the High Priest, Eliezer.



Rahab Believed

- Rahab believed that God would destroy Jericho
 - “I know that the Lord has given this land to you...” v 8
 - She believed that all would be killed. V 13
 - It was this knowledge that made her turn to God
 - “For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.” v 11
- It is God’s nature to destroy sin
 - In the time of Noah
 - In the days of Lot
 - In the days of Jesus, he prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem Luke 21
- Rahab believed that God was a holy and just God who had the ability and intention of judging sinners



Rahab Trusted God Alone to Save Her

- Rahab believed that the God who would judge her had the power to save her
 - “We have heard what you did to others... When we heard it, everyone’s courage failed.” v 10
 - Everyone believed, but only Rahab threw herself on God’s mercy
- Why weren’t the others saved?
 - They hoped that they could save themselves
 - Protected by the massive walls of Jericho
 - The Israelites were on the wrong side of the Jordan at flood stage

Evidence of Rahab's Faith

- Rahab trusted in God alone
 - She did not trust the word of the spies
 - "Swear to me in the name of the Lord..." v12
- She not only believed, she acted on that belief.
 - "By faith, Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient." Heb 11:31
 - "Was not Rahab considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?" James 2:25
 - Welcoming Jericho's enemies was a capital offense.
- She gave the spies intelligence regarding Jericho's defenses.
 - "All the people are melting in fear". V 11





Three More Things to Do to Be Saved

- Endure in her faith without changing her mind
 - At war with her culture with no friends but God
 - Two weeks from the spies' departure until the Israelite attack
- Display the scarlet rope in her window
 - The red rope was the sign of her trade on her front door
 - The sign for sin became the sign of salvation
- Be in the house with her loved ones when the Israelites attacked.
 - A type of the Passover and of Jesus death and resurrection



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The Result of Rahab's Faith

- Her faith was vindicated.
 - All of Jericho perished except Rahab's family
 - Joshua 6:25
- Rahab was more than saved, she was transformed.
 - An ancestor of David and Jesus. Matt 1:5
 - No longer a harlot, she became a princess
 - Married Salmon, the son of Nahshon, called the Prince of the tribe of Judah
 - Blessed with an exceptional and godly child, Boaz, the husband of Ruth
 - Since Boaz was a wealthy landowner, we can presume his mother was as well



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Rahab Teaches Us About God

- God does punish evil
- But he will save anyone who turns to him and trusts him
- Today it is not the scarlet thread we trust, but the blood of Jesus
- Rahab had only one way to be saved, as do we.



Like Rahab, We Need a Savior

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

John 3:16-17

- Jesus is like the spies at Rahab’s door
“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone opens the door, I will come in and sup with him.”

Rev 3:20