

Joshua 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

I know that the LORD hath given you the land—Rahab's confession is remarkable: a Canaanite prostitute declares theological certainty about Yahweh's sovereign purpose. The verb yada (יְדָה, 'to know') indicates not mere opinion but settled conviction. Her faith grasped what Israel often forgot: God's promises are irrevocable (Numbers 23:19).

Your terror is fallen upon us (אִימְתָּקָם, eymat'khem)—This 'dread' or 'terror' fulfills Exodus 15:16 and Deuteronomy 2:25, where God promised to place His fear upon Canaan's inhabitants. Rahab's testimony proves that Jericho's resistance was not ignorance but rebellion against known truth. She becomes a model of saving faith (Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25), proving that grace reaches even Canaanite harlots who trust God's word.

Historical Context

Rahab spoke circa 1406 BC as Israel camped at Shittim before crossing Jordan. Jericho, a fortified Canaanite city, had heard reports of Israel's Red Sea crossing (40 years prior) and recent Amorite victories. Canaanite religion involved temple prostitution, making Rahab's profession culturally accepted but morally abhorrent to Yahweh's holiness standards.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Rahab's faith—confessing truth and acting on it despite personal risk—challenge superficial Christian profession today?
2. What does God's inclusion of a Canaanite prostitute in Messiah's lineage (Matthew 1:5) reveal about grace and the gospel?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת אָמַר	נָתַן הָ	יְהִי הָ	וְאֵת אָמַר	נָתַן	כִּי יְדַעְתִּי	בְּאָנָשָׁים אֲלֵי	וְאֵת עָתִי	בְּאָנָשָׁים אֲלֵי	וְאֵת אָמַר
And she said	H413	H376	I know	H3588	hath given	that the LORD			
	H559			H3045		H5414			H3068
לְכָה מִ	אֵת לְכָה מִ	וְאֵת כִּי	וְאֵת כִּי	וְאֵת כִּי	וְאֵת כִּי	וְאֵת כִּי	וְאֵת כִּי	וְאֵת כִּי	וְאֵת כִּי
H0	H853	of the land	H3588	is fallen	and that your terror	H5921	H3588		
	H776		H5307		H367				
בְּמַמְּנוּנָה	בְּמַמְּנוּנָה	וְיִשְׁבֶּה	וְיִשְׁבֶּה	בְּאֶרֶץ	מִפְנִיכֶם:				
faint	H3605	upon us and that all the inhabitants	H3427	of the land	because				
H4127				H776	H6440				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:27 (Parallel theme): I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

Deuteronomy 2:25 (Parallel theme): This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

Psalms 115:16 (References Lord): The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

Psalms 112:10 (Parallel theme): The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Job 19:25 (Parallel theme): For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

Jeremiah 27:5 (Parallel theme): I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

Ecclesiastes 8:12 (Parallel theme): Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Genesis 35:5 (Parallel theme): And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

Joshua 2:11 (References Lord): 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.