

Joshua 6:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive—The verb chayah (חַיָּה, 'to preserve alive') echoes God's preservation of Noah (Genesis 7:3) and Joseph's family (Genesis 45:7). Rahab's salvation was comprehensive: herself, her household, and possessions. **She dwelleth in Israel even unto this day**—This editorial note confirms the account's early composition and Rahab's permanent integration into Israel.

Matthew's genealogy places Rahab as ancestress of David and Christ (Matthew 1:5), demonstrating how God's redemptive plan embraces repentant sinners regardless of ethnic or moral background. She married Salmon, a Judahite prince, picturing the church as Gentile bride grafted into Israel's olive tree (Romans 11:17-24). Her scarlet cord (Joshua 2:18) becomes a beautiful type of Christ's blood securing salvation.

Historical Context

Rahab's integration into Israel was extraordinary in the ancient Near East, where conquered peoples were typically enslaved or expelled. Her marriage to Salmon (Ruth 4:20-21; 1 Chronicles 2:11) suggests her high standing. Jewish tradition

holds she married Joshua himself, though Scripture indicates Salmon. Her story occurred circa 1406 BC during the conquest's opening phase.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Rahab's inclusion in Christ's genealogy encourage those burdened by past sins or shameful backgrounds?
2. What does her permanent dwelling 'in Israel' teach about the church's call to embrace and integrate converted outsiders?

Interlinear Text

בְּקָרְבָּן שָׁבַת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ הַחֲנִינָה לֹא הָיָה

אֵת הַחֲבֵד יָאָה כִּי הַזֶּה עַד יִשְׁרָאֵל
because she hid even unto this day because he hid
H853 H3588 H2088 H5704 H3478 H3117

אֶת	לְבָגָל	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	שֶׁל	חָשֵׁר	בְּמַלְאָכִים	יְמִינָה
the messengers	H834	sent	And Joshua	to spy out	H853	Jericho

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:31 (Parallel theme): By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Matthew 1:5 (Parallel theme): And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

James 2:25 (Parallel theme): Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

Joshua 2:6 (Parallel theme): 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.

Acts 2:21 (Salvation): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Joshua 4:9 (Parallel theme): And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.
