

Hebrews 11:30-31

The conquest of Jericho was a miraculous event that was done by an act of God through the faith of Joshua and the Israelites. In the first chapter of Joshua we are given God's "recipe" for success. It mirrors what we are told about faith in Hebrews 11:1. Success is not making a lot of money, being a chief executive in a company, attaining athletic accomplishments, or a myriad of other pursuits the world offers.

Rahab is one of the more unlikely people to be included in this chapter of faith(ful) people. Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and others in this chapter we can understand - but, Rahab? Rahab reminds us that God's blessing of our lives and satisfaction with our life with Him is not only for the "giants" of faith such as Abraham, but also include those like Rahab - a Gentile, prostitute.

30 **By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.**

"By faith..." - Joshua 1:5,9

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:7-8 - the key to spiritual success is faith

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Substance is the word of God - "book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night"

Evidenced in your life - "observe to do according to all that is written therein"

- 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest **observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left**, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.
- 8 **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:** for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. [bold added]

Joshua 2:1 - two spies were sent to view (map) the land

And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there

Joshua 2:23-24 - the two spies give a positive report

- 23 So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them:
- 24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

What is this positive report based upon?

Genesis 15:18

In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Jeremiah 32:37-42; Ezekiel 36:24; Amos 9:14-15

Joshua 3:1-3 - three days of preparation

- 1 And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.
- 2 And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host;
- 3 And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it.

Joshua 3:15-17 - the Jordan was dried up

- 15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)
- 16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.
- 17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan

Joshua 4:23-24 - the reason why the Jordan was dried up

- 23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:
- 24 That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever..

Joshua re-established circumcision (Joshua 5:2-8); Passover was observed (Joshua 5:9-10)

"...the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days."

Joshua 5:13-15 - a visit from the Angel of the Lord

- 13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?
- 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?
- 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

"It is the same One who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, to Abraham at Mamre, to Jacob at Peniel and to others afterward. It is Jehovah in visible form. These theophanies were surely not incarnations, yet they foreshadowed the incarnation of the Son of God." Arno Gaebelin's Annotated Bible

Genesis 16:7-13

- 7 And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.
- 8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.
- 9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.
- 10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.
- 11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.
- 12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.
- 13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

Genesis 18

- vs. 2 Abraham hosts three men
One of these men is Jehovah - vs. 1,13,22
- vs. 20-21 LORD promised to go down to Sodom and Gomorroh
- vs. 22 LORD stayed before Abraham but the men went down to Sodom and Gomorroh
These two men were angels - 19:1

Genesis 32:29-30

29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Isaiah 37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Judges 13:3, 16-22

3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

16 And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD.

17 And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?

18 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?

Secret = פלאי pil-ee; see Isaiah 9:6 wonderful = פלא peh'-leh

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called **Wonderful**, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Psalm 78:12 Marvelous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

Marvelous things = פלא peh'-leh

פלא peh'-leh - speaks of the miraculous nature of His works

19 So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.

20 For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.

21 But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD.

22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

Joshua 6:2-5 - the command of God

2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him

Joshua 6:6-20 - the response to God's command was to follow His word exactly
(Consider Saul, 1 Samuel 15, who didn't follow God's word exactly)

Joshua 6:27 - "So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country."

31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Joshua 2:1-22

Rahab was a prostitute (Leviticus 20:10; Proverbs 5:3-5; 7:21-27 - God hates this sin)

Rahab was loved by God (John 3:16)

"By faith..." Rahab believed God's word:

The promise of God's word - Joshua 2:9 (see Genesis 15:18)

- 9 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.

The power of God - Joshua 2:10-11

- 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.
- 11 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."

The mercy of God - Joshua 2:12-21

Unsaved people need to believe God's word

The promise of God's word - Romans 10:9-13

- 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
- 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.
- 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The power of God - Romans 10:9

- 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

The mercy of God - Romans 10:12,13

- 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.
- 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

"...Rahab perished not with them that believed not,..."

Joshua 6:20-25 - Rahab and her family was saved and lived in the land of Israel

- 25 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.

Rahab was in the lineage of the Messiah - Matthew 1:5-6

- 5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;
- 6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;