

sinking.” When Honest reached the river he found that in the Lord its destructiveness had been broken, and went through shouting “grace reigns.” So are all the seas and rivers; through faith we walk above them. And so a believer is to be distinguished by their buoyancy. We may confront the stormy sea, always on top of the circumstances. Paul said “always confident,” and what a time to display such buoyancy. What an opportunity to witness to the Lord’s power.” {End of quoting Brother Hill’s note.}

MARK 6:51 & 52 finishes this **midnight** Bible story, and explains the point of why they were given this **midnight** test on a stormy sea. MARK 6:51 *And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. 52 For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.* MATTHEW 14:32 & 33 ends this **midnight** Bible story stating: *And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.* JOHN 6:21 concludes this **midnight** Bible story saying: *Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.* When Jesus entered their ship, their test was immediately over, and *...immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.*

So as we finish this **midnight** Bible story we must ask ourselves “as I journey life’s trouble sea, who is there in the ship with me?” Remember what we learned in HEBREWS 12:2 it is Jesus who is the *...the author and finisher of our faith...* so it is Jesus who ordained the obstacle race course we are to run upon. It is also Jesus who ordered the stormy sea, who also holds the winds in his fist. He is the solution to all of our problems, a theme repeated over and over again throughout scripture. Thus we are to be continually *...Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.*

Rahab and the Two Spies

One of the **midnight** Bible stories concerns Rahab and the two spies. These three, Rahab and the two spies, share in a most profound **midnight** Bible story told in JOSHUA 2. Remember as we go through this that the darkest of times brought forth the hero’s of faith, and JOSHUA 2 tells one such **midnight** Bible story. Rahab’s testimony is found in this chapter as well as the testimony of the two spies. Their encounter on that particular **midnight** left us many lesson about the grace of God. One of these lessons is found in 2 PETER 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.* This is just one fact highlighted in our **midnight** Bible story found in JOSHUA 2.

In JOSHUA 2 we are introduced to Rahab, who is mentioned by name eight times in scripture. Before we look at her **midnight** Bible story note the following important points concerning her, of which there are several. The very first time we read of Rahab is in JOSHUA 2:1 *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.* The first thing that we are told of Rahab in scripture is that she was a harlot, and no effort is made to conceal this fact. The Apostle Paul in his mention of her in HEBREWS 11:31 calls her *...the harlot Rahab...* . James in JAMES 2:25 calls her *...Rahab the harlot...* . Five of the eight times in scripture that we read of Rahab’s name we find mentioned that she was a harlot. By now you should know that five is the number of GRACE, and that *...by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...* {EPHESIANS 2:8}. Rahab is also one of five women mentioned in the lineage of Christ in MATTHEW 1, thus underlining some facts concerning grace. The Bible student who studies the background of the five women mentioned in the lineage of Christ will certainly come away from that study with a greater appreciation of just what the grace of God is. In ROMANS 3:23 we read: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* and in ROMANS 5:12 we find a similar statement: *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* Rahab certainly knew that she was a sinner, but God, who is no respecter of persons, knew her heart, and that in her heart she believed in the living

God of Israel. We read one account of her confession of faith in JOSHUA 2:11 where Rahab told the two spies in that **midnight** Bible story ...*for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.*

Again it is worthy to note that Rahab is mentioned eight times in scripture. The number eight has five different meanings: (1) NEW CREATION; (2) NEW BIRTH; (3) NEW BEGINNING; (4) RESURRECTION; and (5) in a subtle way the number eight points us to the BRIDE. For sure the Holy Spirit wants us to see in the life of Rahab the grace of God, and thus the fact that Rahab was a harlot is mentioned five times. Rahab has her own verse in HEBREWS 11:31 where she is listed among the Old Testament worthies of faith! One of the end results of her faith was that she got to be a bride, marrying a prominent Jew. Is that not the goal that many of us have in mind, that is to marry the most prominent Jew of all, Jesus? Rahab, a Gentile, got to marry a prominent Jew, Salmon, and from this union came Boaz, from whom came Obed, who begat Jesse the father of King David, from whose lineage came Mary the mother of Jesus Christ!

Rahab's name means "wide" or "breadth" and in this sense shows us the expanse of the grace of God. In ROMANS 8:35-39 we find the width and breadth of God's love explained by the Apostle Paul. ROMANS 8:35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* In a prayer of Paul's found in EPHESIANS 3 he prays: 17 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.* In essence this is what Rahab's life exemplifies, which is to say that she serves as an example of what it is to be all that you can be in God's army. Sister Bodie notes that the true meaning of her name is "enlargement" because she claimed much in faith from the Lord including the salvation of her whole household.

We have introduced Rahab, and now we will introduce the two spies by noting that the word "spies" is found fourteen times in scripture just like the word "**midnight**" is found fourteen times in scripture. Again fourteen is the number pointing to DELIVERANCE or SALVATION, and both of these themes are emphasized in JOSHUA 2. Rahab sought SALVATION, and the two spies needed DELIVERANCE from the king of Jericho. Rahab aided the spies helping them obtain DELIVERANCE that **midnight**, and the two spies promised Rahab DELIVERANCE from death when in the coming days Israel would conquer Jericho. And as we noted above Rahab claimed much in faith from the Lord including the SALVATION of her whole household.

We are not given the names of the two spies in this **midnight** Bible story of JOSHUA 2, and yet much is revealed about them as we consider what is said concerning the two spies. JOSHUA 2:1 is divided into two sentences. The first sentence of JOSHUA 2:1 introduces the two spies in this **midnight** Bible story, and the second sentence introduces us to Rahab. JOSHUA 2:1 *And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho.*

Before we say more about the two spies let's consider a couple of thoughts concerning Joshua the son of Nun. Joshua's name means "Jehovah is salvation." In ACTS 4 the Apostle Peter full of the Holy Ghost specifically speaks to the Jewish Sanhedrin about Jesus Christ of Nazareth and tells them in verse 12: *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* So we see here in JOSHUA chapter 2 that Joshua is a type of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Rahab pictures a sinner in JOSHUA 2, which we all once were, who recognizes her desperate need of salvation. The two spies also are figurative of something, which point we will get to shortly.

Again JOSHUA 2:1 tells us that Joshua sent out two men to spy secretly. Joshua himself some forty years earlier was a spy in the days of Moses, and that experience had taught him a few things. First of all there didn't need to be a big send off in front of all of Israel about the fact that they were going to send spies into view the land even Jericho. Secondly there didn't need to be twelve spies because two is the number of SUFFICIENT TESTIMONY, or SUFFICIENT WITNESS, thus this time two spies were sent out. Joshua remembered vividly that he and Caleb were previously the two spies who gave sufficient testimony that the Lord was able to give the children of Israel the land of Canaan. The third point that we notice here is that these two spies were sent out secretly, and are chosen secretly by Joshua as spies. This fact may not readily be apparent by just reading verse 1, thus we need to look at verses 23 and 24 of JOSHUA 2 to appreciate the secrecy involved here. JOSHUA 2:23 *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.* So we see that there is a trinity here in Israel, (Joshua and the two spies), which knew secret things concerning the people of Jericho. In PSALMS 44:21 we read that God *...knoweth the secrets of the heart.* DEUTERONOMY 29:29 states: *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.* We are not given the names of these two spies anywhere in this story, but we are told certain things about them. Here in JOSHUA 2:1 we see that these two unknown spies were told to "go view the land, even Jericho," and as we read the story we find that they were faithful to do so. These two unnamed spies, we will find shortly in our story, came to Jericho and lodged at Rahab's house.

We are told in JOSHUA 6:23 that these two unnamed spies were "young men." Also we are told in JOSHUA 6:17 and in JOSHUA 6:25 and in JAMES 2:25 that these two young men are called messengers, which is to say ambassadors from Israel! Wait a minute here, we just went over how that these two spies were secretly chosen by Joshua, and were secretly sent to "view the land, even Jericho," thus they could not be messengers broadcasting the secret intentions of Joshua and Israel, could they? No, not exactly, so we need to examine these three scriptures a little closer and see how it was that these two spies could be called messengers, and see who they were messengers to, and then when we find all of this out a deeper meaning will be revealed to us in this **midnight** Bible story. JOSHUA 6:17 reads: *And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.* JOSHUA 6:25 *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.* JAMES 2:25 *Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?* The New Testament word used in JAMES 2:25 translated "messenger" means "a messenger, an envoy, one who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God." The Old Testament word used in JOSHUA 6:17 and 25 means "messenger, representative, ambassadors, and angel." It should then be obvious that these spies were received by Rahab as messengers from God, which in fact is exactly what they were to Rahab. In previous studies we have mentioned this about Church Apostles noting that they were delegates, messengers, men sent forth with orders from the Lord, who also were filled with the Holy Ghost, who yielded their lives to the leading of the Holy Ghost. In our **midnight** Bible story of JOSHUA 2 these two spies are not Apostles, but in one sense are figurative of the Church Apostles, who were sent forth to minister unto the Gentiles. Rahab, of course, was a Gentile. Rahab "received the spies with peace" HEBREWS 11:31 tells us, in other words she received the messengers sent forth with orders from Joshua, and she received them with peace. Our messenger, the Apostle Paul, was sent forth with orders from the Heavenly Joshua, and His orders to Paul were specific: *I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their*

eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. {ACTS 26:16-18}. On a mission to those Gentiles to whom he had been sent the Apostle Paul one day came to a Philippian jailor one **midnight**, who in ACTS 16:30 asked this most important question: *Sirs, what must I do to be saved?* And the messengers Paul and Silas said ...*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.* Similarly in our lesson, Rahab received her messengers from Joshua, and realized that she too need to be saved, and confessed to them in JOSHUA 2:11 ...*the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.* In short she believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and she was saved along with her house. She had accepted the messengers sent from Joshua, and believed their message that Joshua was coming soon.

Let's look at some more things concerning these unnamed spies, who are also called messengers. In fact messengers may be the best term to describe these two "spies," for a little closer look at JOSHUA 2:2 & 3 reveals that these "spies" were not very good at concealing their identity or their mission. JOSHUA 2:2 *And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country.* 3 *And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.* So here we see that the king of Jericho even knew that the two men Joshua sent out in secret to Jericho to spy, were in fact come to Jericho to spy, and we are twice told here both in verse 2 and verse 3 that their mission was "to search out all the country." In fact the reason that the king of Jericho knew this was because others of Jericho had saw these so called secret spies, and had saw them go into the well watched house of Rahab. It seems everyone in Jericho paid attention to who went in and out of the house of Rahab. So we note that the better term to describe these spies may be "messengers," for even the king of Jericho knew that these two young men from Israel had come as spies ...*to search out the country...* Surely the king of Jericho must of thought it would be easy to catch these two young men acting as spies, for after all even he the king of Jericho knew who they were, and where they were, and the mission that they were on.

God also knew the mission that these two young men were on, and it was a "messenger - spy" mission, with the emphasis being on messenger. We must note that these two young messengers were sent specifically by the Lord to Rahab's house to bring her salvation, because God aforetime had seen her faith, and that is the prominent testimony that we also need to especially note of Rahab, her faith. We have already noted in our introduction of Rahab that God also wanted us to know without a doubt that Rahab was a harlot by the mention this fact in five of the eight scriptures where we find her name, but God also wants us to go way beyond that fact and realize that God indeed ...*is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him...* ACTS 10:34 & 35. What is the big lesson that God wants us to learn from the testimony of Rahab, and the others mentioned in HEBREWS 11? *Without faith it is impossible to please him...* HEBREWS 11:6. God states in JEREMIAH 17:10 *I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.* God, who knows all and sees all, knew the heart of Rahab, and saw that she had the faith to trust in Him, and so that her faith would be highlighted, and not the fact that she was a harlot, God has her mentioned by name in HEBREWS 11:31. Further to emphasize Rahab's life of faith God has her again named in MATTHEW 1:5 to be forever remembered as one of the grandmothers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! (Of course there is no way she would have known that, but we do!)

Scripture records who Rahab married. His name is Salmon, or Salma. MATTHEW 1:5 is the one best scripture that ties all of this together for us: *And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab...* As we will see shortly, Salmon would be considered a prominent man in Israel, and no doubt a man of some considerable wealth. Salma's name means "garment" or "raiment." ISAIAH 61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.* We have noted that the scripture doesn't specifically say who these two young spies were. However I offer conjecture that one of the two

spies was Salmon. The logic that brings me to this conclusion comes from the following facts. We know from RUTH 4:20 (and other scriptures {see 1 CHRONICLES 2:11}) that *...Nahshon begat Salmon...*, and 1 CHRONICLES 2:10 tells us that Nahshon was a prince of the children of Judah. NUMBERS 1:16 also notes that these princes *...were the renowned of the congregation, princes of the tribes of their fathers, heads of thousands in Israel*, and again NUMBERS 1:7 specifically lists Nahshon as one of these princes (*Of Judah; Nahshon the son of Amminadab*). The pattern for sending out spies was listed in NUMBERS 13. NUMBERS 13:1 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. 3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.* Joshua along with Caleb were two spy (rulers) in Moses' day who gave a good report concerning the land of Canaan. Now here in JOSHUA 2 with Joshua in charge we find him sending out *...two men to spy secretly...*, and if he followed the pattern set before him of Moses, he would send out men who were heads of the children of Israel, and certainly Salmon (Salma) fits this description being the son of a prince of Israel. Salmon would have been raised to be a man of considerable responsibility and good leadership qualities. In other words Salmon would be thought of as a man of considerable honest character. Later in the book of RUTH we again read about the prominence of the family of Salma, when we read of his and his wife Rahab's son Boaz. RUTH 2:1 *And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth... ..and his name was Boaz.* RUTH 4:20 *...Nahshon begat Salmon, 21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, 22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.* Recall also that one of the two spies of Joshua's spying days who along with Joshua gave a good report was Caleb of the tribe of Judah. To my way of thinking Joshua would be comfortable sending out another devoted man, a ruler like Caleb, from the tribe of Judah. Salmon was of the tribe of Judah, the son of a prince of the tribe of Judah, a fact noted in 1 CHRONICLES 2:10 & 11. Do these facts indicate that Salmon was one of the two spies Joshua sent out? No, but they certainly favor characteristics of Salmon. JOSHUA 2:23 & 24 gives some more of the characteristics of the two spies, one being that they gave a good and full report of all that happened unto them. JOSHUA 2:23 *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.* The good part of the report that the two spies gave Joshua was that *...Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land...*, showing that the spies believed the Lord also. The full part of their report found in verse 23 notes that they told Joshua *...all things that befell them...*. In telling *...all things that befell them...* we must note that nothing was left out in their story, which also shows the honesty of these two spies. Think about this for a moment. The two spies were sent out secretly by Joshua to *...Go view the land, even Jericho...* JOSHUA 2:1, and the next thing you know they are found in the house of a harlot! Do you think that this is something that the two spies want to go back and tell Joshua about? The mission of the spies was to *...go view the land, even Jericho...*, and I don't think that Joshua intended for them to go visit the house of a harlot, but they did, and the reason that they did was, as Sister Bodie so wisely put it, "because the Lord directed them there." You may say to yourself, "you mean to say that the Lord directed the two spies to go to the house of a harlot?" And the answer is yes He did, and the reason He did was many fold. One primary reason was to show us the far reaching grace of God, and that we shouldn't have our eyes focused on others, or the actions of others, but rather have our eyes focused on Him; that is to have our faith in Him. PSALMS 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.* ISAIAH 46:9 and 10 tells us that God knows and declares *...the end from the beginning...*, so surely God knew the end result of the spies visiting the house of the harlot Rahab. It was Rahab who gave the spies the information that they were seeking, thus making it impossible for the two spies to go back to Joshua and not mention the fact that they had indeed visited the house of a harlot. Again these spies were received by Rahab as messengers from God, which in fact is exactly what they were to Rahab. The point that needs to be

noted here is that these two spies were of honest character, thus they didn't withhold telling Joshua any of the events which befell them in Jericho. The scripture records in JOSHUA 2 only the events of these two spies at Jericho when they were with the harlot Rahab! The two spies made a deal with Rahab, and this was a life or death deal concerning Rahab and her household. The two spies, had they not been of honest character, could have easily forgot about this deal, but God wouldn't have it that way, for recall also that these two spies were in fact to Rahab, Ambassadors sent from God! This deal that they made with Rahab was told Joshua, who took upon himself the responsibility to keep the promise that these two spies had made. The deal was this as stated in JOSHUA 2:12 where we find Rahab speaking: *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. 14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. ...17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. 18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. 19 And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. 20 And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.* We mentioned earlier that these two spies were of honest character, and, having now made a promise to Rahab, show that they are also of a responsible character. The two spies told Joshua every thing that happened unto them on their spy mission including the promise they made unto Rahab, and, as we previously mentioned, Joshua took upon himself the responsibility to keep the promise that these two spies had made. But this was a shared responsibility between the two spies and Joshua. It is not hard to imagine that one of the spies may have felt a deep affection for Rahab, or even fell in love with her. Rahab had in fact identified herself with the two young men from Israel by hiding them from the men of Jericho, an act of faith that did not escape the eyes of God, and I am sure did not escape the attention of the two spies either. I suppose that the two spies, being of responsible and honest character as they were, slept a little uneasy after their return from Jericho unto Israel having a deep concern that they would be able to fulfill their promise to Rahab. No doubt they had reminded Joshua (maybe even daily) of this fact, so Joshua gave the two spies some important life or death instructions concerning Rahab, which are found in JOSHUA 6. JOSHUA 6:22 *But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. 23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.* Note here in verse 23 that it was "they" the two young spies who went in and brought out Rahab and her family, and left them all without the camp of Israel. The two spies were the main ones of Israel who had contact with Rahab and her family at least up to this point in time. The two spies and Rahab must have all be so glad to see each other again, her safety having been a relief to all of them. JOSHUA 6:25 notes this fact by stating: *And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had;... .* But that is not all JOSHUA 6:25 tells us, for we find that there was more to say concerning Rahab herself, thus we read: *...and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.* One of the meanings of that word "hid" is "to draw together." JAMES 2:25 notes that Rahab "received the messengers," and that word "received" here means "to receive as a guest." The Apostle Paul in HEBREWS 11:31 notes that Rahab "received the spies with peace," and one of the meanings of this Greek word to "receive" is "to receive into one's family." Obviously Salmon the prominent Jew of honest and respectable and responsible character received Rahab into his family for MATTHEW 1:5 records of the fact that Salmon had married Rahab. Was Salmon one of the two spies? Well that's a

secret that only God can answer, and in so doing He would reveal who the secret “spy - messengers” were. My conjecture is that one of the two spies was Salmon, but only God knows for sure.

We have now said much about the characters of this **midnight** Bible story, Rahab and the two spies, so let’s get to the rest of the story. JOSHUA 2 starts out telling about Rahab in Jericho living her life of sin, for up to this point in time she has been an unbeliever. What has been her testimony, her manner of life, her purpose up to this point in time? It is stated in JOSHUA 2:1 that she was a harlot; in other words a worldly woman living the life of sin in a worldly city. The city she was living in was Jericho, which was about to be utterly destroyed by God, as is told in JOSHUA 6. Jericho strategically was the key city to the land of the Canaanites being situated at the entrance of two passes through the hills, one leading to Jerusalem, and the other leading to Ai. Jericho was a walled city with it’s own king located about five miles west of the Jordan river, and about seven miles north of the Dead Sea. In DEUTERONOMY 34:3, JUDGES 1:16 & 3:13, and 2 CHRONICLES 28:15, Jericho is called *...the city of palm trees...*, and was no doubt an attractive city to see. There are a couple of different meanings that come from the root word for Jericho. One meaning is “the moon” or “its moon,” and was so named because Jericho was the seat of Canaanite moon worship. God had strictly forbid the children of Israel from participating in such moon worship in His instructions unto them in DEUTERONOMY 4:19 and 17:3, (and in many other scriptures), for they were a redeemed people who were instructed of God in EXODUS 20:3 to *...have no other gods before me*. We too are a redeemed people, *...bought with a price...* 1 CORINTHIANS 6:20 & 7:23, and that price being *...the precious blood of Christ...* . 1 PETER 1:18 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.* As redeemed people our instructions concerning worship are simple, for we are to *...worship God...* {see REVELATION 19:10 & 22:9}. GALATIANS 5:19 - 21 tells us of the works of the flesh, and is a defining statement concerning those who are worldly. GALATIANS 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* The city Jericho was a worldly city. Jericho has a second meaning that comes from the root word for Jericho, which is “the place of fragrance,” picturing as Sister Bodie notes “the savor of a sweet smell to man.” Brother Hawkins in his study book on LUKE states that “Jericho depicts the world and the fragrant deceptions of Satan.” Jericho was the first city to be conquered in the land of Canaan by the children of Israel. Sister Bodie also notes: “the fall of Jericho is a wonderful figure of the world as already judged by the cross of Calvary.” In JOHN 16:33 we read these words of Jesus: *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* So we see that Jericho pictures the world, which is mightily influenced by Satan. This fact is probably best explained by the Apostle Paul in EPHESIANS 2:1 & 2, which reads: *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:...* . Thus we note that Rahab was a worldly woman living in a worldly city, dead in trespasses and sins.

JOSHUA 2:1 *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. 2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. 3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.* We have already noted how it was that the Lord directed the spies to the

house of Rahab, and the reason was many fold. ROMANS 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.* We also pointed out that the two spies really weren't that good at concealing their identity, for as noted in verses 2 & 3 that even the king of Jericho knew that there were men of Israel in the house of Rahab, and further he knew that their mission was *...to search out all the country.* So it is apparent that nearly everyone in Jericho knew that there had come into their city spies from Israel. Rahab too knew that these two young men were from Israel when she took them into her house. Some commentators note that many very learned men are of the opinion that Rahab was an innkeeper or hostess even possibly a tavern keeper, and note also that it wasn't uncommon among the ancients for women to be the ones who generally kept houses of entertainment. We know from verse 1 that the two spies, for whatever natural reason, ended up lodging in the house of Rahab the harlot. Again it was the Lord that directed the spies to the house of Rahab. To Rahab God sent messengers (a term used of the spies in JOSHUA 6:17 and JOSHUA 6:25 and in JAMES 2:25), because God knew Rahab's heart. We cannot always see in our observation of others is their heart attitude, however this is not the case with God. 1 SAMUEL 16:7 reads in part: *...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.* In JOSHUA 2 we see that God, in His own unmistakable glorious fashion, directed the two young spies unto the house of Rahab where they obtained lodging. Now if you think about it for a minute from Rahab's perspective, here is an excellent opportunity to make some money, or in the least show some loyalty to her fellow citizens of Jericho by turning over the spies unto the king. But JOSHUA 2 verse 4 tells us that Rahab did something entirely different for these two young God directed strangers from Israel: *4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them,...* . Why did Rahab hide the two spies? In answering this most important question we will see the change of heart that made the harlot Rahab famous as an Old Testament worthy of faith.

We find in JOSHUA 2:11 Rahab simply believed in her heart that the Lord God is God in heaven above and in earth beneath, and she wanted to identify herself with God's chosen people, which of course was Israel. JOSHUA 2:11 shows Rahab's heart felt attitude concerning God when she states: *... for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.* By faith Rahab saw these two young men from Israel as her ticket out sinful wicked Jericho, which again figures the world. So Rahab *...took the two men, and hid them,...* JOSHUA 2:4. HEBREWS 11:31 doesn't explain all of the particulars concerning Rahab, but simply notes: *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.* This word "hid" is found four times in the story of Rahab, (JOSHUA 2:4; 2:6; 6:17; and 6:25), and carries with it three different meanings. The meaning of the word "hid" here in verse 4 is to hide, to treasure, to treasure up, to be hidden, be stored up, and to hide from discovery. The Hebrew word translated "hid" here in JOSHUA 2:4 is tsaphan, *tsaw-fan'* number 06845 in The Strong's Hebrew Concordance, which is found 33 times in the Old Testament scriptures. 33 is the number of PROMISE, and certainly Rahab was looking for a promise from the Lord, and from the two spies as is noted JOSHUA 2:12 & 13, which reads: *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.* By faith, that is by believing God, and believing God had a chosen people, Rahab treasured up the two spies from Israel. By treasuring up the two spies from the children of Israel, Rahab took her place among God's chosen people.

The fact that Israel is God's chosen people is further explained in the following portions of scripture. EXODUS 19:3 *And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. 5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children*

of Israel. DEUTERONOMY 7:6 *For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. 7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;... . DEUTERONOMY 14:2 *For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth. PSALMS 135:4 *For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure. Jesus stated in MATTHEW 6:21 and LUKE 12:34 *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* Again note that Rahab treasured up the two spies from Israel, and by doing so she identified herself as one of God's chosen people too, and took her place with the children of Israel.***

We now should better see that the heart of Rahab was right toward God, and that her heart was for the people of God. That is why the Bible notes in two different New Testament scriptures the fact that Rahab received the two young men from Israel with peace. HEBREWS 11:31 *...Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.* We noted previously that one of the meanings of the word received here was "to receive into one's family." JAMES 2:25 tells us that Rahab *...had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way.* We also noted earlier that word "received" here means "to receive as a guest." By now it should be clear that Rahab was identifying herself with the children of Israel, God's chosen people. This same word used in JOSHUA 2:4 translated "hid" in our King James version is also found in PSALMS 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

In JOSHUA 2:6 we find the word "hid" again, this time with a different meaning. JOSHUA 2:6 *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.* The word "hid" used in this 6th verse is taman *taw-man'* number 02934 in The Strong's Hebrew Concordance, and means to hide, conceal, bury, and secretly laying. PROVERBS 25:2 tells us: *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter,* and certainly we can see a parallel here in Rahab's story.

The third meaning of that word "hid" found in JOSHUA 6:17 & 25. JOSHUA 6:17 *And the city (Jericho) shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. JOSHUA 6:25 *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.* The Hebrew word translated "hid" in these two scriptures is different that the Hebrew word translated "hid" in JOSHUA 2:4 (tsaphan), and (taman) found in JOSHUA 2:6. Here in JOSHUA 6:17 and 25 the Hebrew word translated "hid" is chaba' *khaw-baw'* number 02244 in The Strong's Hebrew Concordance, which is also found 33 times like tsaphan in JOSHUA 2:4. Chaba' here in JOSHUA 6:17 and 25 carries with it the thought of "to draw together." Certainly Rahab "drew together" with the two spies, thus identifying herself again with the children of Israel, and more importantly identifying herself as one who believes in the God of Israel.*

Let's pause here for a moment in this **midnight** Bible story and once again marvel at the way the Holy Spirit has so inspired the writers of scripture. In looking at this word "hid" in the Hebrew, twice we have found a different Hebrew word translated "hid" 33 times. When we did our study on the meanings of some of the different numbers we found that the number 33 had to do with PROMISE. It is no accident that Holy Spirit inspired the writers of scripture to use two different Hebrew words 33 times, both which are translated into the King James English "hid." God wants us to see something "hidden" here concerning His promises unto us. HEBREWS 6:18 tells us that it is *...impossible for God to lie...*, and just prior to this statement we read in HEBREWS 6:13 *For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself.* 2

CORINTHIANS 1:20 tells us; *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen,...* . And in 1 JOHN 2:25 we read of His promise concerning us: *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.* Concerning eternal life Paul wrote to Titus in TITUS 1:2 *...eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began...*, and in 2 TIMOTHY 1:1, (which was written approximately at the same time), Paul wrote: *...the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,...* . The Apostle John wrote in 1 JOHN 5:11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* Jesus Christ is the Son of God spoken of here, and Jesus Christ lived upon this earth that He created 33 years; 33 again is the number of PROMISE. This takes us back to 1 JOHN 2:25 *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.* The Apostle Paul also makes reference to the Holy Spirit of promise in EPHESIANS 1:13 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.* {The following few verses briefly review the promise of the Holy Spirit, and there are many other verses which could be added to these few. LUKE 24:49 *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* ACTS 1:4 *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.* ACTS 2:1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ...8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ...12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? ...32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.}*

JOSHUA 21:45 tells us that: *There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.* And 1 KINGS 8:56 states: *Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.* Do you think God wants us to believe His unfailing promises unto us? Certainly YES!

What are God's unfailing promises given to us, believers living in the final hours of this Church Age? We just referenced a few of God's unfailing promises starting with the promise of eternal life, (1 JOHN 2:25), which God promised before the world began, (TITUS 1:2), which promise is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour (2 TIMOTHY 1:1), who has also sent us the promised Holy Ghost to guide us into all truth (ACTS 2, and JOHN 16:13). Jesus' last words here on earth contain this promise found in ACTS 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:...* . Have you received the promised Holy Ghost since ye believed? In ACTS 1:11 after a cloud received Jesus into heaven we read a promise made by the two men that stood by in white apparel, who said *...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.* Paul acknowledged this promise in the following often quoted portion of scripture found in 1 THESSALONIANS 4. 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.* This is a promise, Jesus is coming again! Another promise of God is found in HEBREWS 13:6 *...I will never*

leave thee, nor forsake thee... which is a quote taken from DEUTERONOMY 31:6 and 8, and JOSHUA 1:5 and 9. Here's another promise given unto the Apostle Paul to write unto us found in PHILIPPIANS 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* Paul wrote a lot of what we can claim by faith as promises to us in ROMANS 8, and concludes that chapter by writing this statement/promise in ROMANS 8:38 & 39 -- *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Here's another statement/promise found in PHILIPPIANS 2:13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* These few verses just begin to scratch the surface of what His unfailing promises unto us are.

We were brought to this topic of considering some of God's promises to us because of two Hebrew words in our **midnight** Bible story of Rahab and the two spies that are translated as "hid" 33 times, and 33 is the number associated with PROMISE. Again concerning Rahab JOSHUA 6:17 and 25 both use this same word "hid" (chaba' *khaw-baw'* number 02244 in The Strong's Hebrew Concordance) 33 times in scripture, and it is found in the phrase *...she hid the messengers...*, which we noted earlier means she hid the ambassadors sent unto her from God. Now if an ambassador from God, which is a representative of God, comes unto you and makes a promise, then isn't it up to God to keep that promise? Again certainly YES! This is how the two spies were received by Rahab, as ambassadors from the God who cannot lie, as ambassadors from the God who cannot fail, as ambassadors from the God who cannot forsake, and as ambassadors from the God who cannot be against us. Now you may say that Rahab didn't count the two spies as ambassadors from God who made promises unto her, but JOSHUA 2:12 tells us differently, where we read: *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD...* which is to say "Now therefore, I pray you make a solemn promise unto me by the LORD." We will consider more of these promises to Rahab later Lord willing, but for now note that Rahab by faith was holding God the one responsible for keeping the promises made unto her. HEBREWS 11:31 and 33 indicates to us that Rahab was among those Old Testament worthies of faith who by faith "*obtained promises,*" and these promises were God's unfailing responsibility to keep. ROMANS 4:20 tells us that Abraham *...staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*... and the same certainly could be said of Rahab. Let's read and put HEBREWS 11:1 and 2 and 33 and 34 together: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.* In short Rahab became one of the Old Testament hero's of faith because, by faith, she believed the promises of God.

The word "faith" is only found twice in the Old Testament. Scofield in his notes explains in his comments on PSALMS 2:12 that the Old Testament word "trust" is the same as the New Testament word "faith" or "believe." PSALMS 2:12 in part reads: *...Blessed are all they that put their trust in him...*, to which we of the New Testament times can also read as "Blessed are all they that put their faith in him." Let's now read one more Old Testament scripture found in RUTH 2:12 -- *The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust...*, which could be also read by those of us living in New Testament times, ..."under whose wings thou art come to believe," or ..."under whose wings thou hast faith." Who made this statement found in RUTH 2:12? Boaz. Who was Boaz's teacher of such truth, and of such faith? Possibly and probably his mother, and who was Boaz's mother? Rahab! Are you beginning to see how it was that Rahab, who obtained promises, was such a wonderful testimony of faith, and was left as one of the examples to encourage our faith? Since we have been highlighting "promises" and "faith" here, let me give one more New Testament promise that parallels somewhat the story of Rahab's faith. In ACTS 1:10 & 11 we find (if you will) two ambassadors from heavenly Joshua's camp with a promise of hope to the New Testament believers who put their faith in Christ Jesus, and this promise is found in the middle of ACTS 1:11 *...this same Jesus, which is taken up*

from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. In her day Rahab was looking for the soon coming of Joshua, (and the children of Israel). In our day we too should be looking for the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour and Bridegroom Jesus Christ.

So far in this **midnight** Bible story we have given much background information concerning Rahab, and the two spies. We have pointed out how Rahab displayed her faith in God by her actions of hiding, or treasuring up the two spies from the children of Israel, thus identifying herself also among God's chosen people. She did not want to identify herself as an enemy of God, or an enemy of God's chosen people, so she *...received the spies with peace...* as HEBREWS 11:31 states. And HEBREWS 11:31 also identifies the harlot Rahab as a woman of faith proving that *...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also...* as is stated in MATTHEW 6:21 and LUKE 12:34. The majority of the things that we know about Rahab's heart attitude is told in JOSHUA 2:4-21, all of which took place at a dark **midnight** hour. Rahab risked her neck in this **midnight** Bible story in hiding what she correctly perceived by faith the ambassadors sent by God unto her house! She afforded them protection from Jericho's king, and believed that they would in turn be able to protect her from the impending destruction of Jericho by the power of the Lord.

As we read on here in JOSHUA 2:4-6 we will see that Rahab manifests the marks that the course of this world has left upon her. JOSHUA 2:4 *And the woman took (one translation here read "had taken") the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: 5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. 6 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.* In these three scriptures we find four lies. Lie (1) *...There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were.* Lie (2) *...And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out.* Lie (3) *...whither the men went I wot not.* Lie (4) *...pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.* Up to this point in time in Rahab's life this has been her manner of life, her testimony if you will, and it goes right along with yielding to our sinful old man. Our old man bares within the marks of the course of this world. Earlier we referenced EPHESIANS 2:2, which reads: *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:...* . The prince of the power of the air is none other than Satan himself. JOHN 8:44 in part makes this statement concerning Satan: *...When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* It is a fact that in this world we are surrounded everywhere we look by lies simply because Satan, the prince and power of the air and father of lies, works the course of this world. One of the biggest marks of our old man is lying. When we get saved we are to put on the new man found only in Christ Jesus and take on His manner of life. The Apostle Paul states it like this in EPHESIANS 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* Two verses prior to this Paul wrote: EPHESIANS 4:22 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation (manner of life, conduct, behavior, deportment) the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.* Also Paul wrote in COLOSSIANS 3:9 *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.* Again in ROMANS 6:6 Paul wrote: *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Rahab up to this point in time has obviously been serving sin. But this hiding of the spies also shows that a change of heart has taken place in Rahab's life. Sister Bodie notes that: "heretofore she had lied to protect or further her own interests; but now she lies for the good of others." Remember as we go through this that Rahab received the "messengers" with peace, and that their message boiled down to this; Joshua is coming soon for the Lord has given us this land, and we are come to *...tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved...* ACTS 11:14. And Rahab knew that these men were messengers of truth. EPHESIANS 4:21 tells us that *...the truth is in Jesus.* The Apostle John speaking of John the Baptist wrote in JOHN 5:33 *Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.* Jesus Himself stated in JOHN 14:6... *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no*

man cometh unto the Father, but by me. And again in JOHN 8:32 Jesus made this statement: *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* Rahab never heard these words spoken by Jesus, and yet she, by faith, did, for when the spies spoke to her they spoke words of truth, and she knew that they were speaking the truth, thus she received them as messengers of truth (see JAMES 2:25), and received them in peace (see HEBREWS 11:31). Receiving the messengers of truth in peace shows that a change of heart has taken place in Rahab's life. Brother Copley in his notes on JAMES makes the following statement concerning Rahab, which is relevant to this point in time of our lesson: Rahab "lied to the city authorities; for she hid the messengers in the loft of her house, but informed the authorities that they had left the city. How could God justify a harlot and a liar? This is how. He justifies the ungodly who believeth; and every man is ungodly until he believes. We all were sinners and ungodly until we believed on Jesus, no matter how amiable, how sweet, and how kind we may have been in the natural 'All have sinned; there is none good, no, not one.' {see ROMANS 3:10 & 12; 3:23; and 5:12}. All men need a Redeemer, a Savior. God delivered Rahab from death, not because she 'quit her meanness,' but because she believed in the God of Israel." (End of quote from Brother Copley). Again quoting from Sister Bodie and her comments on the book of JOSHUA she states: Rahab "hides the spies; identifies herself with them in their danger because she believes that these men have told her the truth. She has faith in their word, which is the Word of God, and thereby she has her name enrolled upon His Hall of Fame." PSALMS 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* The authorities of Jericho believed these lies of charming Rahab, and in JOSHUA 2:7 we read: *And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.* We could say that Rahab here nearly *...turned to flight the armies of the aliens.* (HEBREWS 11:34). The point that we have been emphasizing in this portion of the lesson is that there has been a change in heart in the life of Rahab, and that she has identified herself with the children of the living God.

Note this portion of text found in JOSHUA 2:6 concerning Rahab and the spies, she *...hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.* Rahab's hiding the spies - messengers in the stalks of flax pictures to us (among many other things) the fact that *...your life is hid with Christ in God...* COLOSSIANS 3:3. *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness...* EPHESIANS 4:24. Let's spend a few moments here focusing upon the stalks of flax, and what they represent. In simple terms stalks of flax equates to linen; that is the stalks of flax are the raw material from which comes fine linen, and we will talk about that process in a moment. In REVELATION 19:8 we read this statement concerning the Bride of Christ: *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.* Note that the scripture doesn't say "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in stalks of flax, clean and white: for the stalks of flax is the righteousness of saints," for there is a refining process that takes place to transform the "stalks of flax" into "fine linen." Let's follow the process here from "stalks of flax" to "fine linen," and I think we will see a wonderful transformation. Linen speaks of righteousness. Let's also note that the day one is saved they are found in His righteousness, and are as righteous as they will be if they go on to qualify to be in the Bride of Christ. PHILIPPIANS 3:9 *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:...*

Here is the process by which "stalks of flax" are transformed into threads of "fine linen." First the flax plant in order to be made into linen had to be fully mature, that is full grown. It would have bloomed by the time it is fully mature. The blossom of the flax plant was of a delicate blue color, and the color blue speaks of heaven wherein the righteous will be found. The fully mature flax plant then had to give up it's life in earthly soil in order to be processed into fine linen. Putting ROMANS 6:5 together with PHILIPPIANS 3:9, which we just referenced, we read: *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his*

resurrection:... ..And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

The second step in the processing of flax into fine linen was exposing the stalks of flax to the drying heat of a scorching sun. This was what Rahab was doing in here JOSHUA 2:6. This speaks to us of the heat of fiery trials. 1 PETER 1:7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:...* . Which Old Testament full overcomers were not tested with fiery trials? None, and the same will be true of those that will be in the Bride of Christ. In JEREMIAH 17:7 & 8 we read a portion of scripture rich in content of what it takes to be a full overcomer: *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.* The tree found in JEREMIAH 17:7 & 8 is a full-grown mature tree, and pictures a mature race course running Saint. The full overcomer knows that the trials will come, but their focus is not on the trial, but rather on the One who can take them through the heat of even impossible circumstances.

Third in the processing of flax into fine linen the dried stalks of flax were split or peeled. Possibly in this part of the process a comb of sorts was used to aid in the separation of threads. The Authorized Version of ISAIAH 19:9 indicates this by noting *...they that work in combed flax...* . There is a separation that must take place in the life of a full overcomer, which is a theme illustrated in the following verses. 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.* There are many other scriptures which illustrate the theme of separation, and HEBREWS 4:12 is one of them. HEBREWS 4:12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* Note that it is the word of God which brings about this separation. Knowing the word of God is so important in the life of a full overcomer. The full overcomer will be most familiar with the word of God, having immersed themselves into His word and absorbing as much as they could, thus saturating themselves with the word of God. This is further brought out in the next step of the processing the stalks of flax into fine linen.

The fourth step in the processing of this flax was to steep (immerse, saturate, or absorb) the peeled stalks in water; each stalk was held submerged by attaching stones to it. The purpose of immersing in water the stalks of flax was to destroy the pulp and ultimately transfigure the threads of linen into raiment white as snow. EPHESIANS 5:25 - 27 reads: *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* At the 1999 church camp Brother Hawkins went over the subject of the will of God, and noted in that study a transformation that must take place in the life of a believer in order to have God's best. This fact is mentioned in ROMANS 12:1 & 2, which reads: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Brother

Hawkins concluded that study by noting the importance of knowing God's word, for by knowing the word of God one can be assured that he is in God's will.

We have now briefly described the process by which "stalks of flax" are transformed into threads of "fine linen," and again we refer to the statement made in REVELATION 19:7 & 8 -- *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.* How did the bride of the Lamb of God make herself ready? By yielding her life unto the cunning workmanship of the Master who long ago sent us the Holy Spirit of promise to dwell in us for the express purpose of teaching us all things, and to guide us into all truth, and to give us an inheritance among all them which are sanctified by faith that is in Christ Jesus! ACTS 20:32 *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.* During the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness in the book of EXODUS we read in several places of workman given guidance by the Holy Spirit in all manner of workmanship. EXODUS 35:31 & 35 reads: *And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; ...35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.* Again emphasizing the importance of knowing By doing this we allow the Master to build His Masterpiece by taking stalks of flax and transforming them into fine linen, a fact stated this way in EPHESIANS 2:10 -- *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* His Masterpiece will be the Bride of Christ.

We frequently make reference to the Bride of Christ, yet very few outside of the assemblies that we associate with really know that there are qualifications for being in the Bride of Christ, and we are constantly teaching about these qualifications. We made known the following in our HEBREWS 12:1 & 2 study. The gold mine of Paul's gospel message is the mystery of the Bride of Christ. The Old Testament worthies of faith were not offered the opportunity to be in the Bride of Christ. ROMANS 7:4 explains this point: *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.* The Old Testament worthies of faith looked forward to the birth of Christ, and His first coming. Jesus Christ is the New Testament, whose blood was *...shed for many for the remission of sins...* MATTHEW 26:28. Jesus Christ died and rose again is New Testament doctrine. There is no way the Old Testament full overcomer ever looked forward to being married to Him who was raised from the dead, for again the Old Testament worthies of faith looked forward to the birth of Christ, and His first coming. The New Testament worthies of faith look forward to the second coming of Christ, and have within them the hope *...that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

There are qualifications for being in the Bride of Christ, for not all believers will qualify to be in this unique company of being married to Christ. Very few churches today teach this because they do not fully know Paul's doctrine. REVELATION 19:7 plainly tells us New Testament church age Saints that "His wife prepared herself," which is how the Greek literal translation reads. How does the Bride of Christ become the Bride of Christ? By being saved only. No! Being saved is only the first qualification for being in the Bride of Christ. Thus potentially all Christians from this church age can be in the Bride of Christ, but all won't be because they all do not want to get ready. The second qualification for being in the Bride of Christ is being filled with the Holy Ghost. The evidence of being filled is speaking with other tongues: {study ACTS 2:1-11; 10:44-46; and 19:1-6}. Once a Christian is filled with the Holy Ghost he or she can then enter into all of the truth as JOHN 16:13 tells us: *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.* We must also note that all who are filled with the Holy Ghost do not allow the Holy Ghost to reveal all truth to

them. Furthermore all who are filled with the Holy Ghost will not be in the Bride of Christ, for not all seek His best. We referenced ROMANS 12:1 & 2 earlier, which reads: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Not all Holy Ghost filled believers want the perfect will of God in their lives, but those race-course running Saints that want God's best in their lives do. The third qualification for being in the Bride of Christ is to "love his (Christ's) appearing" as noted in 2 TIMOTHY 4:8. In other words they see His mighty hand in everything that comes their way, and in that they love His appearing. Finally, to be in the Bride of Christ one must be a full overcomer.

Brother Copley noted there must be spiritual growth in a Christian in order for him or her to qualify as a full overcomer, and in order to achieve spiritual growth one must be filled, and full of the Holy Ghost. The Bride of Christ is not the whole church, but a rib portion taken out of the sleeping church! The rib portion you may note is the closest to His heart! We have a picture of this in the story of Adam and Eve. GENESIS 2:21 & 22 records: *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.* That word "made" in GENESIS 2:22 is taken from a Hebrew word which translates into our English "builded." God "builded" Adam a wife from his rib while Adam slept a deep sleep. Eve was her name, and she became Adam's wife. Paul teaches in 1 CORINTHIANS 15:45 *The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.* The last Adam is a reference to Christ. The fact is that there will be a rib taken also from that second man Adam and "builded" into that spiritually mature Bride of Christ, a mate fit for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. ROMANS 5:14 further tells that Adam *...is the figure of him that was to come.* "Him that was to come" references Christ. Additionally Paul writes in 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22 & 23 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.* Thus it remains a mystery to the majority of Christians that only a very small rib portion from the church will be in that company of Saints known as the Bride of Christ. During this mysterious church age in which we are still living, the church, the collective body of Christ, (EPHESIANS 5:30 *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones...*); this body of believers called the church, like Adam in GENESIS 2, has fallen into a deep sleep, yet a rib portion remains awake, and is being built into that choice company of tried Saints that will forever be known as the Lamb's wife, the Bride of Christ!! This actually is the "great mystery" Paul speaks about in EPHESIANS 5:30-33, noting in verse 32 *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* To bridal Saints Paul writes in 1 THESSALONIANS 5:6 *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.* This is written to Christians of this church age. Sinners are dead in trespasses and sins according to EPHESIANS 2:1, and thus are not asleep. The bridal Saints are watching for Christ's soon appearing, and know the facts of another mystery revealed unto the Apostle Paul, that being the mystery of final change, also called the exit mystery, talked about in 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

The Bride of Christ thus will be composed of the company of full overcomers from this church age, which means the New Testament full overcomer is offered a position not offered unto the Old Testament worthies of faith. Sister Bodie notes: "Christ must have a bride like unto Himself, a companion, fit for Him, not an infant, nor a child, but a mature woman full-grown in every respect, able to enter into the fullest sympathy and understanding with all His desires and plans. The whole church has been betrothed; but they will not all qualify as the chaste virgin, who shall be presented. ...The young woman who is engaged must be proven and tried; she must measure up to the standard - CHRIST, who is set before her, and thus grow up into His likeness. She must have His nature fully

developed and manifested in her. And this is only possible as she holds her head (CHRIST), she the conscious weaker vessel, absolutely dependent upon Him, ...strengthened, energized and harmonized by His abundant life of which she is a partaker.” (End of quoting Sister Bodie.)

So what does all of this have to do with our **midnight** Bible story of Rahab and the two spies? The brief snapshot we have in scripture of Rahab’s life pictures to us some of the hidden aspects of what it takes to be a full overcomer. After all she is left specifically by the Holy Spirit as one of the few highlighted examples in scripture of one who possessed qualities found in a worthy of faith, and for sure the Bride of Christ will forever be highlighted as an example of a New Testament worthy of faith.

In PROVERBS 31 will also find pictured qualities of a “virtuous woman,” and certainly the Bride of Christ will be the ultimate “virtuous woman.” On your own study the following verses from PROVERBS 31, and compare them with what we are learning about Rahab. PROVERBS 31:13 *She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.* (The flax again is the raw material from which comes fine linen). PROVERBS 31:19 *She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.* ...24 *She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.* ...30 *...a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.* Truly Rahab worked willing with her hands, and she made fine linen, (otherwise why go to the trouble of collecting the “stalks of flax” in the first place), and she was a woman that feared the Lord. The “virtuous woman” of PROVERBS 31 also was concerned for the care of the others of her household as is noted in the following verses of PROVERBS 31. PROVERBS 31:15 *She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.* ...21 *She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.* ...27 *She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.* Rahab too was concerned for the care of the others of her household as is told in JOSHUA 2:12 & 13. JOSHUA 2:12 *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.* The two spies agreed to Rahab’s request as is found in JOSHUA 2:18 & 19. JOSHUA 2:18 *Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. 19 And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.* When Jericho was conquered in JOSHUA 6 we find Rahab’s household was saved as promised. JOSHUA 6:22 *But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. 23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp 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.* Truly Rahab displayed the qualities found in a “virtuous woman.”

Let’s now go back to our **midnight** Bible story in JOSHUA 2, and see what Rahab did with her stalks of flax. We already spent some time showing that Rahab hid, or treasured up, the two spies with the stalks of flax, a fact mentioned in JOSHUA 2:6. The following verses taken together indicate further what she had turned these stalks of flax into. JOSHUA 2:15 *Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. ...18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. ...21 And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.* I have in my possession a Bible Cyclopaedia written by A. R. Fausset dated 1903 which states concerning

Rahab: “The flax she spread on her roof and the **scarlet line** make it likely she manufactured linen and dyed” (it), “as did the Phoenicians” (of her day). {End of quoting Fausset.} Thus it seems Rahab had worked with her hands and made thread of the flax, colored it **scarlet**, worked it together to make a cord strong enough to bare the weight of two escaping spies. It is not hard to imagine this resourceful woman making curtains, or the like, from fine linen, and having decorative rope from which to suspend them by. Obviously she had a **cord of scarlet line** of thread by which the two spies escaped. Let’s look at what is typified here. The Holy Spirit wants us to see that there was a **cord made of lines of scarlet thread**, thus the different descriptions of the same thing in these three verses. We mentioned earlier that the linen manufactured from the stalks of flax pictures righteousness, and in this particular study is representative of the righteousness. *...even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...* ROMANS 3:22. The color **scarlet** is significant also, for to obtain this particular color the female of a certain kind of insect called the ‘coccus ilicis’ was killed, dried and crushed to make dye the color of **scarlet** or crimson. To us the **scarlet line** speaks of the blood which Jesus shed for the sin of the world. ISAIAH 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.* **Scarlet** signifies sacrifice, specifically Christ’s sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, which sacrifice will land every believer safely in heaven at last. **Scarlet** speaks of Christ’s blood. In the Song of Solomon 4:3 we read a statement concerning the bride, which reads: *Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely...* . Sister Mooneyhan in her commentary of this verse notes that “...she speaks of Calvary -- that is her theme -- Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ...The wonderful truth of Calvary is our salvation. All who acknowledge the blood of Jesus will be saved in the day of judgment.” {End of quote from Sister Mooneyhan}.

The “**line**” in *...the scarlet line...* mentioned in both verses 18 and 21 of JOSHUA 2 comes from a Hebrew word expressing hope or expectation, and is translated “the thing that I long for” in JOB 6:8. In 1 TIMOTHY 1:1 we read of the: *...Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope...* that is our expectation from on high. One more meaning coming from the Hebrew word translated into our English as “**line**” is “things hoped for.” This takes us straight to the definition of “faith” found in HEBREWS 1:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* This **scarlet line** in our **midnight** Bible story of JOSHUA 2 then is left as a picture of faith, one of whose snap-shots is found in HEBREWS 11:31 -- *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.* The Hebrew word translated “**line**” in verses 18 and 21 of JOSHUA 2 is also found in 33 Old Testament scriptures, 33 again being the number of PROMISE. This **scarlet line** then is left as a picture of faith, and the heavenly promise which it represents. 1 JOHN 2:25 *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

One more point here before we move on, the Hebrew word used for **scarlet** in verses 18 and 21 of JOSHUA 2 is found in 42 Old Testament scriptures. The number 42 we learned in our numbers study had to do in one fashion or another with HEAVENLY APPEARANCE. This **scarlet line** then is left as a picture of faith, the heavenly promise which it represents, and carries with it the hope of a heavenly appearance. The Apostle Paul stated it this way in TITUS 2:13 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.* (“Glorious” in the Greek translates this portion of TITUS 2:13 to *...the appearance of the glory of the great God, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ...*). In Rahab’s case she has no hope but in the Lord God, for as she states in her confession of faith in verse 11 *...for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.* JOSHUA 6:1 tells us that there was no escape from the city of Jericho, stating: *Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.* But there was a way of escape from the judgment of God, which Sister Bodie points out was “the window opened for faith wherein hung that **scarlet line**. ...This sign, or token is to hang there as protection to that house when the messengers of judgment come to Jericho. ...There is a **scarlet line** for faith to hang on running all down the ages since the fall of our first parents --the blood-- the sure and only safe token that will secure a poor sinner in the day of judgment; of which fact the Word of God

continually testifies.” {End of quoting Sister Bodie}. When we consider the testimony of Rahab the scripture found in 2 PETER 3:9 should come to mind: *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Let’s next consider the **window** from which Rahab attached this **scarlet line** and see what the **window** represents. Before we go very far with this, take note that the word “**window**” is found in our King James version of the Bible sixteen times, and sixteen is the number associated with LOVE. So when we find the word “**window**” in scripture, look close also for God’s LOVE being manifested in the surrounding verses. We should also note at this point the three verses in which we find Rahab’s **window** mentioned in JOSHUA 2. JOSHUA 2:15 *Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. ...18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. ...21 And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.* We have pointed out how the **scarlet line** was figurative of something, and now we will see that the **window** is also figurative of something.

A **window** can be defined for our purposes as an opening in a building (1 CORINTHIANS 3:9 *...ye are God's building...*) or a vessel (we are now earthen vessels see ACTS 9:15, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7, 1 THESSALONIANS 4:4 and 2 TIMOTHY 2:21), which usually contains a pane or panes of glass, and is often framed so that it can be opened or shut. We all know what a **window** is, and after this portion of our study I think we will all consider **windows** from a different perspective. The purpose (generally speaking) of a **window** is for letting in **light**, and for letting in **refreshing air**. Think about the **window** from a spiritual perspective. First a **window** is for letting in **light**, and we know from the following scriptures that Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour is *...the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world...* JOHN 1:9. JOHN 1:4 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. ...7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. ...9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.* JOHN 8:12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. ...9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.* The Apostle Paul wrote concerning **light** in 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* So we see that the **window** of our heart, when opened, will receive the **Light**, and that **Light** is of course Jesus.

Secondly we also mentioned above that another purpose of a **window** is for letting in **refreshing air**. **Refreshing air** speaks to the open **window** of our heart about the power and presence of the Holy Ghost. Let me briefly explain. How in ACTS 2:2 did the Holy Spirit come? The Holy Spirit came suddenly with the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind. Was this not the most **refreshing air** which any of them had ever as yet experienced? I say it was. They opened the **window** of their heart on the day of Pentecost *...And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance...* ACTS 2:4. A short time after this Peter, now full of the Holy Ghost, spoke these words in ACTS 3:19 -- *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.* A verse which addresses the subject of **refreshing** (or the lack there of) is LAMENTATIONS 1:16, which reads in part: *For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me... .* Who is the Comforter but the Holy Ghost, as noted in the following scriptures. JOHN 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* JOHN 15:26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth,*

which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: JOHN 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. The Comforter was sent unto us on the day of Pentecost as noted earlier in ACTS 2. One thing that we should then see here is that the window of our heart can be opened to receive Light from the true Light, and a breath of refreshing air from the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, the one who also guides us into all truth. {See JOHN 16:13}.

Having then defined one aspect of what a **window** is, let's consider some more uses of a **window**, or **windows**. The word "**windows**" (plural) is found in scripture twenty-nine times, and the number twenty-nine has to do with DEPARTURE or GOING AWAY. In scripture the **window** often times pictures a way of escape or deliverance, (DEPARTURE or GOING AWAY), and both are represented in our story of Rahab. We read in JOSHUA 2:15 that Rahab ...*let them (the two spies) down by a cord through the window...*, and in verse 21 we read ...*And she sent them away, and they departed...*, thus the two spies escaped the hands of those at Jericho. This is only the first time where we read of a **window** being used as a means of escape or departure. In 1 SAMUEL 19:12 we read of Michal, King Saul's daughter and David's wife, who foiled a plot by Saul to kill David this way: *So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.* A slightly different use of a **window** is found in 2 KINGS 13:17 where a dying Elisha shows Joash, the king of Israel at that time, how to deliver Israel from Syria. 2 KINGS 13:17 *And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.* In 2 CORINTHIANS 11:32 & 33 we read of how the Apostle Paul was delivered from the hands of the governor of Damascus by being let down through a **window**. 2 CORINTHIANS 11:32 *In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: 33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.* One final example of how a **window** often times pictures a way of escape or deliverance is found in ACTS 20, where we find a young man named Eutychus about to escape a long winded sermon of the Apostle Paul. ACTS 20:9 *And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. 10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. 11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.* Through these examples we have seen how a **window** often pictures a way of escape or deliverance. Let's think about this for a moment. When we look out a **window** our thoughts escape from our enclosed surroundings to the greater expanse revealed by what is seen by just looking out the **window**. Furthermore we have all heard the phrase "a **window** of opportunity." God gives each of us "a **window** of opportunity" to escape the grips of sin and accept His deliverance. Again 2 PETER 3:9 states: *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.* And Titus 2:11 reads: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men...* . HEBREWS 2:3 goes on to note: *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him...* . And HEBREWS 12:25 proclaims: *See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven.* (Hopefully each and everyone who reads these notes, or has heard these words has availed themselves of the "**window** of opportunity" to open the **window** of their heart to accept His gracious salvation.) Note the following verses from 2 SAMUEL 22, which is repeated in PSALMS 18, both known as David's song of deliverance: 2 ...*The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; 3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.*

The **window** also carries with it the thought of an upward look, that is a look toward our Lord and Saviour and Deliverer Jesus Christ. In the story of Noah and the ark we read in GENESIS 6:16 *A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above...*, meaning that there was a **window** in the top of the ark. Brother Copley wrote a song about this **window** in the top of the ark, and it is found on page 12 for our Grace and Glory songbook. The theme of the message of that song is no matter how dark and gloomy life's trials and situations may seem, look up heavenward toward Jesus who is our hope and deliverer and the light of the world; there's a **window** in the top of the ark. Noah didn't escape the ark by the **window** in the top of the ark, but rather his prayers (figuratively speaking) "escaped" through the **window** in the top of the ark, and at the proper time God delivered Noah and his family and every living thing from the confines of the ark.

In DANIEL 6:10 we read of Daniel, as his custom apparently always was, praying three times a day before the open **windows** of his chamber, which was contrary to the decree that the princes and presidents of the kingdom had caused king Darius to sign. As a result of Daniel praying before the open **windows** of his chamber he was cast into the lions' den. What happened next nearly every Sunday School child can tell. Daniel was miraculously delivered by the hand of God from the mastery of the lions, and in fact the lions' mouths were shut by God so that there was no way they could hurt Daniel. Thus again we see that the **window** pictures a way of escape or deliverance, and points us upward to the One who shines light into our open heart, and breathes refreshing air into our soul.

Now again consider Rahab and her now so famous **window**. We find her **window** mentioned three times, which in scripture is more than anybody else's window is mentioned. Each time Rahab's **window** is mentioned, the **scarlet line** (figurative of the blessed righteousness of God that each believer receives by faith of Christ Jesus {see ROMANS 3:21 & 22}) is also mentioned. Rahab's **window**, with the **scarlet cord** securely attached, was the means of escape for the two spies, and Rahab's **window** with the **scarlet line** securely attached was the means of escape for Rahab, and her family. The two spies escaped down the **scarlet ...cord through the window...** JOSHUA 2:15, and Rahab and her household escaped because of her faith in God signified by the **scarlet line** hanging from her **window**, and her upward look to the Lord God, whom she acknowledged in JOSHUA 2:11 to be, *...God in heaven above, and in earth beneath*. Again let me repeat what we stated earlier: JOSHUA 6:1 tells us that there was no escape from the city of Jericho, stating: *Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in*. But there was a way of escape from the judgment of God, which Sister Bodie points out was "the **window** opened for faith wherein hung that **scarlet line**. ...This sign, or token is to hang there as protection to that house when the messengers of judgment come to Jericho. ...There is a **scarlet line** for faith to hang on running all down the ages since the fall of our first parents --the blood-- the sure and only safe token that will secure a poor sinner in the day of judgment; of which fact the Word of God continually testifies." {End of quotes from Sister Bodie}. JOSHUA 6:25 testifies to the fact that the word of God spoken by the two spies - messengers is true: *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*.

We have considered a lot of things so far in this **midnight** Bible story of Rahab and the two spies without spending too much time on their initial **midnight** conversation. We will get to this conversation in a moment, but let's now recognize something concerning our **midnight** Bible Stories study, which is this. We have emphasized so far that these **midnight** Bible Stories often picture the darkest, gloomiest times found in life, which is true, however these **midnight** times are also very spiritually enlightening moments that teach overcomers lessons that they wouldn't otherwise be able to receive. Brother Hill wrote in his The Shepherd's Psalm book "The nightingale sits in the dark shadowy places and sings. The song of the Lord is like that. It is in the darkest and most difficult times of our lives that the sweetest songs come forth." {End of quote.} Each **midnight** Bible story that I can think of has a very impactful positive result, thus turning the gloomiest of times to those moments of encouragement and comfort, in which all full overcomers find victory in Christ Jesus.

We can only imagine the adrenalin rush that the two spies felt as Rahab hid them in the stalks of flax. And the same could be said of Rahab, who risked her neck in saving alive these two special young men of the children of Israel. The thing they all had in common was faith in God, which became evident as Rahab spoke the following words found in JOSHUA 2:9 – 13. *JOSHUA 2:9 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. 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. 12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.*

This **midnight** conversation took place in close quarters, and starts out with two important words of faith: “I know.” The phrase “I know” is found in 135 scriptures. 135 is the product of 5 (GRACE) times 27 (THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL); thus when Rahab says “I know” something we should note that the testimony of the children of Israel has been preaching the gospel of the grace of God unto her heart. Next we observe that not only did Rahab know something, but that her knowledge revolved about what the Lord could do. She states: *I know that the LORD...*, meaning that the Lord has done something and that He will continue to do something, and that she is looking for the Lord to do something... not only for the children of Israel, but for her. This theme is what is highlighted in the 11th chapter of HEBREWS, that is, by faith, *...I know that the LORD...* will do something for me. In PSALMS 135:5 we read: *For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.* In reality Rahab was making this same statement *...I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods...* identifying herself as a believer in the Lord God. Four times also Rahab makes mention of the LORD in these five verses, and twice she makes mention of God. All of this points again to the fact that she believed God, and this pleased God, for *...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him...* HEBREWS 11:6. We should also note this important point concerning Rahab, and that is the main topic of her conversation starts with the LORD. If we started our conversations with *...I know that the LORD...* it would show who is the main focus in our hearts, and lives.

JOSHUA 2:9 *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.* Had the children of Israel at the time of Kadesh-barnea believed God with the same faith Rahab had, and stated “I know that the LORD hath given us the land,” God wouldn’t of had to *...about the time of forty years suffered {or bore, or fed them as a nurse beareth, or feedeth, her child} he their manners in the wilderness, {ACTS 13:18}*, and we wouldn’t of had this wonderful story of Rahab to study. Rahab displayed faith not found in the majority of the children of Israel nearly forty years earlier. How did Rahab know *...that the LORD hath given you the land...* ? Rahab knew this by faith; that is she believed God, the One true God, the LORD God of Israel, had given the Israelites the land He had so long ago promised Abraham He would give Abraham’s seed starting back in GENESIS 12. Keep in mind that the children of Israel hadn’t yet inherited the land of Canaan, in which Rahab now resided, but in Rahab’s heart she knew *...that the LORD hath given you {the children of Israel} the land.* Again HEBREWS 11:1 defines faith, and states: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* By faith Rahab had seen the children of Israel inheriting the land of Canaan. By faith Rahab saw a lot more than the children of Israel inheriting the land of Canaan. By faith Rahab saw herself, and her household saved alive, and dwelling with the children of God in the land of Canaan simply because she too believed in the LORD God of Israel.

Let's recall some statements that these two spies have heard with their own ears in the previous recent days of their lives. The two spies to whom Rahab was now speaking at this **midnight** hour had heard Moses speak these final words unto Israel before he died, and these words are recorded for us in DEUTERONOMY. DEUTERONOMY 2:25 *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.* DEUTERONOMY 11:25 *There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.* DEUTERONOMY 26:8 *And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, (fear, terror, dread) and with signs, and with wonders.* The two spies having previously heard all of this must have looked at each other in amazement as Rahab spoke, and simultaneously in their heart agreed that these first statements of Rahab could only be a confirming sign from the LORD. This opening statement of Rahab in verse 9 (*...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...*) were impressive enough in the minds of the two spies that when they got back to Joshua they stated in verse 24 words of the testimony of Rahab: *...Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.*

In this **midnight** Bible story Rahab requests in JOSHUA 2:12 & 13 the following oath of the two spies: *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.* Basically in these two verses we see that Rahab requests two things from the two spies, whom she has accepted as messengers from the LORD: (1) she requests an oath of the two spies, which is a sworn statement witnessed by the LORD, the oath being that she and her house would be saved from the certain death that they would otherwise soon face, and (2) that they would give her a token, that is a distinguishing mark, a sign, a banner, a remembrance of some sort, and in Rahab's case this "token" was the "line of scarlet thread in the window" (see verse 18), which we earlier discussed in detail.

The oath Rahab was requesting of these two spies is summarized in these words of verse 13: *...and deliver our lives from death.* Rahab was requesting from the LORD, and from the spies DELIVERANCE or SALVATION **from death** for those of her house. Fourteen is the number of DELIVERANCE or SALVATION, and the two words *...from death...* (used here in Rahab's statement) are found exactly fourteen times in scripture. Looking at a couple of these scriptures where the words "**from death**" are found we find these statements: PSALMS 116:8 *For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.* In JOHN 5:24 we read: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.* Rahab had received in peace the two spies as messengers from the LORD, and had confessed to them her belief in the LORD God, having stated in verse 11 *...he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath...*, thus because of her belief in the LORD God she too *...shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.* In ACTS 16:30 & 31 we find the Philippian jailor asking Paul and Silas: *...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.* This was also the oath, which Rahab was requesting of the LORD and the two spies (His representatives), that is salvation for herself and her house. By faith Rahab was (in a similar fashion to Noah) preparing an ark to the saving of her house. HEBREWS 11:7 *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.* This is the same kind of ark building faith (meaning salvation from the LORD) Rahab was now exhibiting when she requests in JOSHUA 2:12 & 13 the following oath of the two spies: *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And*

that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. This request calls for a response, and the response is found in verse 14. JOSHUA 2:14 *And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business.*

Verses 17 through 20 tell the parting words that the two spies spoke to Rahab that now famous **midnight**. JOSHUA 2:17 *And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. 18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. 19 And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. 20 And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.* This completes their contract, their oath with Rahab, and in verse 21 Rahab completes her part of the oath with the two spies by stating: *And she said, According unto your words, so be it.* An important question needs to be asked and answered here. In the end whose responsibility is it to keep this oath, the two spies responsibility, Rahab's responsibility, or the LORD's responsibility? The purpose of this oath was to obtain salvation for Rahab and her house, so ultimately the responsibility for obtaining salvation lies with the LORD, but the two spies and Rahab also are left with certain responsibilities, which boils down to this: their responsibility is to believe God, and we know from scripture that the two spies and Rahab did believe God. Joshua's name means "Jehovah is salvation," and in JOSHUA 6:22 & 25 we see that Joshua took on the responsibility of saving Rahab and her household as the two young spies had sworn unto her in their oath. JOSHUA 6:22 *But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. ...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.*

Nowhere in the story of Rahab do we read of her having served other gods. Nor did she turn away the two spies from following the LORD, rather she (in her own way) encouraged them to trust in their God, and Rahab herself stated in JOSHUA 2:11 *...for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.* Since she mightily believed in the LORD God of Israel, she was allowed, by the grace of God, to remain alive, and to become an important part in the history of Israel, and an outstanding example of a worthy of faith.

Before we leave this **midnight** story of Rahab and the two spies let's now answer the following question, which will help us better appreciate all of the rest of the **midnight** stories we find in scripture. The question is this: who is the main character in this **midnight** story of Rahab and the two spies? To answer this question we first must identify all of the characters found in this **midnight** story of JOSHUA 2. The characters found in JOSHUA 2 are: Joshua, the two unnamed spies, Rahab, the king of Jericho, the men of the king of Jericho, and the Lord. Now for the answer, the main character in this **midnight** story of JOSHUA 2 is the Lord, and the Lord is the main character of all **midnight** Bible stories. Rahab, who this **midnight** Bible story revolves around, acknowledged the Lord to be the main character of this **midnight** Bible story. Rahab said in JOSHUA 2:9 *...I know that the LORD hath given you the land... .* Rahab said in JOSHUA 2:10 *...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.* Rahab said in JOSHUA 2:11 *...the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.* Rahab made this request of the two spies she so carefully treasured as representatives from the Lord in JOSHUA 2:12 *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD... .* The other two characters, whom this **midnight** Bible story revolves around, also acknowledged the Lord to be the main character of this **midnight** Bible story, and they do so first in JOSHUA 2:14 where they admit to Rahab their faith in the Lord. The two spies said to Rahab in JOSHUA 2:14 *...Our life for yours, if*

ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. When the two spies get back to Joshua they tell him in JOSHUA 2:24 *...Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.* Again the Lord is the main character in this **midnight** story of JOSHUA 2.

Rahab and the two spies had an adversary in this **midnight** Bible story, who was the king of Jericho. One of the meanings of Jericho is “the place of fragrance,” and as such it depicts the world and the fragrant deceptions of Satan. The king of Jericho is a type of Satan himself, and the men of the king of Jericho were his messengers. Recall what is told in 1 PETER 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* The king of Jericho, and his messengers were not able to find the two spies, who were safely hidden under the stalks of flax, and guarded by the Lord Himself, who safely delivered them from the king of Jericho. Thus the two spies are proof of what we read in 1 JOHN 4:4 *...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

Joshua is the Lord’s main representative in the book of JOSHUA. It was Joshua who sent out the two spies into Jericho, and it was Joshua to whom the two spies brought back the report they learned from Rahab, which we just read in JOSHUA 2:24 *...Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.* As the Lord’s main representative in the book of JOSHUA we have pointed out that Joshua’s name means “Jehovah is salvation.” When the two spies returned from Jericho with their report from Rahab, Joshua and the children of Israel were east of the Jordan River. They crossed over the Jordan in JOSHUA 3, and by JOSHUA 5:13 they were next to Jericho, where we read the following account concerning Joshua. JOSHUA 5:13 *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.* Who is the Captain of the Lord’s host? Is it not our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Himself? The Captain of the Lord’s host, who is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Himself, was here emphasizing to Joshua that “Jehovah is salvation.” We read this statement in PSALMS 95:1 *O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.* Note here in JOSHUA 5:13 & 14 that as Joshua faced that great battle against Jericho, the Lord was already right there *...with his sword drawn in his hand...* and announcing *...as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.* David knew as he faced Goliath in 1 SAMUEL 17:46 & 47 that the Lord would deliver Goliath into his hand, *...for the battle is the LORD’S...* . This is the same lesson the Lord was teaching Joshua, *...the battle is the LORD’S...* and *...as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.* As potential overcomers we must realize the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the Author, and Finisher of our race course, and our faith, who will never leave us nor forsake us, and wants us to also know that in our greatest darkest **midnight** hour of need *...the battle is the LORD’S...* and *...as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.* Praise the Lord for these lessons. Joshua is the Lord’s main representative in the book of JOSHUA, and as such Joshua trusted the Captain of the Lord’s host to enable him to save Rahab and her household as the two young spies had swore unto her in their oath in JOSHUA 2:14 *...Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.* Once more the end results of the oath made between the two spies, and Rahab that **midnight** hour are recorded in JOSHUA 6:25 *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.* Again Rahab’s name means “wide” or “breadth” or “enlargement” showing us the vast expanse of the grace of God, and truly she claimed much in faith from the Lord including the salvation of her whole household.