

- Joshua 2:1-21


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- Proverbs 31:29 “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”
- Sometimes we give little meaningful consideration to women in the Scriptures: Holy, Faith, Godly, Grace.
- Often these women have to be faithful in very difficult circumstances, and often they are treated poorly by male contemporaries.



- But they are praised by God for their excellence, and so there are lessons we must learn from them.
  - When created by God as a “helper” this is a high complement, and her role is intended to compliment the role of the man.
  - But Satan, and often men, have also done much to devalue women in a variety of ways.
- The lessons that we can learn from these holy women of faith apply to each of us. Men as well as women.



By faith **Rahab** the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Hebrews 11:31

And in the same way was not also **Rahab** the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

James 2:25

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- James 2:25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?
- There's other person mentioned in each of these passages as an example of faith and works: Abraham
  - That's good company to be in.

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- It's almost always the first thing that comes to our mind when we think of Rahab, and with reason: it's mentioned repeatedly, most likely as a way of identifying her.
- The problem is that we maybe hold onto description too tightly.
  - But we sometimes have that tendency both for others and for ourselves
  - We often focus on sins and failures and let those define us.
  - Sometimes it's not even our own sins that define us, but what others have done.


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- Whatever Rahab — had been — is not as important as
  - the choices she made
  - the actions she took
  - who she is (more on that later)
  - that Jehovah accepted her



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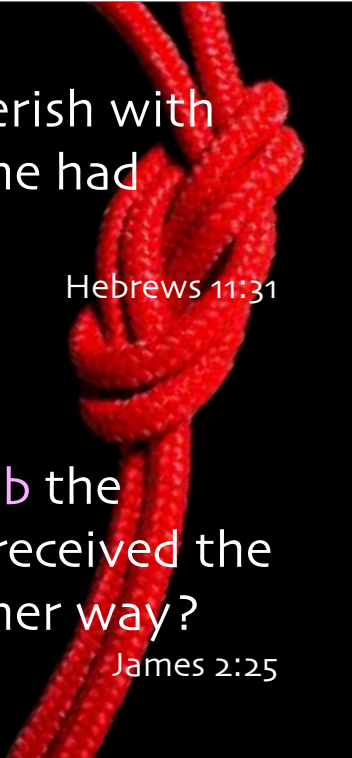
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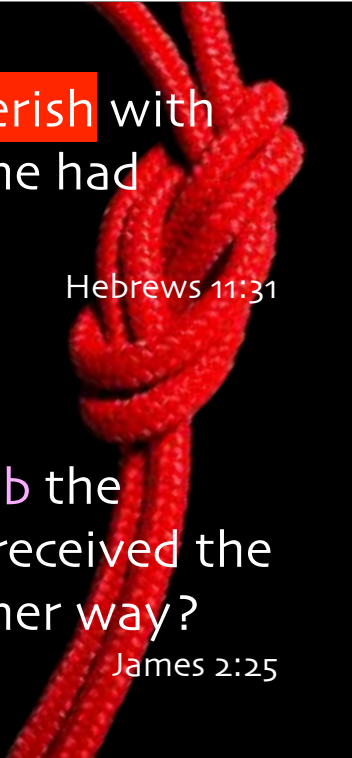
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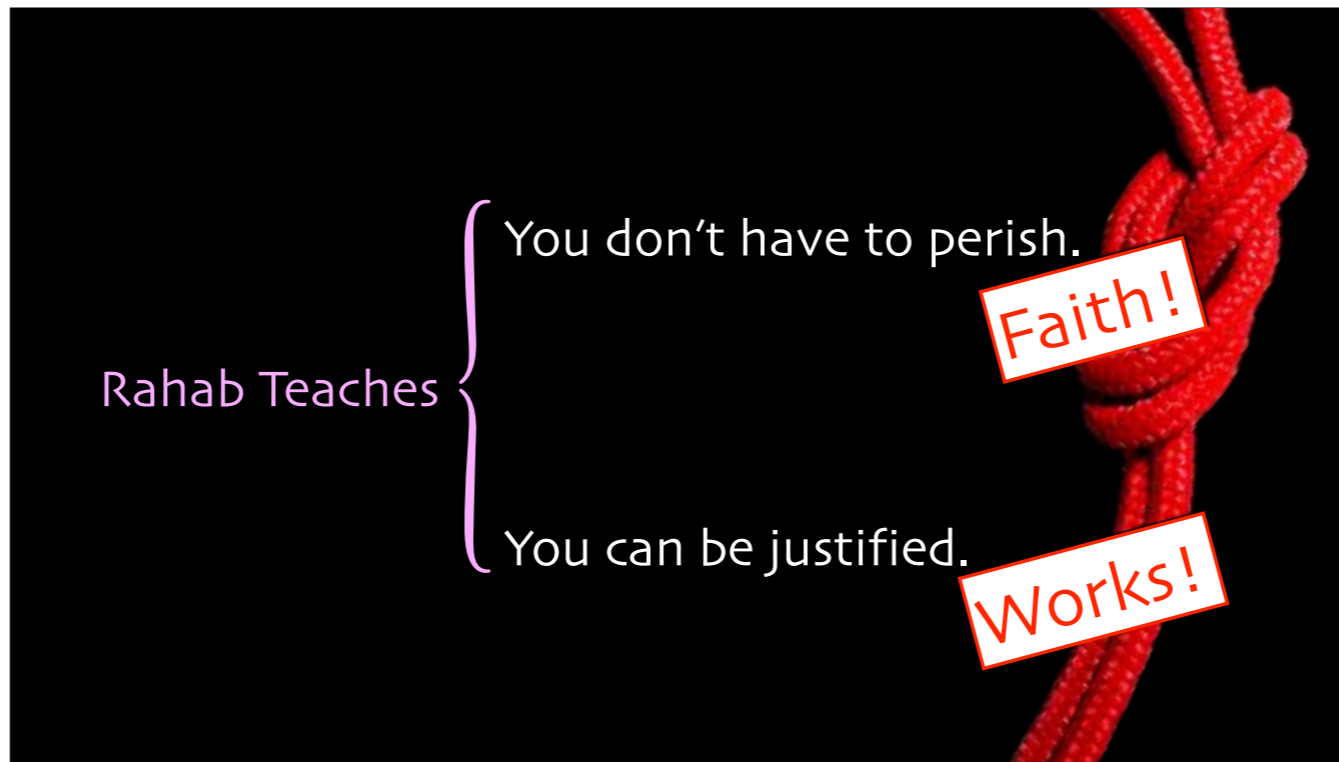
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- Rahab teaches us that



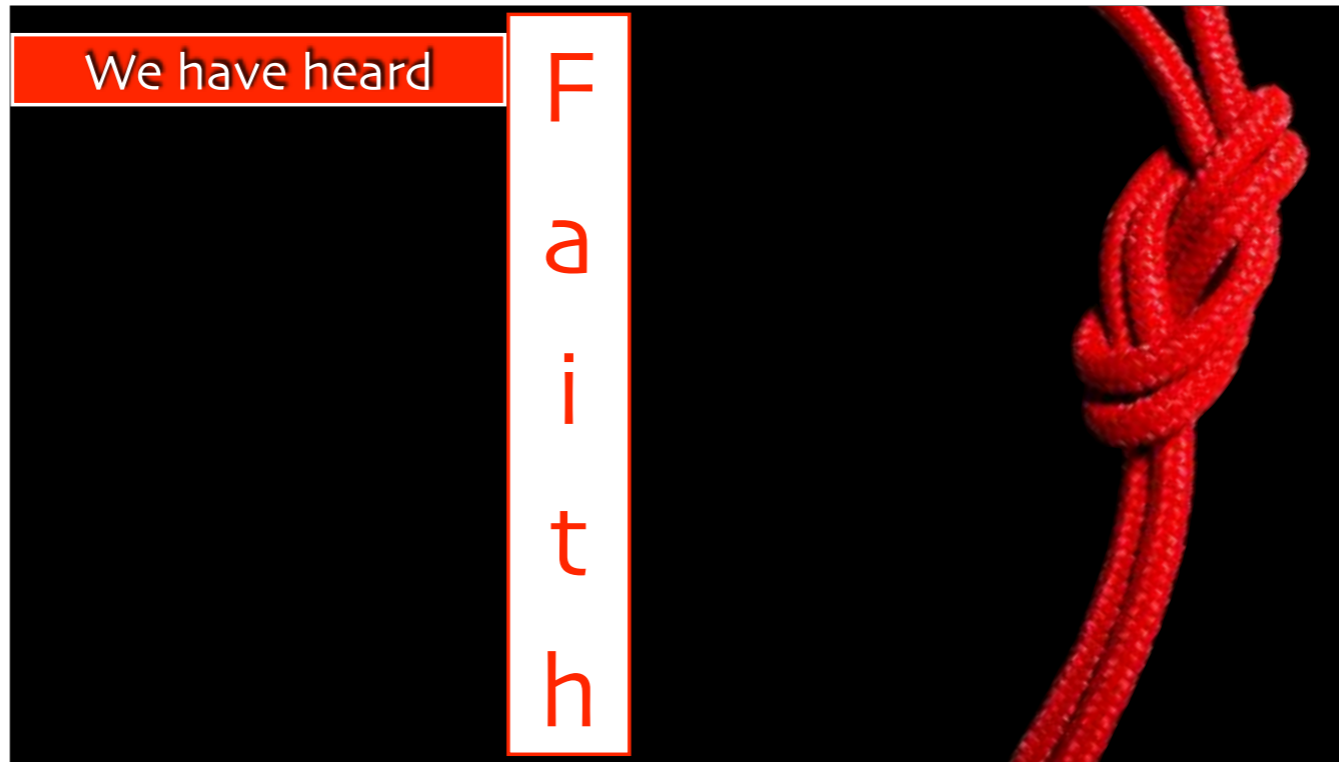
- You do not have to perish
  - Rahab's situation was dire and she knew it: on multiple levels
  - But she chose to have faith in God and in God's people



- You can be justified
  - Rahab knew well who she was, she understood about her life.
    - We really don't know anything about her moral code or ethics.
    - We don't know if she thought she was sinful for being a prostitute, or for deceiving
    - Whether she realized it or not, her spirit was in jeopardy just as her life.



- Rahab's Faith



- 10 For we have heard

We have heard

Jehovah dried  
up the Red Sea

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- how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and
- This had been 40 years before
  - slaves departing from Egypt
  - the Egyptian army destroyed in the sea
    - probably had a huge impact on the other nations

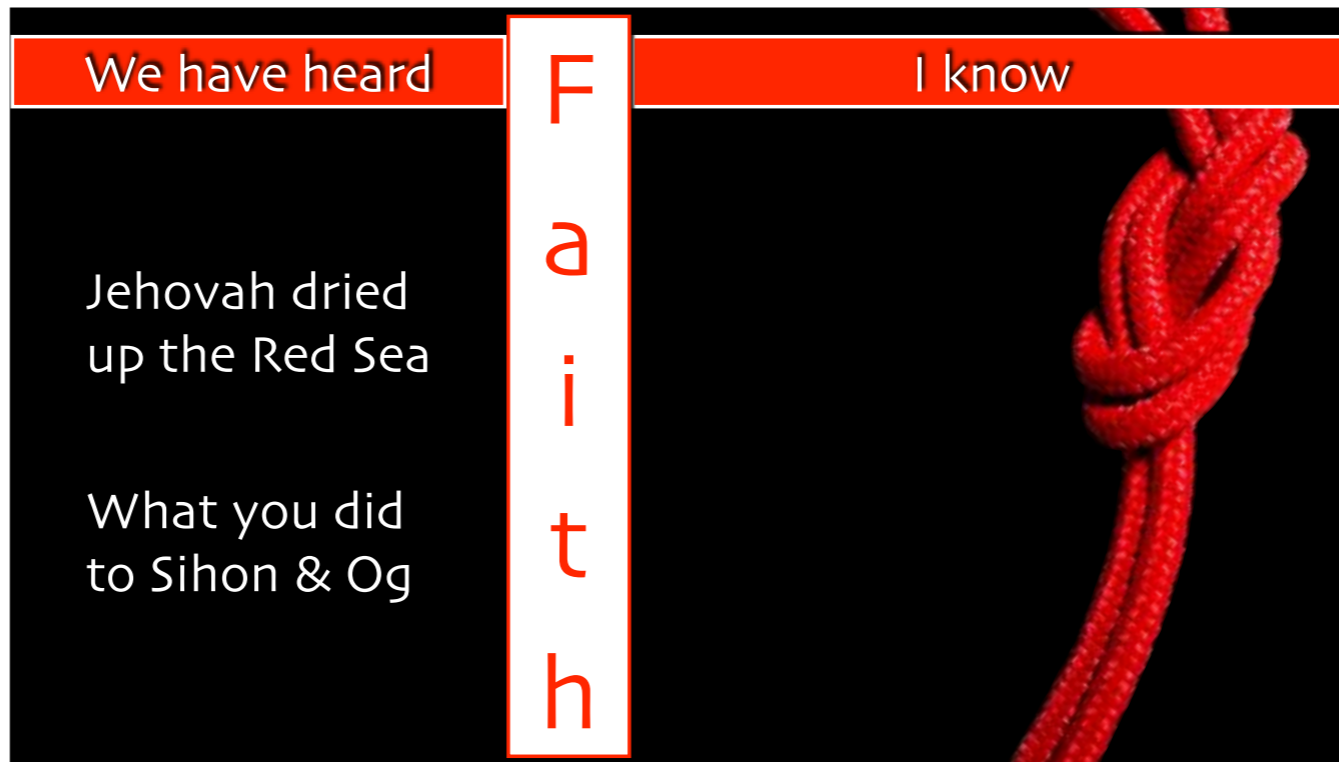




- How amazing is it that they had heard?
  - And how amazing is it that they found the story credible!
- Note, in particular, that she speaks of Jehovah by name.
  - Those in Jericho were not believers in Him,
  - But they knew he was the God of Israel.
  - And they understood his power.



- 10: what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction.
- This is more recent
  - But the idea of a group of slaves, weary from wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, defeating the armies of nations is improbable.
  - But the completeness of the victory was undeniable.
  - Recognizing again the power of Jehovah.
- What did Jericho have that would save them?
  - Walls.



- “I know”
  - How did “hearing” become something that Rahab knew?
  - How does she reach her conclusions?



- that the LORD has given you the land, and
  - This goes back to the promise to Abraham, more than 400 years before.
  - But did Rahab know that promise?
- This is not hard to know though?
  - 40 years earlier Israel had gathered at Kadesh-Barnea and sent spies into the land.
  - Now they had march up the east side of the Jordan, defeating those nations one by one
  - And they had been camped on the plains of the Jordan, just across from Jericho for months
  - It was clear that Jehovah had given Israel the land.
- Note again that she speaks of Jehovah by name!

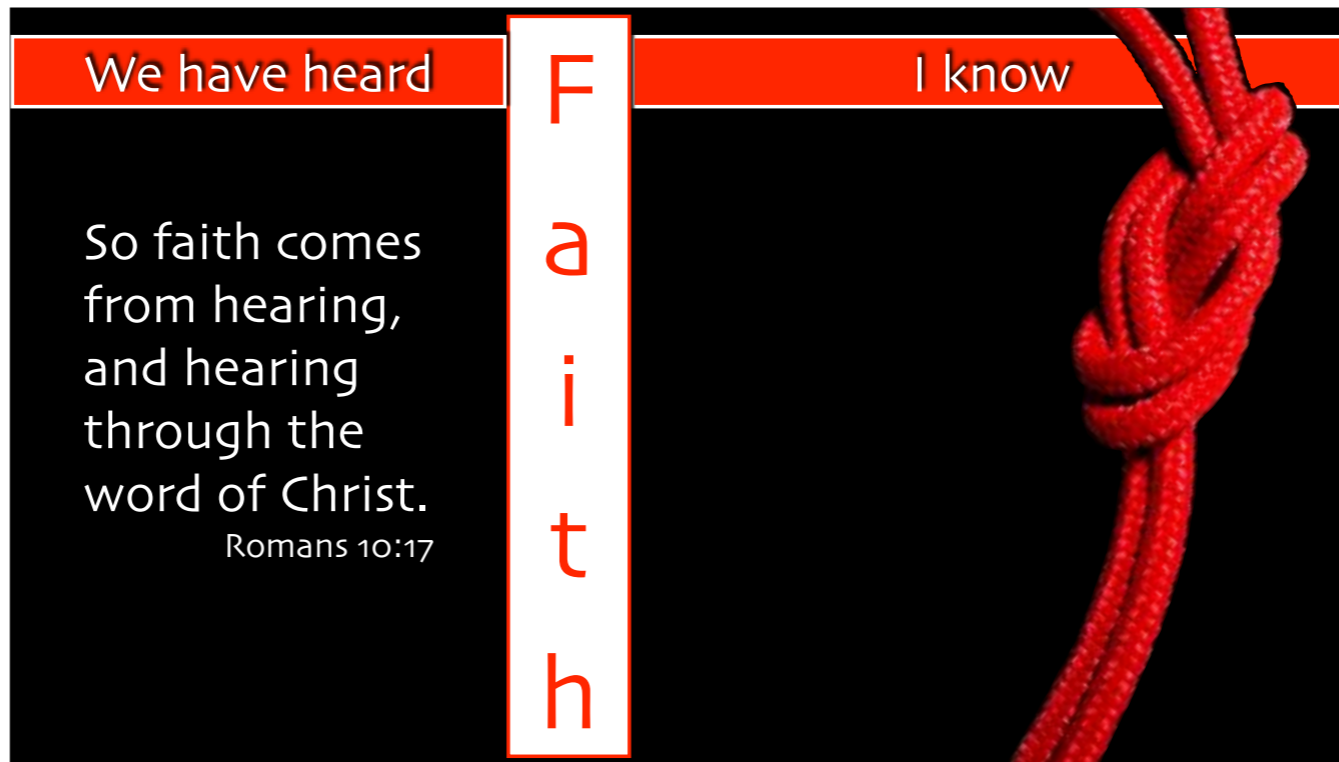
We have heard	F a i t h	I know
<p data-bbox="765 404 1119 523">Jehovah dried up the Red Sea</p> <p data-bbox="765 625 1100 744">What you did to Sihon &amp; Og</p>		<p data-bbox="1388 333 1923 445">Jehovah has given you the land</p> <p data-bbox="1388 513 1937 690">Fear of you has fallen on us ... all inhabitants melt away before you</p>



- 8: that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and
  - that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.
- The Israelites seemed to be, however improbable, an unstoppable force
  - It wasn't just Rahab who understood.
  - But it wasn't just about the Israelites either

We have heard	F a i t h	I know
<p>Jehovah dried up the Red Sea</p> <p>What you did to Sihon &amp; Og</p>		<p>Jehovah has given you the land</p> <p>Fear of you has fallen on us ... all inhabitants melt away before you</p> <p>Jehovah your God is God in the heavens and earth</p>

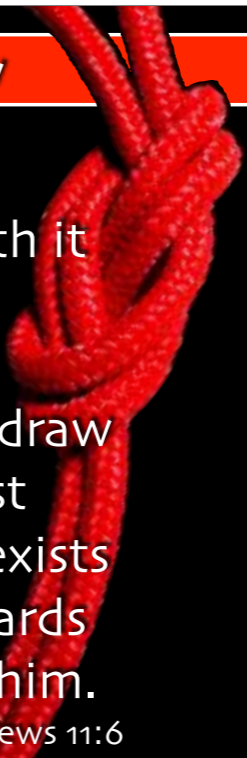
- 11: for Jehovah your God,
  - he is God in the heavens above and
  - on the earth beneath.
- This is a very big admission for those who were not of Israel
  - Consider what great miracles it took for Nebuchadnezzar and Darius to admit that Jehovah was God: interpreting the dream, fiery furnace, lion's den.
- And this is the key for understanding Rahab
  - She's heard about Jehovah
  - She's heard about miracles like the Red Sea
  - She's heard about the power of God for his people
  - She understands about God's promises (land)



- Faith, hearing, knowing
- Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.



We have heard	F	I know
<p data-bbox="762 359 1119 656">So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.</p> <p data-bbox="908 670 1119 703">Romans 10:17</p>	<p data-bbox="1229 359 1284 870">a i t h</p>	<p data-bbox="1374 359 1868 846">And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.</p> <p data-bbox="1676 860 1868 893">Hebrews 11:6</p>



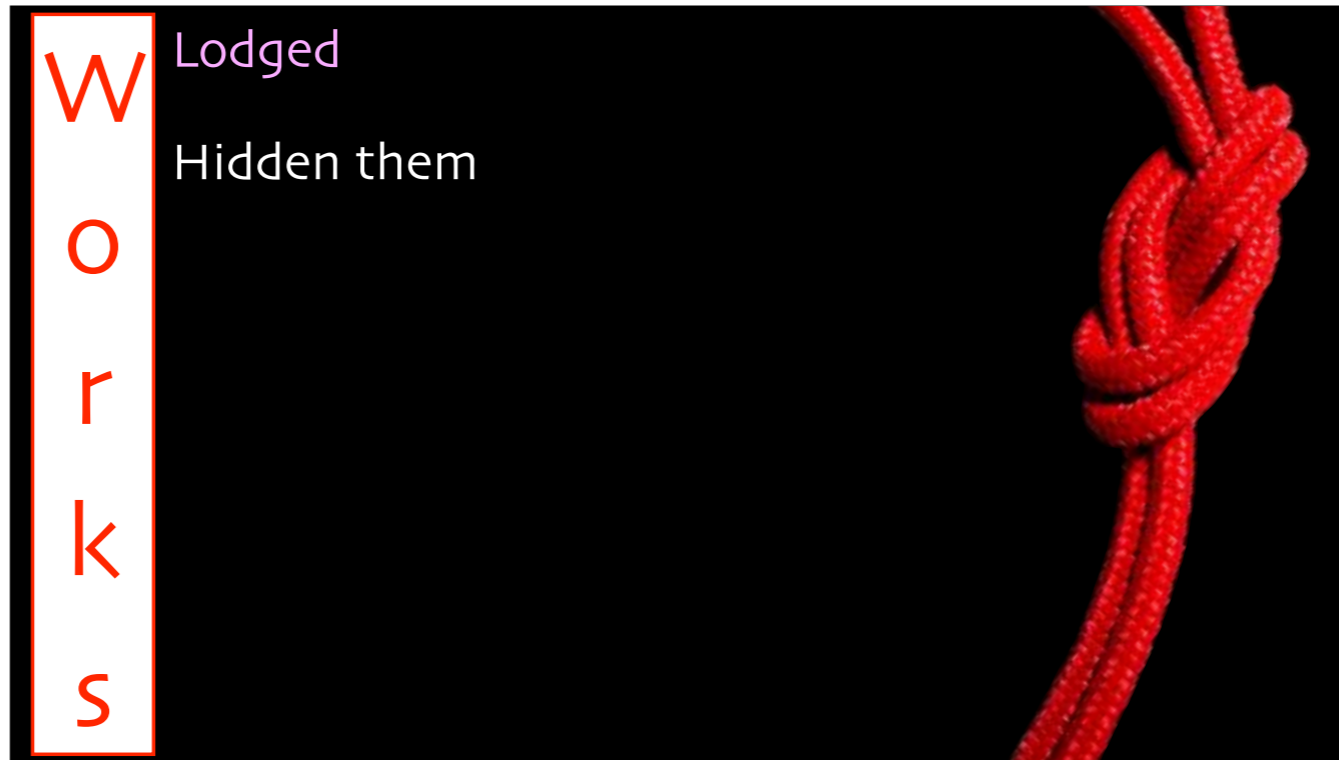
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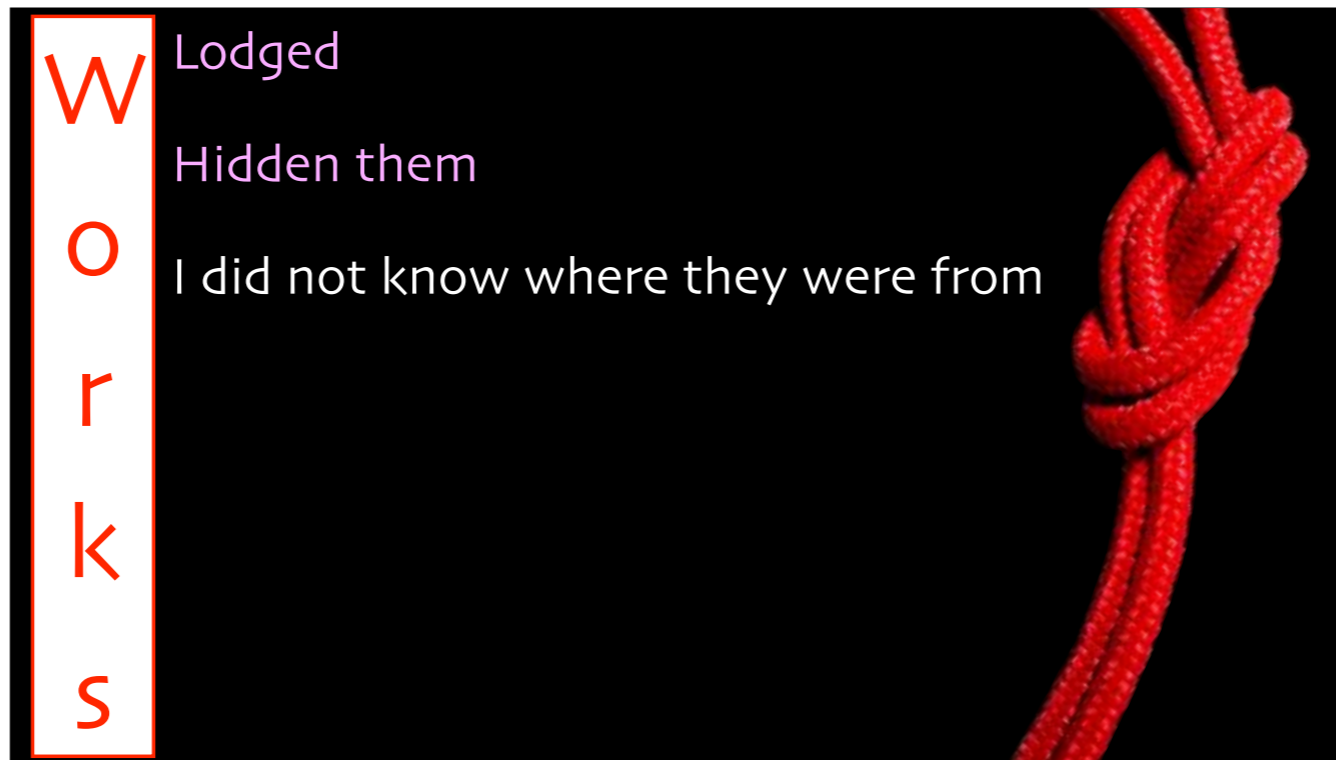
- Having come to understand who Jehovah is, Rahab did not sit by idly
  - She knows Jehovah, now her faith goes to work.



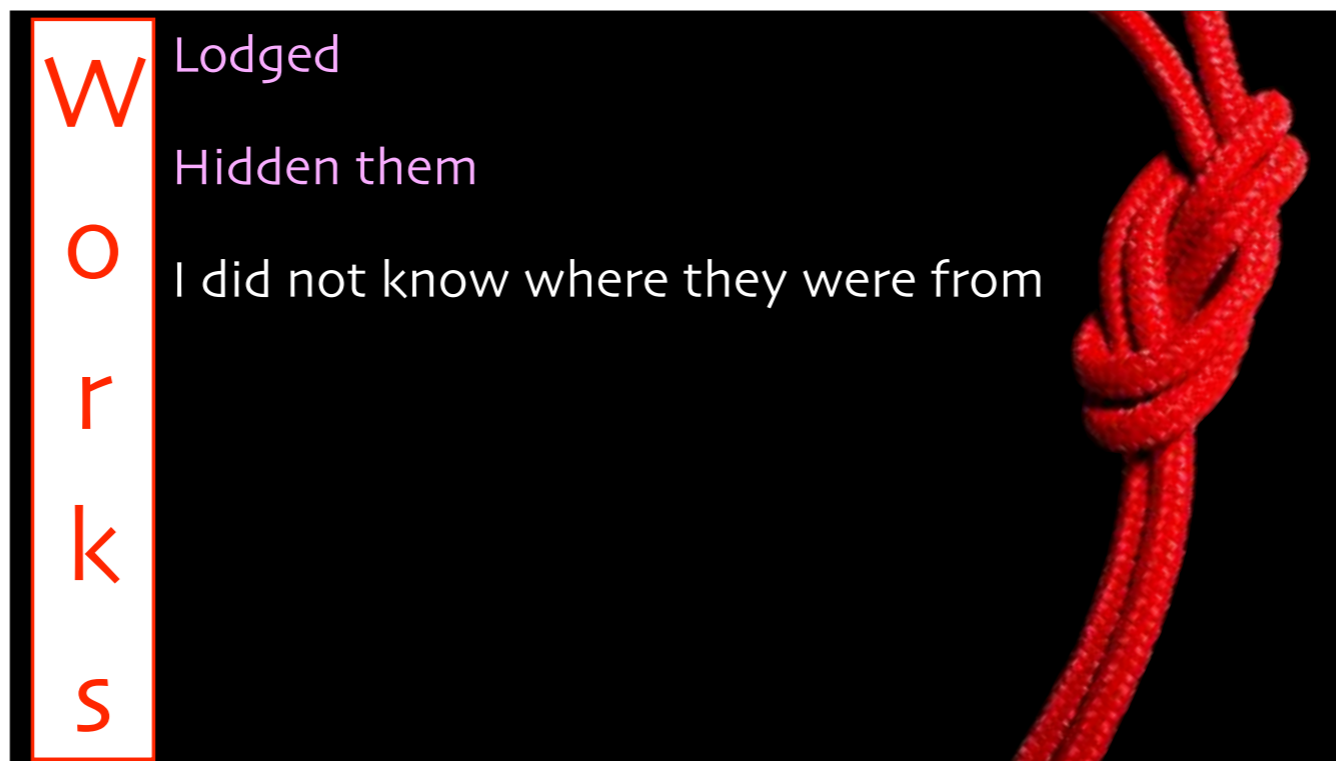
- Joshua 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.
- Giving the spies a place to stay was likely a risky choice?



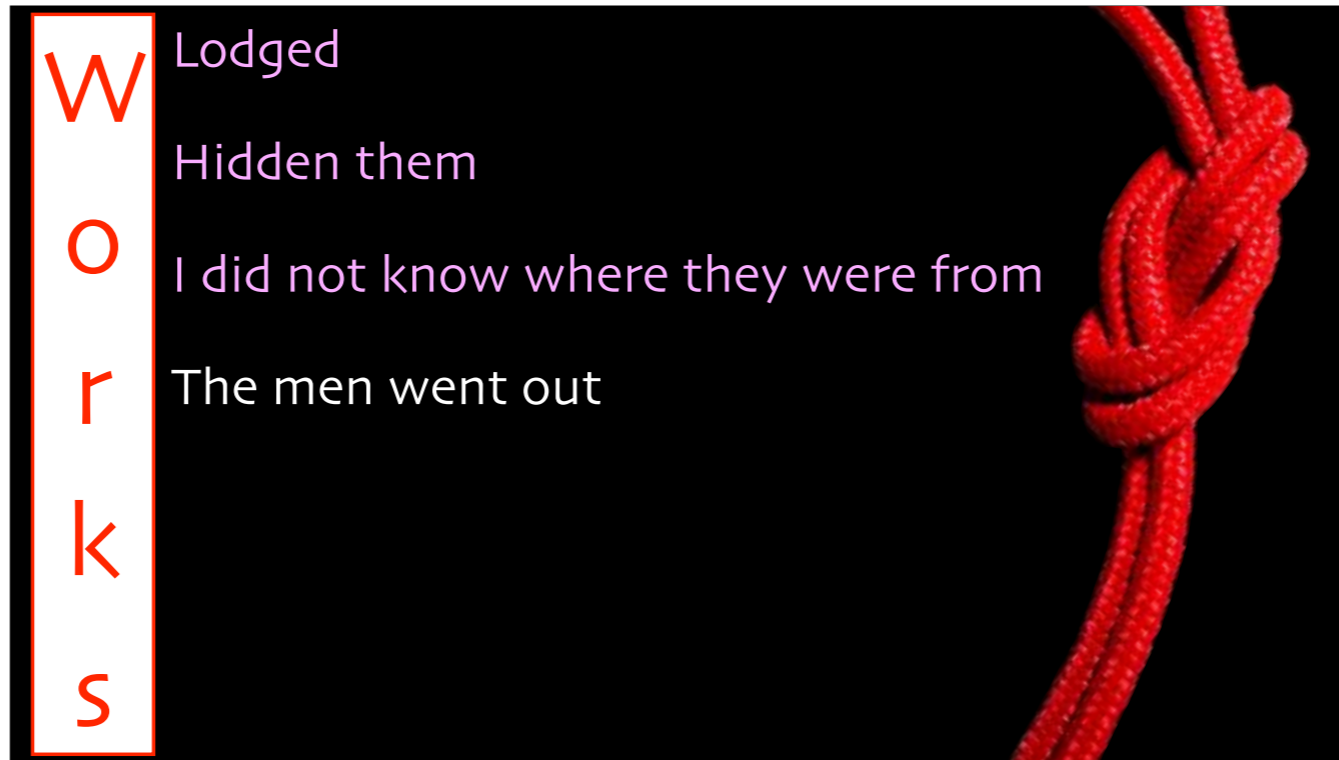
- Joshua 2:4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.”
  - Joshua 2:6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.



- Joshua 2:4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.”
  - Here’s where we start struggling a little?
  - Everything in the text indicates that she knew exactly who they were.
    - So this was definitely misleading.
    - She’s lying.

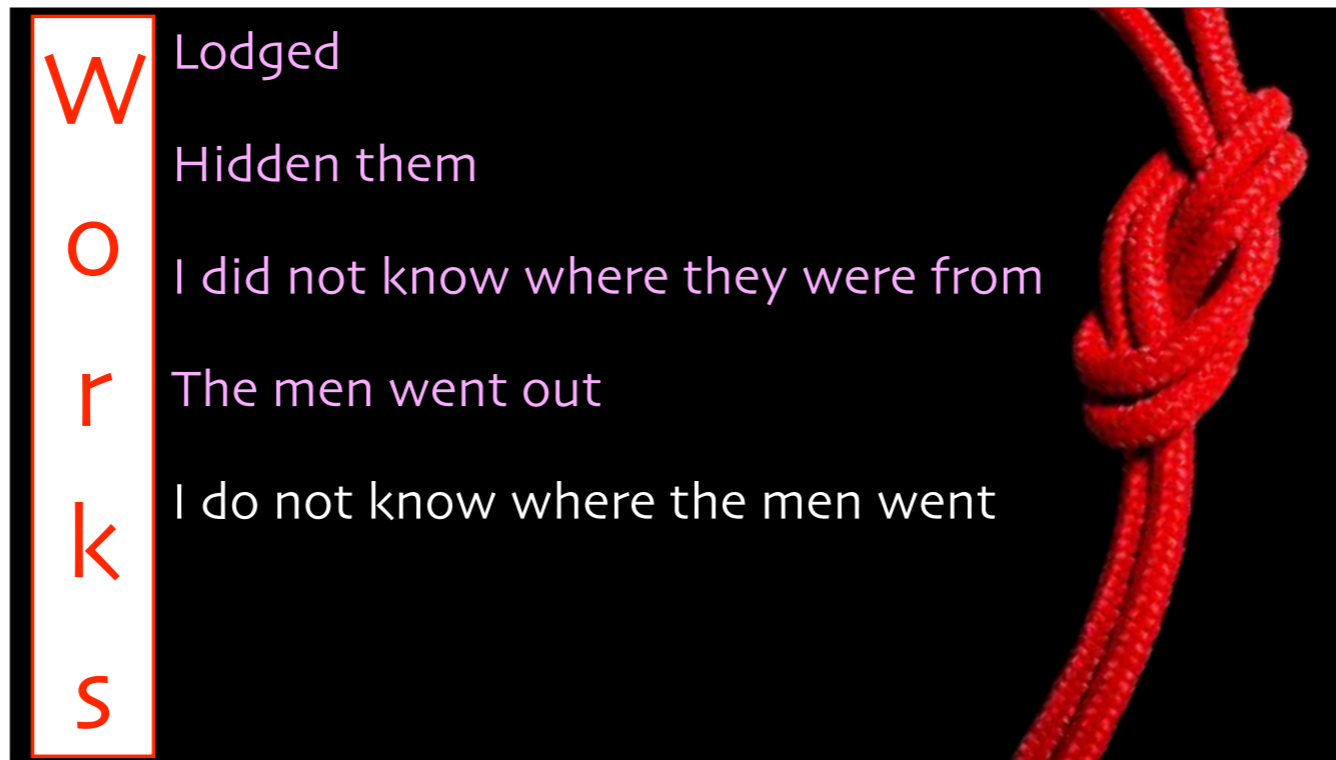


- Does this mean that Jehovah approves of lying and deceiving?
  - There's nothing in the text that indicates he approves in any way.
    - We have a record of what happened.
  - Nor was her lying necessary to protect the spies.
- More importantly, this was probably another risk if the king found out she was protecting them.

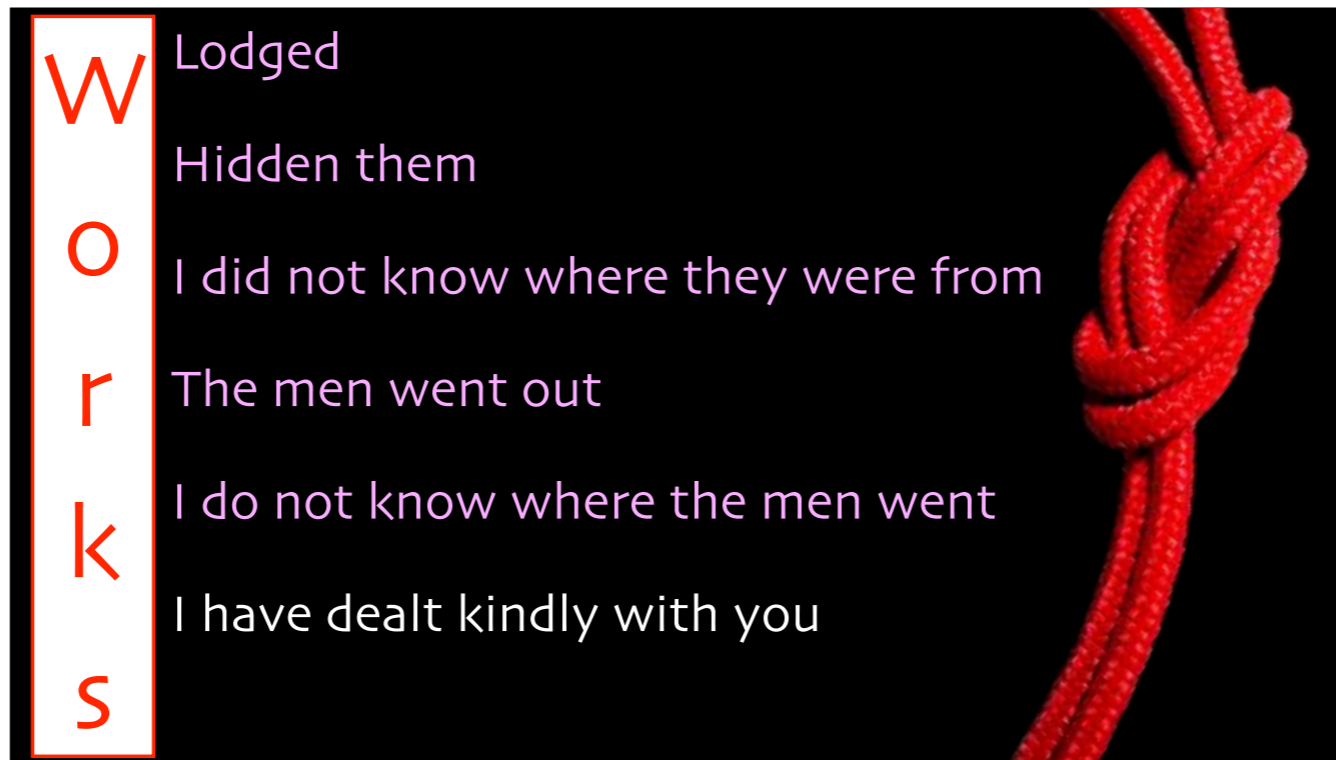


- Joshua 2:5 And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out.
  - More of the lie.

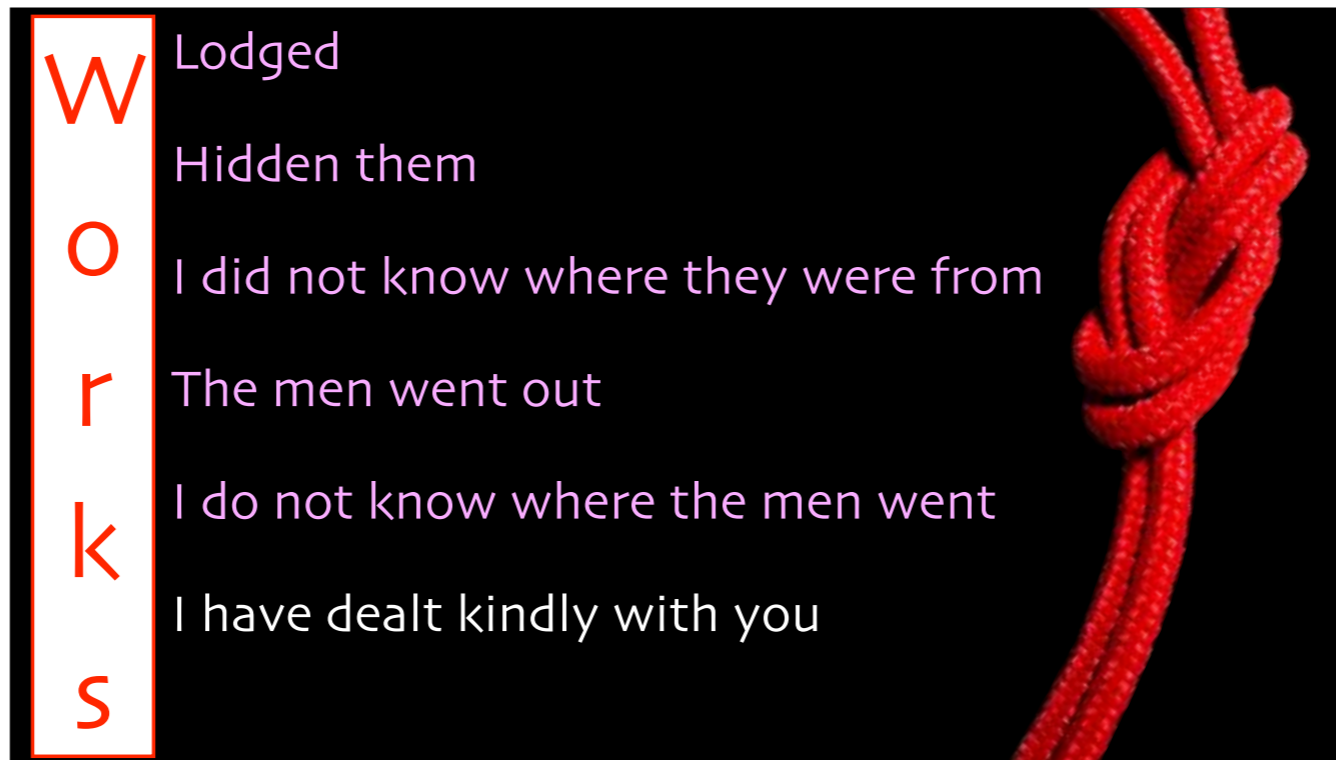




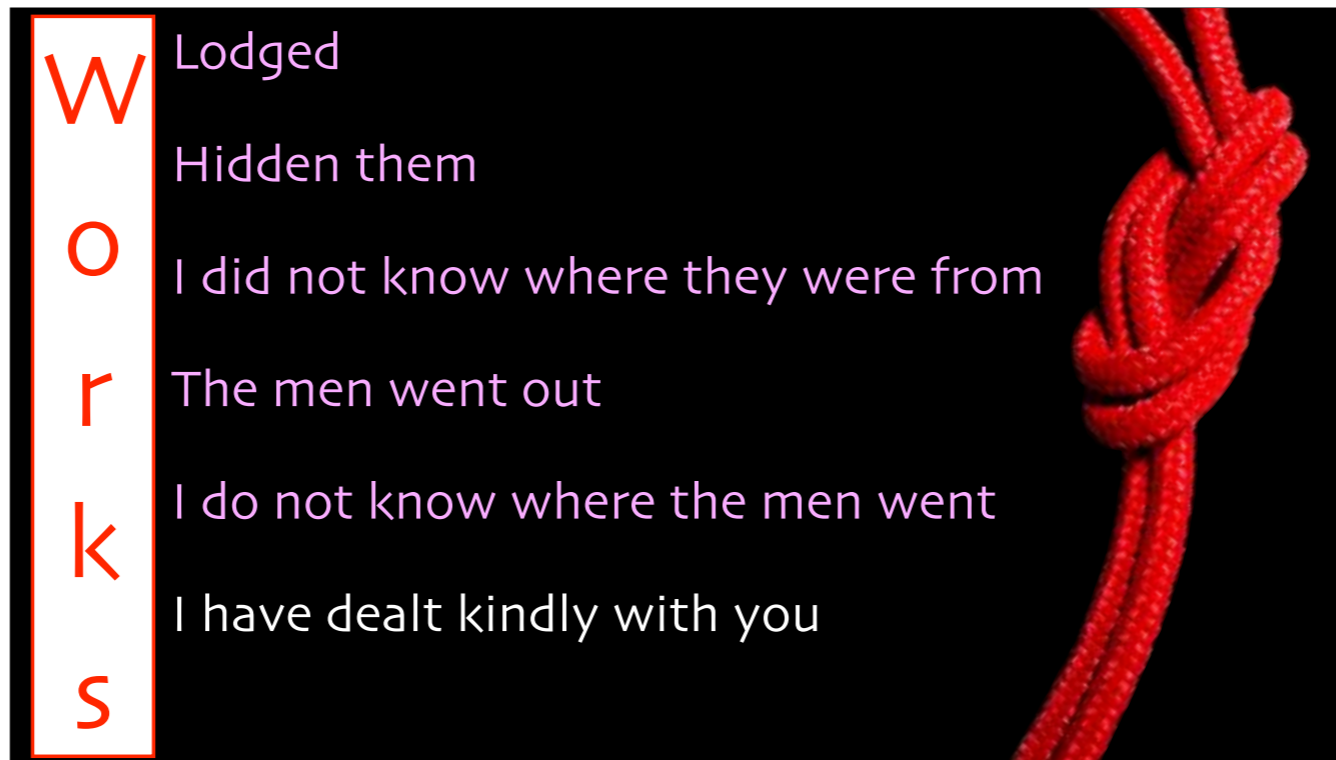
- I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.”
- More lying, more risk.



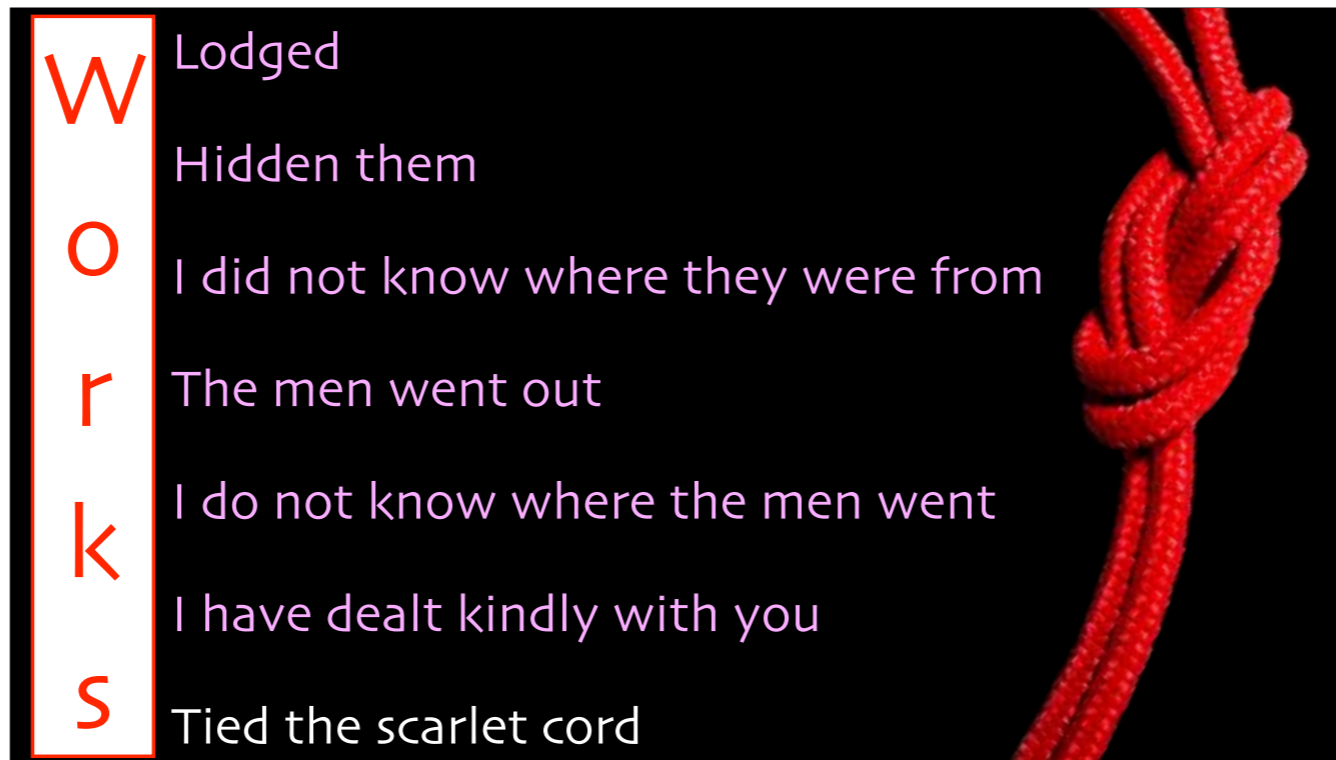
- Joshua 2:12-13 (ESV) 12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign 13 that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."



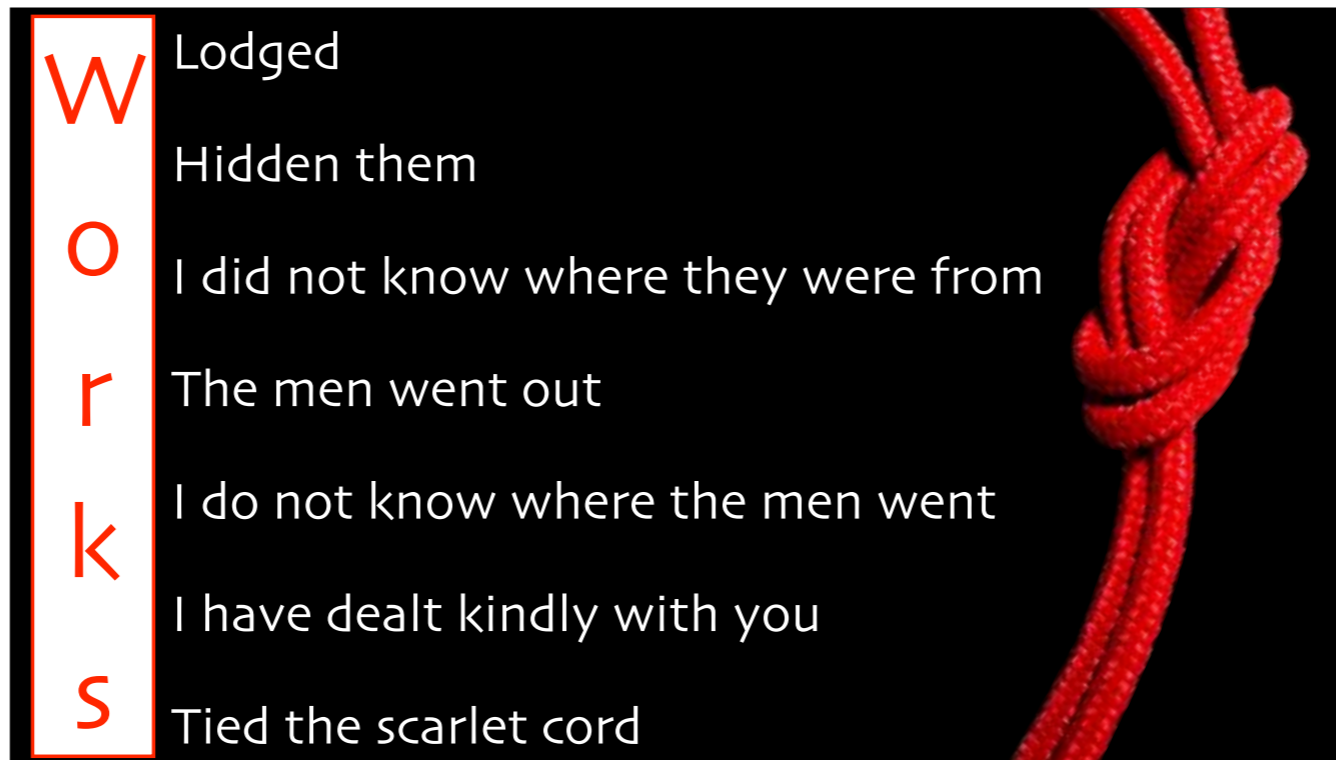
- This may be the most courageous thing that Rahab does.
  - We don't know if the people of Jericho knew that Jericho was under the same command of utter destruction, but they did know how Israel had acted in the past.
  - Why does Rahab choose kindness to the Israelites spies?
    - Is it completely about saving herself and her family? (Just utilitarian?)
      - I don't think Jehovah would have seen her, or rewarded her the same if that was the case.



- Or had she determined that this was the right thing to do?
  - That this was the proper response of one who's faith was in Jehovah.
- She was again risking a lot by putting her trust in these Israelite people and their God.



- Joshua 2:21 And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.
- It had to be done.
  - She did it right away.
  - I don’t know if it could be seen, or it was obvious.
  - But it doesn’t matter.
- In the face of an invading army her salvation was centered around a scarlet cord.
  - But really, a powerful God.

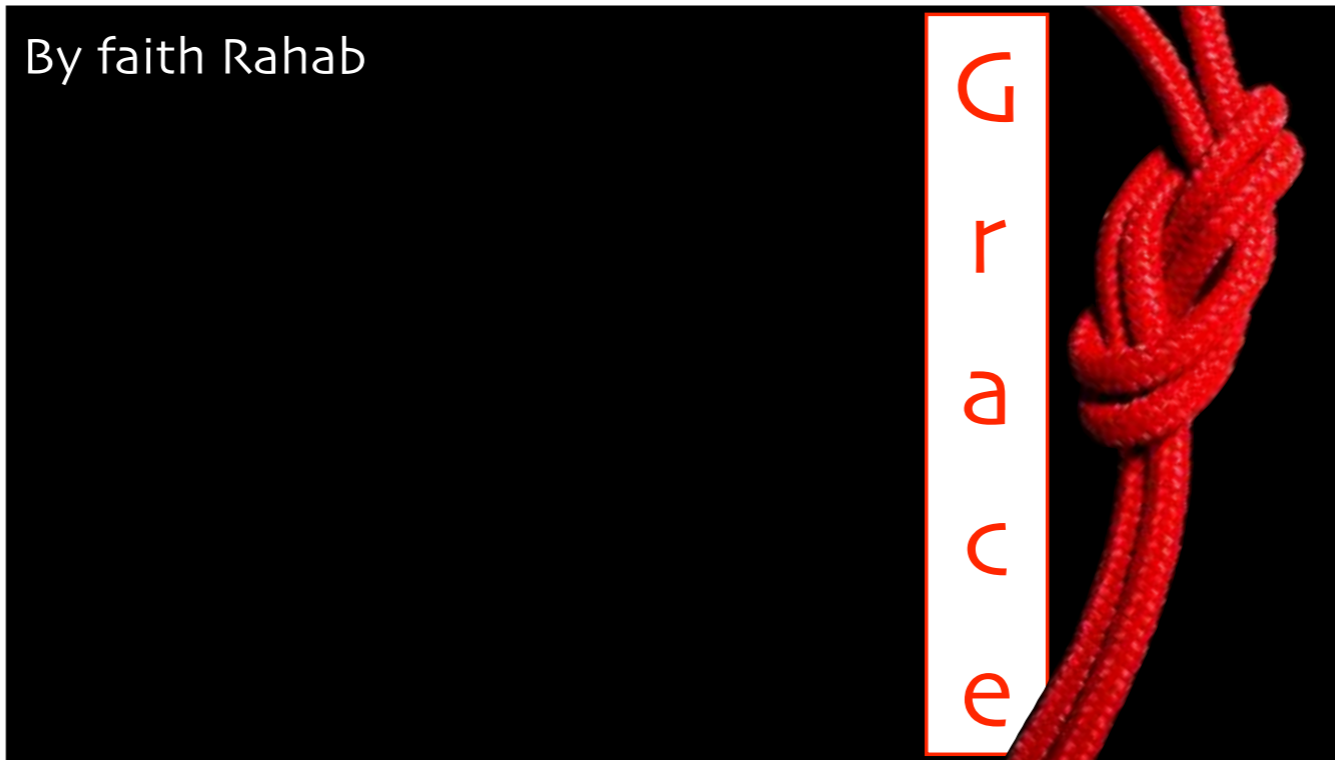


- James 2:18: I will show you my faith by my works.
- James 2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;



- One last point. Rahab also teaches us about God's amazing grace.
- Although the grace Rahab received is clearly throughout her story.





- We've already seen her faith ... pleasing to God, and he's a rewarder.

By faith Rahab  
Rahab ... justified by works



- We've seen that she was justified by works: faith put into action

By faith Rahab

Rahab ... justified by works

Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belong to her, Joshua saved alive

Joshua 6:25

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- God's grace — the kindness that she received
  - She and her family were saved
  - The only ones in all of Jericho.

By faith Rahab

Rahab ... justified by works

Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belong to her, Joshua saved alive

Joshua 6:25

she has lived in Israel to this day

Joshua 6:25

G  
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- But she also found a home among the people of Israel
  - God did not send her off on her own
  - She became one of God's people, and he is her God.

By faith Rahab

Rahab ... justified by works

Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belong to her, Joshua saved alive

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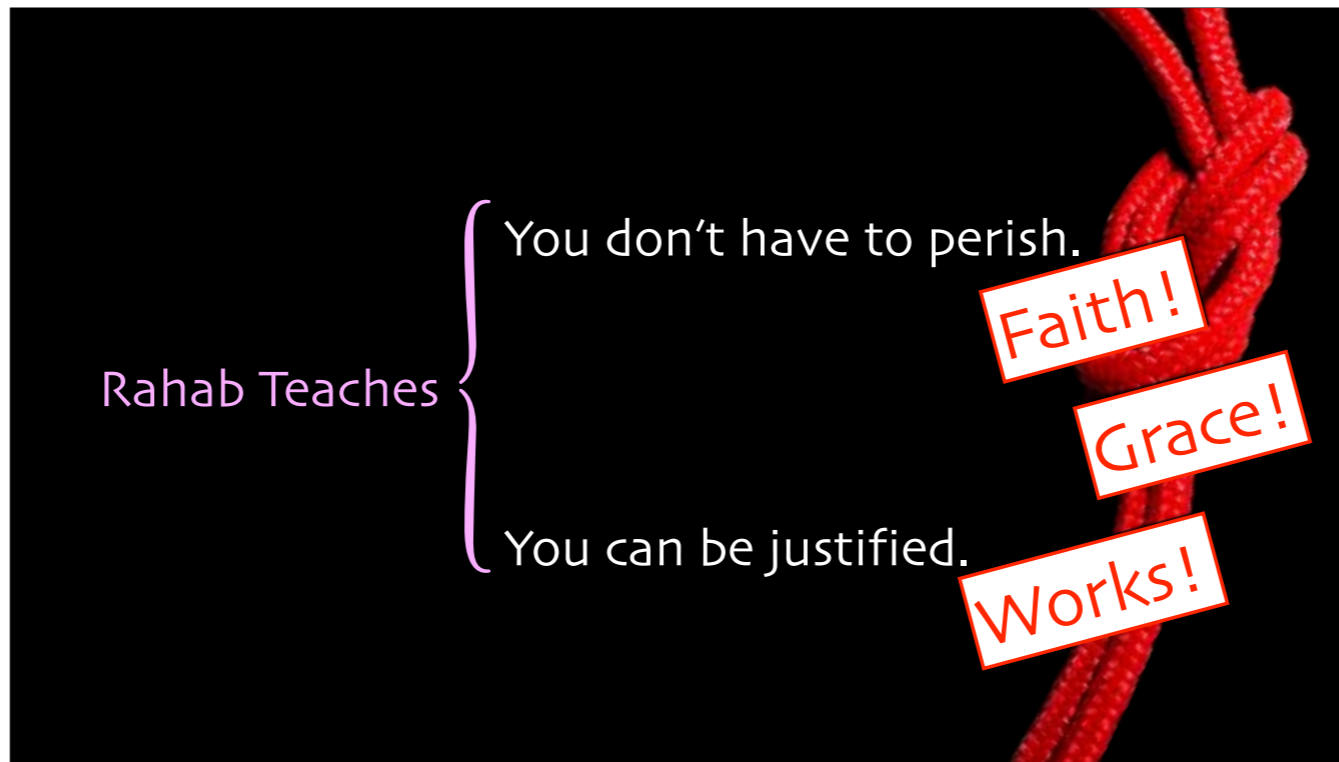
Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab ... the father of David the King ... of whom Jesus was born

Matthew 1:5, 6, 16

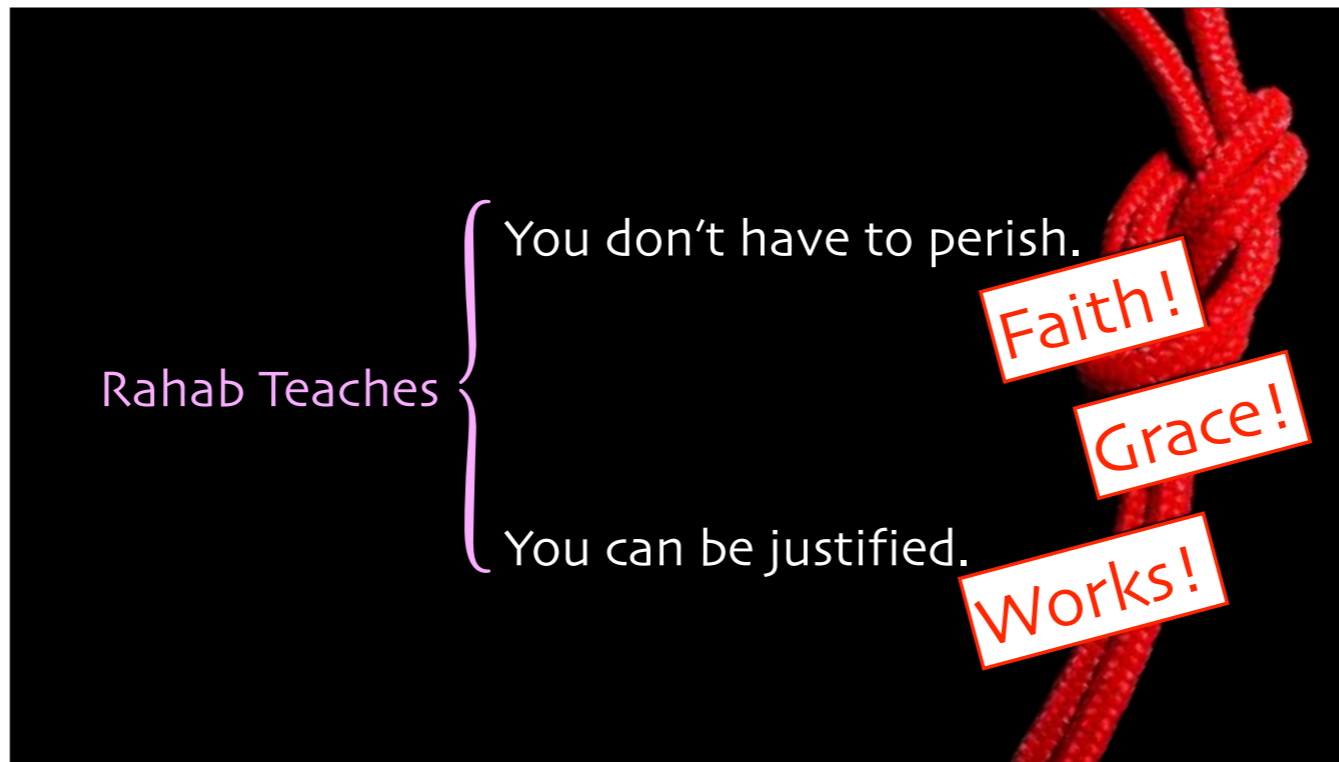
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- More significantly, we see God's grace in her place in the family of the Messiah.
  - Because what God values is not a physical lineage, but faith in Him.
  - And she is reward as one of the women mentioned in the lineage of Jesus:
    - Tamar
    - Rahab
    - Ruth
    - Mary



- Rahab teaches us that
  - You do not have to perish
  - You can be justified
  - You can receive God's grace too.



- Our Salvation is different, because it's about Eternal Life
  - Jesus came to save you from your sin.
  - He died and was raised so that you can be justified.
  - In him is forgiveness and reconciliation.
    - Believe that he is the son of God
    - Turn to him in faith and away from your former life.
    - Confess him as lord
    - Be baptized.

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20



Call to Action





**Prayer**

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Matthew 25:1-13

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## She Hid The Messengers: Rahab's Faith and Works

Joshua 2:1-21

Synopsis: Rahab teaches that we don't have to perish and that we can be justified. She teaches faith, works and grace.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**