

Morning Sermon Outline – March 31, 2019

“The Red Rope” – Joshua 2

I. *The red rope was a symbol of a Covenant –*

1. *Rahab begs for a covenant promise –*

¹² Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token, ¹³ and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.” Joshua 2:12-13

Consider exactly what she is asking –

- A. *She begs*
- B. *She makes them swear, by the LORD; which makes it a covenant involving God!*
- C. *She had shown them kindness, she will show further kindness, and she expects kindness in return!*

Kindness goes a long way with God –

⁴¹ For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. Mark 9:41

- D. *She asks for a true token, meaning a sign this covenant would be kept*
- E. *She asks for the lives of her family*

2. *Israel’s spies agree to make a covenant with Rahab and her family, and they set the terms of it –*

¹⁷ So the men said to her: “We *will be* blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, ¹⁸ unless, *when* we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home. ¹⁹ So it shall be *that* whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood *shall be* on his own head, and we *will be* guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰ And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear.” Joshua 2:17-20

- A. *Note the scarlet cord / the red rope becomes the token, the symbol of their agreement - :17-18*
- B. *Note all family members have to be inside her home which is marked by that scarlet cord - :18*
- C. *Anyone outside of this place, his blood would be on his own head, meaning there is no protection for this person from the judgment God would bring - :19*
- D. *There is also the condition of secrecy - :20*
- 3. *Rahab agreed to these conditions and did not hesitate to fulfill them –*

²¹ Then she said, “According to your words, so be it.” And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window. Joshua 2:21

II. *Please note the broader significance of this red rope / scarlet cord, it is important we understand this account in connection to the full Biblical context –*

²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover *lamb*. ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. Exodus 12:21-23

What does Exodus 12 have in common with Joshua 2? What does the blood of the Lamb have in common with the Scarlet Cord / Red Rope?

The judgment of Egypt might be compared to the judgment of Jericho!

- 1. *In Egypt it was the death of the first born ... In Jericho, everyone would be killed!*

2. *The blood of the lamb marked the homes which would be spared judgment / the scarlet cord - red rope marked the home that would be spared judgment!*
3. *The blood of the lamb was red / the scarlet cord rope was red!*
4. *The blood of the Lamb is a sign of a Covenant, and so was this red rope, it was the symbol of the agreement between Rahab and the Israelites!*
5. *Both point forward to the red Blood of the LAMB Jesus Who would die for our sins –*

²⁹ **The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29**

6. *Ultimately, the saving faith of Rahab won her not only salvation from the judgment that fell upon Jericho, but the judgment that will one day fall upon the entire world –*

¹⁰ **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 2 Peter 3:10**

III. Rahab is an example of true saving faith -

1. *Her faith was a professed faith -*

⁸ **Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men: “I know that the LORD has given you the land, ... Joshua 2:8-9 A**

2. *Her faith was the fruit of a healthy fear of the LORD - that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. Joshua 2:9 B*

⁷ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7**

3. *Her faith was the result of “hearing” the truth of God’s Word -*

¹⁰ **For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone... Joshua 2:10-11 A**

¹⁷ **So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17**

4. *Here faith included an accurate knowledge of God - because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Joshua 2:11 B*

5. *In the New Testament we read that her faith was a faith that works –*

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

6. *Her faith is acknowledged in the Hebrews 11, Hall of fame of faith, as a saving faith –*

³¹ **By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. Hebrews 11:31**

7. *She is included by God’s providence in the line of Christ –*

⁵ **Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. Matthew 1:5**

Rahab was David’s great grandmother ... An ancestor on the human side to our Lord Jesus Christ!

IV. There is a Scarlet Cord / Red Rope of blood that runs through Scripture –

1. *We see it in the blood of those animals which died to clothe Adam and Eve – Genesis 3:21*
2. *We see it in the better offering offered by Abel – Genesis 4:4*
3. *We see it in the blood of the animals killed by Abraham in God’s covenant with him – Genesis 15:8-20*
4. *We see it in the bloody Covenant sign of circumcision – Genesis 17:1-14*
5. *In the blood of the ram which was sacrificed instead of Isaac – Genesis 22:13*
6. *In the blood of Passover Lambs – Exodus 12:1-13*
7. *In the blood of many OT sacrifices – Hebrews 9:14 & 10:4*
8. *In the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ – John 1:29 & Revelation 1:5*
9. *In the red wine of the Lord’s Supper – 1 Corinthians 11:25*

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