

Hebrews 11:31

KJV	International Children's Bible	English Standard Version
³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.	³¹ It was by faith that Rahab, the prostitute, welcomed the spies and was not killed with those who refused to obey God.	³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

By faith the harlot Rahab – There is an expression, “a man is known by the company he keeps.” Quite frankly, this can be said for Rahab. She could have been defined by so many ways – innkeeper, beloved daughter, double-agent, conspirator, liar, believer, Gentile. However, both the Old and New Testaments state that she is a “prostitute.”

The Bible speaks of two types of prostitutes.

A first kind are those who offered to have sex with men to earn money or to get some personal favor. Some women may have become prostitutes to survive when they no longer were under the protection or care of a husband, father, or other family members.	A second kind, often called a “sacred” or “temple” prostitute, was a female or a male who had sex with worshipers of a god or goddess in a temple. Many of these gods or goddesses were thought to make the land and its people fertile. In Canaan, there were pairs of such gods: Baal and Asherah.
Deuteronomy 18:10, Exodus 22:22-23 and Psalm 10:17-18	Deuteronomy 23:17-18 and Judges 3:7

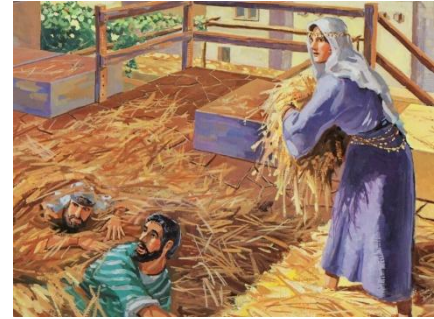
We don't know which reason Rahab had. I tend to think the second, since she had a living father and she was a Canaanite. Thankfully, that is not how Rahab's story ends.

Perished not with them that believed not – The order of events is important.

1. Past Life of Immorality – She lived as a prostitute before encountering God's grace (Joshua 2:1).
2. A Woman of Sinful Reputation - Rahab was known as a harlot in the city of Jericho (Joshua 2:1).
3. She took in strangers (Joshua 2:1)
4. Was familiar with King of Jericho (Joshua 2:3)

5. Took a Risk to Help the Spies - She hid the Israelite spies despite the danger involved (Joshua 2:4).
6. Used Deception - She lied to the king of Jericho to protect the spies (Joshua 2:4-5).
7. Acted in Faith, Not Fear - Despite the king's orders, she protected the spies, showing faith (Joshua 2:4-5).

Unbelief produces disobedience; faith results in obedience. Rahab's faith welcomed the spies into her house, and God spared her family. Faith produces works.



8. Courageous and Fearless - She risked her life to protect the spies without a reward. The spies didn't ask her to hide them. They didn't give her any deal for deliverance at this point. (Joshua 2:4-5).
9. Misdirection - She hid the spies on her roof, while urging the King's men to pursue the spies through the gate out of Jericho. (Joshua 2:4-5)

Does God condone lying? _____ God is not blessing Rahab because of her lie. He blesses Rahab despite her lie. Rahab's blessing comes because she was faithful and courageous in saving the lives of the spies. The same goes for us. He is faithful to us even when our actions show unfaithfulness to Him. Read 2 Timothy 2:13. Rahab is a work in progress. Her deceit was a result of her developing imperfect faith.

10. Her deception led to false security - The pursuers and the King felt safe within the walls of Jericho because Rahab told them that the spies had already left the city through the gate. When the King's men pursued the gate was shut. (Joshua 2:5)
11. Aware of Israel's God - She had heard of God's mighty works at the Red Sea, the destruction brought about by King Sihon of the Amorites when he wouldn't let the Israelites pass through his territory according to Numbers 21:21-24. Sihon and Og are the names of the kings defeated and the lands the Israelites took over. (Joshua 2:9-11).
12. Spiritually Perceptive - She recognized God's power and aligned herself with Him (Joshua 2:9-11).
13. Recognized God's Sovereignty - She acknowledged that the Lord was the true God of heaven and earth (Joshua 2:11).

When she had received the spies with peace -

14. Believed in God's Mercy - She sought protection for herself and her family (Joshua 2:12-13).
15. Loyal to Her Family - She sought salvation not just for herself but for her entire household (Joshua 2:13).
16. Made a Pact for Protection - She secured a promise of safety for herself and her family (Joshua 2:12-14).
17. Lived in the City Wall - Her house was located on the wall of Jericho, providing a strategic advantage (Joshua 2:15).

18. Strategist – She knew the patterns of the pursuers and directed the spies to go the hills and wait 3 days when the pursuers would return to Jericho.
19. Received the Scarlet Cord as a Sign - The spies instructed her to tie a scarlet rope in her window as a symbol of her salvation so her home could be identified by the Israelites (Joshua 2:18-21).
20. Obeyed the Instructions Given - She followed the spies' guidance precisely, ensuring her safety and everyone within her house (Joshua 2:21).
21. Acknowledged the warning of disobedience and treachery– She followed the guidance given to her and was saved (Joshua 2:19-21).
22. Obedient spies – the spies followed Rahab's advice and returned to Joshua (Joshua 22-24)

Time passed before Israel got to Jericho. Rahab's faith must have really been tested. We are not told about her time during this period, but we are told about the Israelites. The entire nation had to cross the Jordan River to get to Jericho. God performed another miracle. Read Joshua 3:14-17, 4:23-24.

Then, God commanded that the men be circumcised, so there was a time for them to heal before they could move on - Joshua 5:6-8. The Israelites celebrated Passover and the very next day, the special manna from heaven ceased. God instructed them to eat the harvest from the land of Canaan. Read Joshua 5:11-12.

While this was occurring, Rahab was keeping the faith with her scarlet rope in the window. Did she have to keep her family in her home during that time? She didn't know how the Lord would deliver her household. Do we step out on faith as well for our families?

23. She and Her Family Were Saved - When Jericho fell and all its living inhabitants were being killed, Rahab's household was spared because of the scarlet rope in the window (Joshua 6:21-23).



Can you imagine the noise of fighting and fear just outside her door? Rahab and her family risked all yet continued to believe.

24. Became Part of Israel - She was integrated into the community of God's people (Joshua 6:25).
25. Ancestor of Jesus Christ - Rahab married Salmon and became the great-great-grandmother of King David (Matthew 1:5).
26. Demonstrated Works Alongside Faith - Her actions proved her belief, as James later affirmed (James 2:25)

Rahab is an ancestor of Jesus. So much of her story has salvation themes. The comparisons of the scarlet (red) rope in the window, the blood on the door of the Israelites, and the shedding of red blood on the cross that brings salvation for the obedient.