

Rahab Lied and Was Blessed

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of May 13, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—One of the stories in the Bible that is unnerving to the emotional system of religious people is the story of Rahab. Here are three emotional reactions that religious fundamentalists have concerning the story of Rahab.

- She could not have lied.
- She could not have been blessed for lying.
- If you teach that she lied and was blessed for her lying, you are trying to encourage religious people to take up a lifestyle of lying.

Seriously, I wish I had a dollar for every time I saw those emotional reactions.

Rahab lied

The book of Joshua proceeds with events of the children of Israel following the death of Moses. God instructed Joshua to take the Israelites into the Promised Land (Joshua 1:2). One of the first directives given by Joshua was to send two spies to collect information.

Joshua 2:1—The spies lodged in the house of Rahab.

Joshua 2:2—People told the king of Jericho that spies had come to his city.

Joshua 2:3—The king of Jericho told Rahab to bring out the men who had come to her house.

Joshua 2:4—Rahab hid the two men (on the roof according to verse 6) and answered the king.

Notice how many ways (in verses 4 and 5) that Rahab told her lie.

- The men came, but I didn't know from where.
- When it was time to close the gate at dark, the men left.
- I don't know where the men were going.
- Pursue after them quickly; you can catch them.

Rahab was blessed

Bible verses show that Rahab was blessed because of her behavior.

- *Joshua 6:17*—Rahab lived, because she hid the messengers.

- *Joshua 6:25*—Joshua spared Rahab and her family, because she hid the messengers that Joshua sent to Jericho.
- *Hebrews 11:31*—By faith, the harlot Rahab survived because she received the spies with peace.
- *James 2:25*—The harlot Rahab was justified by works (her decisions and actions) when she received the messengers and sent them out another way.

Rare exception

Bible students are fully aware that God and His Bible do not endorse lying.

There are many powerful verses that show God's view about lying and various consequences that can occur from this character flaw.

Most lying has horrible motives. Here are just a few examples.

- To gain a possession for yourself or to watch someone else lose a possession.
- To gain money for yourself or to watch someone else lose money.
- To gain recognition for yourself or to watch someone else lose recognition.
- To gain an award for yourself or to watch someone else lose an award.
- To gain trust for yourself or to watch someone else lose trust.
- To gain any type of advantage for yourself or to watch someone become at a disadvantage.¹⁴
- In other words—to gain for self or to watch other people hurt.

God doesn't want that type of lying. However, He was pleased to watch Rahab demonstrate a good reason for lying (which is a rare exception)—Rahab lied to protect life.