

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of July 23, 2022.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with my series about Hebrews 11. This installment was a presentation titled "Hebrews 11:30-31." I want to share some of my comments in this article.

Mentioned Jericho

Hebrews 11:30—"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days."

This verse refers back to Joshua 6. Here are a few highlights.

■ *Joshua 6:3*—Joshua instructed the people to march around the city one time for six straight days.

■ *Joshua 6:4*—On the seventh day, seven priests with seven trumpets were instructed to march around the city seven times.

■ *Joshua 6:10*—Joshua told the people not to shout until they were told to shout.

Joshua 6:17—"Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent."

Joshua 6:25—"And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho."

Before we talk Rahab

Before we read about Rahab in Hebrews 11:31, let's notice a few scriptures about civil governments giving edicts—that believers did not follow.

■ *Exodus 1:22*—Pharaoh gave an edict about killing male babies—which Moses' mother did not follow.

■ *Daniel 3:3-18*—Nebuchadnezzar gave an edict to bow down to an idol—which Shadrach, Meshack and Abed-Nego did not follow.

■ *Revelation 13:11-17*—A beast power will give edicts—which believers will

choose not to follow.

The account about Rahab falls into the same category—a civil leader gave Rahab an edict that she chose not to obey.

Mentioned Rahab

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

■ *Joshua 2:1*—Joshua sent two spies.

■ *Joshua 2:2-3*—The king of Jericho found out about the spies being sent and informed Rahab that he knew they were in her house.

Rahab hid the spies.

Joshua 2:4—"Then the woman took the two men and hid them . . ."

Joshua 2:6—" (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)"

Notice the following four statements.

■ "So she said, 'Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.'"—*Joshua 2:4*.

■ "And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out."—*Joshua 2:5*. The two spies were on the roof.

■ "Where the men went I do not know."—*Joshua 2:5*. The two spies were on the roof.

■ "Pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."—*Joshua 2:5*. The two spies were on the roof.

Mentioned by James

James 2:14—"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?"

James 2:21—"Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?"

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