

## **BBC - 5/11/25 – Mothers' Day Home Study Outline – “RAHAB: Maternal-Ancestress or ‘Harlot’?”**

Most scholars understand Rahab of [Matthew 1:5](#), to be the harlot of Jericho from [Joshua chapter 2](#). Rahab was the consequential Messianic mother of David's great-grandfather, Boaz (*who married Ruth*).

After their miraculous exodus from Egypt (*where the Jews as a forming nation had been in ‘gestation’ for 430 years*), Israel emerged in their birth as a nation, and proceeded forth towards the Promised Land.

After their plague-filled ‘contractions,’ Israel's birth is seen in the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea. Immediately, they began to experience ‘growing pains’ – the first crisis being, the battle of Jericho.

Joshua dispatched 2 spies into Jericho, who were helped through a covenant with a believing harlot. She observed a ‘Passover’ of sorts, by placing a scarlet thread on her window, and staying inside with her family until the battle was over. Then she & family emerged safe, and joined into the Israeli family.

In the Messianic line of [Matthew 1:1-17](#), Rahab became the great-great-grandmother of David. Also... 14 generations each; from Abraham to David, from David to Babylon, & from Babylon to Jesus Christ. Rahab was a key link in the human descendants of Jesus Christ, as a Messianic maternal ancestress.

**Discussion:** *In comparing [Exodus 12:21-23](#) with [Joshua 2:18-21](#) how did Rahab “observe” Passover? And how was this an act of faith unto ‘salvation’ to her and her family?*

Though Rahab (*a Gentile, as Ruth*), was a Messianic maternal ancestress in Christ's Davidic lineage, James (*the half-brother of Jesus, who after the Resurrection became the ‘lead Pastor’ of the Jerusalem Church*) doesn't refer to her as such, but rather, as **“Rahab the harlot”** ([James 2:25](#)).

Likewise, Paul, (*the greatest 1<sup>st</sup> Century missionary Apostle, and human author of half the New Testament*), when listing the 16 Old Testament “Heroes of the Faith,” names only two women – the most important; Sarah (*the wife of Abraham, who God initially covenanted with*), and **“the harlot Rahab”** ([Hebrews 11:31](#)).

Isn't it true that God does not bring up our forgiven past ([Psalm 103:12](#); [Micah 7:19](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Hebrews 8:12-13, 10:17](#)), and that as His redeemed people we are no longer defined by our past?

**Discussion:** *If in Christ we're not defined by our past, why, of all people, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, do the greatest Apostles James and Paul address Rahab as “the harlot”?*

Could it be (*as some liberal scholars suggest*), that the New Testament writers James & Paul were misogynistic from their day's cultural prejudice towards women? Is it possible that despite writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, their ingrained biases seeped through?

**OR**, is there something else that God is trying to show us?

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah gives us the key for the answer. He writes in [Isaiah 51:1](#)...

***Listen to Me, you who follow*** (*pursue*) ***after righteousness, You who seek the LORD:***

***Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.***

Bible writers were not misogynistic, & neither were their inspired writings corrupted by cultural norms. Isaiah rightly exhorts **two things** to the **“followers of Jesus Christ”** and **“seekers of God”** (the Church):

- 1) Look to Jesus who gave you new life, by whose Name you are now identified with (‘Christian’);
- 2) And also remember where you came from – stay humble; you were redeemed from deep sin!

God wants His redeemed people to:

***Press on*** from our dark past, unto the blessings & promises of new life in Christ ([Philippians 3:13-15](#));

***Without forgetting*** the bondage He has redeemed us from! ([1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [Ephesians 2:10-13](#)).

**Discussion:** *Why is it crucially important for Christians to keep in the forefront of our remembrance, the realization of our wondrous salvation, & the eternal death we were rescued from?*

On “**Mother's Day**,” God showcases Rahab, a harlot redeemed to glory! ([Ephesians 2:4-7](#))