

People of Faith: Rahab

Joshua 2:1-14; Hebrews 11:31

Who do you fear?



Sore Thumb

1. Prostitute

And Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the harlot’s house, and bring out from it the woman, and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.” So the young men who had been spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her; and they brought all her kindred, and set them outside the camp of Israel. And they burned the city with fire, and all within it; only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. But Rahab the harlot, and her father’s household, and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive; and she dwelt in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Joshua 6:22–25, RSV

Sore Thumb

1. Prostitute
 2. Canaanite
-

And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went, and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there.

Joshua 2:1, RSV

Sore Thumb

1. Prostitute
 2. Canaanite
 3. Lied
-

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:16, RSV

But a man named Ananias with his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

Acts 5:1-5, RSV

Sore Thumb

1. Prostitute
 2. Canaanite
 3. Lied
 - Lesser of 2 Evils
-

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

James 2:10, RSV

Sore Thumb

1. Prostitute
 2. Canaanite
 3. Lied
 - Lesser of 2 evils
 - Acting in the higher good
-

“If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26, RSV

but you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, What you would have gained from me is Corban' (that is, given to God)— then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition which you hand on.

Mark 7:11-13, RSV

Sore Thumb

1. Prostitute
 2. Canaanite
 3. Lied
 - Lesser of 2 evils
 - Acting in the higher good
 - Another position?
-

- I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
- For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me.
- Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I of myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Romans 7:15, 19-20; 25, RSV

Sore Thumb

1. Prostitute
 2. Canaanite
 3. Lied
 - Lesser of 2 evils
 - Acting in the higher good
 - The battle of 2 fathers
-

“If you are a preacher of grace, then preach a true grace and not a fictitious grace... be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.”

- Martin Luther

The Basis of Rahab's Faith



and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites that were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any man, because of you; for the Lord your God is he who is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

Joshua 2:9-11, RSV

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Joshua 2:9-11, RSV

- “You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth... (Exo. 20:4)
- know therefore this day, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. (Deut. 4:39)
- “You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth... (Deut. 5:8)

Rahab was doing far more than merely trying to save her skin or that of her family. She was acknowledging that this God she had heard about was the one and only true God, the only one who was worthy of worship and allegiance. This constitutes her statement of faith in words. She was afraid of the coming judgment like the rest of Canaanites, but she changed her life and belief system because of it.

- New American Commentary

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;
rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

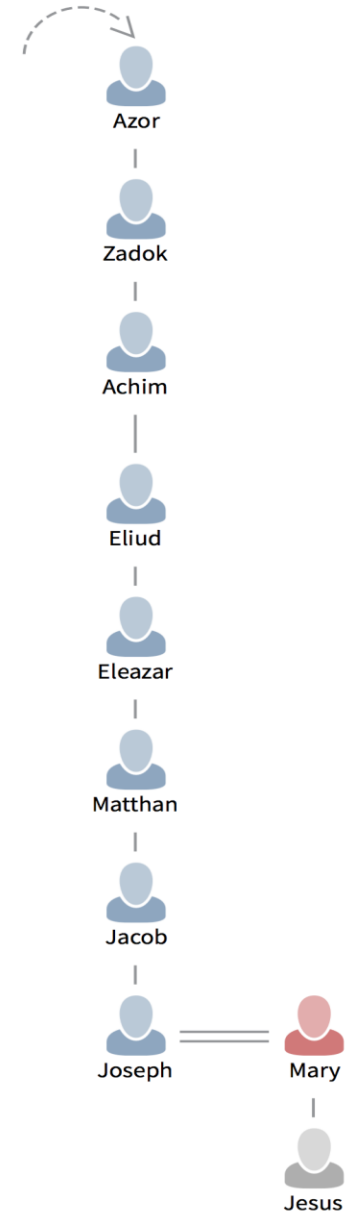
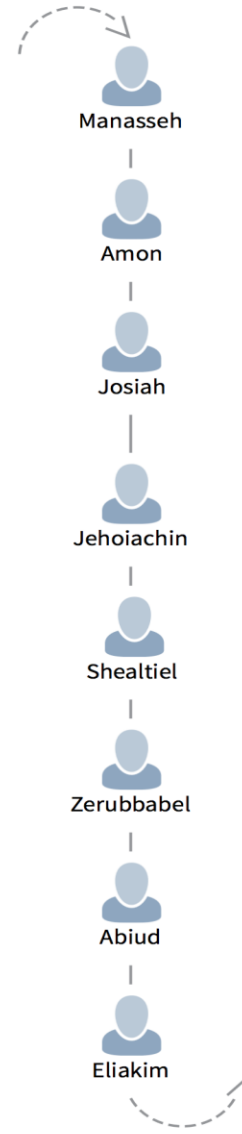
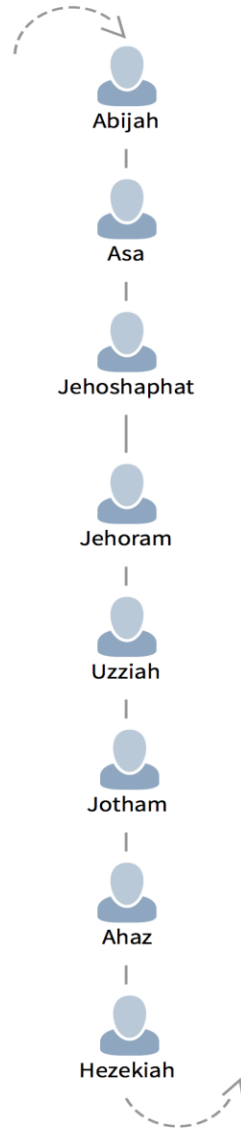
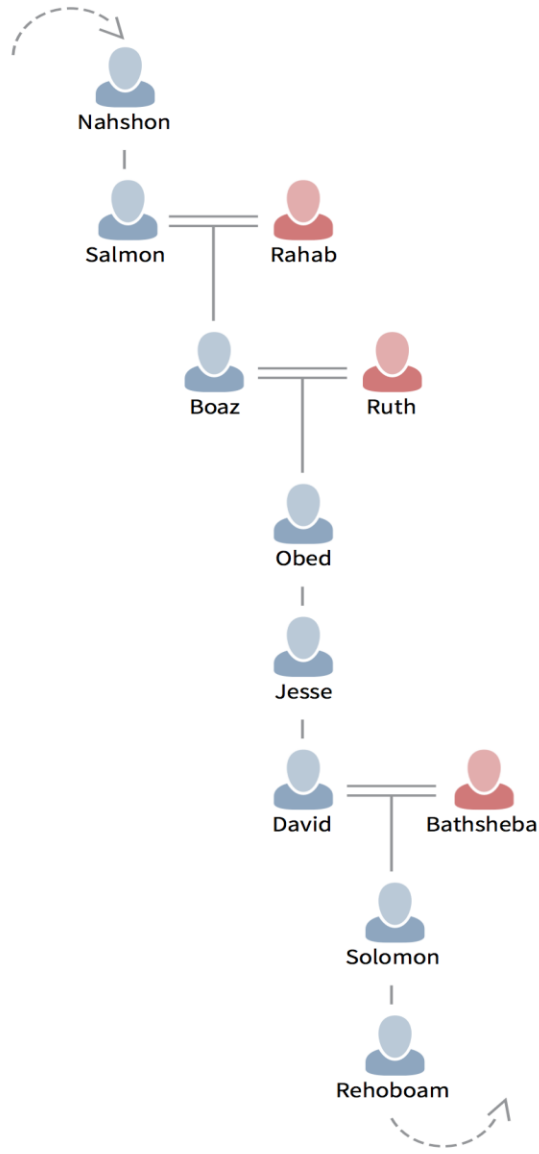
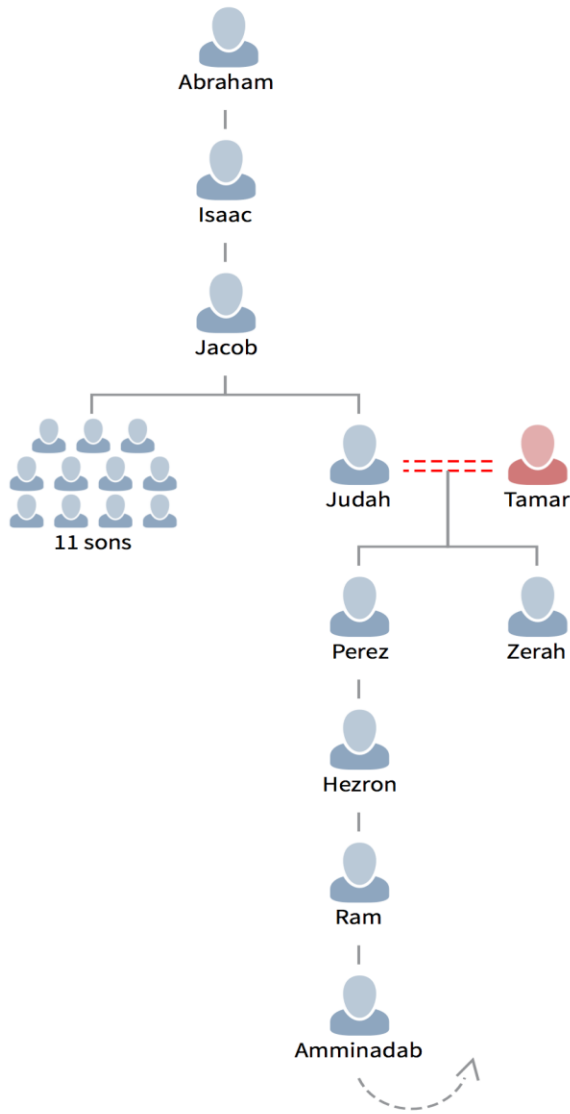
Matthew 10:28, RSV

By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given friendly welcome to the spies.

Hebrew 11:31, RSV

And in the same way was not also Rahab the harlot justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead.

James 2:25-26, RSV



Conclusion

Do you realise the battle of 2 fathers in your life? The father of lies and the father of truth.

Will you fear God more than any other things and be transformed into the image of the father of truth?
