THE SCARLET CORD IN THE WINDOW

Intro: Paul in Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” sets forth the abiding value of the Old Testament. In this lesson I would like for us to notice an analogy between physical and spiritual deliverance as found in Joshua 2:11-21.

I. The Deliverer Made The Stipulation.

A. Rahab knew of the coming destruction.
   1. Jos. 2:9 “And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.
   2. She did not set the terms of her deliverance.
   3. The two spies are the ones who set the terms; Jos. 2:17-20 “And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. And when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father’s household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.”

B. We desire deliverance from everlasting destruction.
   1. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      a. all have sinned; Rom. 3:23“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
   b. Thus, all deserve everlasting destruction (death).
   2. We do not set the terms of deliverance.
      a. God sets the terms.
      b. He has set those terms in the New Testament.

C. We may desire deliverance, and to go to heaven, but many desire it in their own way.
   1. Pray for salvation.
   2. Good works.
   3. Faith alone.

D. Those terms.
   1. John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
   2. Mat. 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   3. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   4. Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

II. Deliverance Was Conditional.

A. Rahab had conditions placed on her deliverance.
   1. Jos. 2:17-20 “And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window
which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. "And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. 29And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.”

2. When she met the conditions, she was delivered, Jos. 6:25 “And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.”

B. We have conditions placed on our deliverance.
   1. Those conditions.
      a. Believe in God; Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
      b. Believe in Jesus Christ; John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
      c. Repent of your sins; Luke 13:3, 5 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
      d. Confess Jesus as God Son; Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
      e. Baptized for the remission of sins; Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   2. When we meet those conditions, God will save us.
      a. 1 John 2:3 “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”; John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
      b. Acts 2:21, 38 “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.... 38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

III. SAFETY WAS IN AND NOT OUT OF THE DESIGNATED PLACE.
   A. For Rahab safety was in her house; Jos. 2:19 “And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.”
      1. Like Noah’s safety was in the ark.
      2. Gen. 7:1 “And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”
      3. 1 Pet. 3:20 “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”
   B. What is the designated place for us.
      1. In Christ.
         a. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”; Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
         b. Rom. 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
         c. 2 Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
         d. Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”
2. To be in Christ is to be in His church.
   a. Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”
   b. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, “Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   c. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
   d. Thus, the church makes up the saved (the saved are in the church.)
      (1) Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
      (2) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
      (3) 1 Cor. 1:2: “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.”
      (4) Eph. 5:23, 25-27 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.... 25Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

C. How do we get into Christ, the church, the designated place.
   1. To get into Christ.
      a. Rom. 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
      b. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
   2. To get into the church.
      a. Acts 2:38-41, 47 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 47For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.... “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
      b. 1 Cor. 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

IV. RAHAB WAS REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN THE HOUSE.
   A. If Rahab left the house destruction awaited.
      1. If anyone left the house they would be killed.
      2. Jos. 2:19 “And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.”
   B. We must remain faithful in the church.
      1. We must endure to the end.
         a. Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
         b. Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
2. We must be faithful in service.
   a. 1 Cor. 3:9 “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”
   2 Cor. 6:1 “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”
   b. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
   c. 2 Tim. 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

V. Rahab Was Interested in Her Family.
   A. Jos. 2:12-13 “Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father’s house, and give me a true token: 13And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.”
   B. Joshua was like this: Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
   C. We should try to win to the Lord every member of our family.
   1. 2 Tim. 1:5 “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”
   2. 2 Tim. 3:14-15 “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them, 15And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
   3. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Conclusion: Notice Rahab did not delay placing the cord in the window (Josh. 2:21 “And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.”) Are you in the designated place.