

Chapter 2: Rachav

Source Sheet by Rabbi Federgrun

Congregation Schara Tzedek

Joshua 2

(1) Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim, saying, “Go, reconnoiter the region of Jericho.” So they set out, and they came to the house of a harlot named Rahab and lodged there. (2) The king of Jericho was told, “Some men have come here tonight, Israelites, to spy out the country.” (3) The king of Jericho thereupon sent orders to Rahab: “Produce the men who came to you and entered your house, for they have come to spy out the whole country.” (4) The woman, however, had taken the two men and hidden them. “It is true,” she said, “the men did come to me, but I didn’t know where they were from. (5) And at dark, when the gate was about to be closed, the men left; and I don’t know where the men went. Quick, go after them, for you can overtake them.”— (6) Now she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under some stalks of flax which she had lying on the roof.— (7) So the men pursued them in the direction of the Jordan down to the fords; and no sooner had the pursuers gone out than the gate was shut behind them. (8) The spies had not yet gone to sleep when she came up to them on the roof. (9) She said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given the country to you, because dread of you has fallen upon us, and all the inhabitants of the land are quaking before you. (10) For we have heard how the LORD dried up the waters of the Sea of Reeds for you when you left Egypt,

יהושע ב'

(א) וישלח יהושע בן־נון מן־השטחים שנים־אנשים מרגלים תרש לאמור לכו ראו את־הארץ ואת־יריחו וילכו ויבאו בית־אשה זונה ושמה רחב וישכבו־שמה (ב) ויאמר למלך יריחו לאמר הנה אנשים באו הנה הלילה מבני ישראל לחפור את־הארץ (ג) וישלח מלך יריחו אל־רחב לאמר הוציאי האנשים הבאים אליך אשר־באו לביתך כי לחפור את־כל־הארץ באו (ד) ותקח האשה את־שני האנשים ותצפנו ותאמר | כן באו אלי האנשים ולא ידעתי מאין הם (ה) ויהי השער לסגור בחשך והאנשים יצאו לא ידעתי אנה הלכו האנשים ודפו מהר אחריהם כי תשיגום (ו) והיא העלתם הגג והתמננם בפשתי העץ הערכות לה על־הגג (ז) והאנשים ודפו אחריהם בדרך הידן על המעברות והשער סגרו אחרי כן אשר יצאו הדופים אחריהם (ח) והמה טרם ישכבון והיא עלתה עליהם על־הגג (ט) ותאמר אל־האנשים ידעתי כי־נתן יהוה לכם את־הארץ וכי־נפלה אימתכם עלינו וכי נמנו כל־ישיב הארץ מפניכם (י) כי שמענו את אשר־הוביש יהוה את־מי ים־סוף מפניכם בצאתכם ממצרים ואשר עשיתם לשני מלכי האמרי

and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings across the Jordan, whom you doomed. (11) When we heard about it, we lost heart, and no man had any more spirit left because of you; for the LORD your God is the only God in heaven above and on earth below. (12) Now, since I have shown loyalty to you, swear to me by the LORD that you in turn will show loyalty to my family. Provide me with a reliable sign (13) that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death.” (14) The men answered her, “Our persons are pledged for yours, even to death! If you do not disclose this mission of ours, we will show you true loyalty when the LORD gives us the land.” (15) She let them down by a rope through the window—for her dwelling was at the outer side of the city wall and she lived in the actual wall. (16) She said to them, “Make for the hills, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Stay there in hiding three days, until the pursuers return; then go your way.” (17) But the men warned her, “We will be released from this oath which you have made us take (18) [unless,] when we invade the country, you tie this length of crimson cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your family together in your house; (19) and if anyone ventures outside the doors of your house, his blood will be on his head, and we shall be clear. But if a hand is laid on anyone who remains in the house with you, his blood shall be on our heads. (20) And if you disclose this mission of ours, we shall likewise be released from the oath which you made us take.” (21) She replied, “Let it be as you say.” She sent them on their way, and they left; and she tied the crimson cord to the window. (22) They went straight to the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers turned

אֲשֶׁר בְּעֶבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן לְסִיחֹן וְלֹעֹג אֲשֶׁר
הִחַרְמָתָם אוֹתָם (יא) וְנָשַׁמְעוּ וַיִּמָּס
לִבָּבָנוּ וְלֹא־קָמָה עוֹד רוּחַ בְּאִישׁ
מִפְּנֵיכֶם כִּי יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הוּא אֱלֹהִים
בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְעַל־הָאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת (יב)
וְעַתָּה הַשְׁבַּעֲנִי לִי בִיהוָה כִּי־עָשִׂיתִי
עִמָּכֶם חֶסֶד וְעָשִׂיתֶם גַּם־אִתָּם
עִם־בֵּית אָבִי חֶסֶד וְנִתַּתֶּם לִי אוֹת
אֲמַת (יג) וְהִחַיְתֶּם אֶת־אָבִי וְאֶת־אִמִּי
וְאֶת־אֲחִי וְאֶת־אֲחוֹתַי [אֲחֵיוֹתַי] וְאֶת
כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם וְהַצַּלְתֶּם אֶת־נַפְשֹׁתֵינוּ
מִמּוֹת (יד) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ הָאֲנָשִׁים נַפְשֵׁנוּ
תַּחְתִּיכֶם לְמוֹת אִם לֹא תִגִּידִי
אֶת־דְּבָרֵנוּ זֶה וְהָיָה בְּתַת־יְהוָה לָנוּ
אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְעָשִׂינוּ עִמָּךְ חֶסֶד וְאֲמַת
(טו) וַתּוֹרְדָם בַּחֲבֹל בְּעֵד הַחֲלוֹן כִּי
בֵיתָהּ בְּקִיר הַחוּמָה וּבַחוּמָה הָיָא
יֹשֶׁבֶת (טז) וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הִהֲרָה לָכוּ
פֶּן־יִפְגְּעוּ בָכֶם הַרְדָּפִים וְנִחַבְתֶּם נָשָׁה
שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים עַד שׁוּב הַרְדָּפִים וְאַחֵר
תָּלְכוּ לְדַרְכְּכֶם (יז) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶיהָ
הָאֲנָשִׁים גְּזִימָה אֲנִינָנו מִלִּשְׁבַּעְתְּךָ הַזֶּה
אֲשֶׁר הַשְׁבַּעְתָּנוּ (יח) הִנֵּה אֲנִינָנו בָּאִים
בָּאָרֶץ אֶת־תִּקְוַת חוּטֵי הַשָּׁנִי הַזֶּה
תִּקְשְׁרִי בַחֲלוֹן אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדָתָנוּ בּוֹ
וְאֶת־אָבִיךָ וְאֶת־אִמְךָ וְאֶת־אֲחִיךָ וְאֶת
כָּל־בֵּית אָבִיךָ תֹּאסֹפִי אֵלֶיךָ הַבַּיִתָּה
(יט) וְהָיָה כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־יֵצֵא מִדִּלְתִּי בֵיתְךָ
הַחוּצָה דָּמּוּ בְּרֹאשׁוֹ וְאֲנִינָנו גְּזִימָה וְכָל־
אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה אִתְּךָ בְּבֵית דָּמּוּ בְּרֹאשֵׁנוּ
אִם־יָד תִּהְיֶה־בּוֹ (כ) וְאִם־תִּגִּידִי
אֶת־דְּבָרֵנוּ זֶה וְהִינָנו גְּזִימָה מִלִּשְׁבַּעְתְּךָ
אֲשֶׁר הַשְׁבַּעְתָּנוּ (כא) וַתֹּאמֶר בְּדַבְרֵיכֶם
כֵּן־הוּא וַתִּשְׁלַחֲתָם וַיֵּלְכוּ וַתִּקְשֹׁר
אֶת־תִּקְוַת הַשָּׁנִי בַחֲלוֹן (כב) וַיֵּלְכוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ
הַהֲרָה וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים
עַד־שׁוּבוֹ הַרְדָּפִים וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ הַרְדָּפִים
בְּכָל־הַיַּרְדֵּי וְלֹא מָצְאוּ (כג) וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁנִי

back. And so the pursuers, searching all along the road, did not find them. (23) Then the two men came down again from the hills and crossed over. They came to Joshua son of Nun and reported to him all that had happened to them. (24) They said to Joshua, "The LORD has delivered the whole land into our power; in fact, all the inhabitants of the land are quaking before us."

Megillah 14b

For Rahab converted and married Joshua, and therefore Huldah descended from both Joshua and Rahab. The Gemara raises a difficulty: **But did Joshua have any descendants? But isn't it written** in the genealogical list of the tribe of Ephraim: "**Nun his son, Joshua his son**" (I Chronicles 7:27)? The listing does not continue any further, implying that Joshua had no sons. The Gemara answers: Indeed, **he did not have sons**, but **he did have daughters**.

Zevachim 116b

The Gemara adds that the Sages **said** with regard to Rahab: **She was ten years old when the Jewish people left Egypt, and she engaged in prostitution all forty years that the Jewish people were in the wilderness. After** that, when she was **fifty years** old, she **converted** when the two spies visited her. **She said: May** all of my sins of prostitution **be forgiven me as a reward** for having endangered myself with the **rope, window, and flax**, by means of which I saved Joshua's two spies. Rahab first concealed the spies in stalks of flax, and later assisted them in exiting her home by lowering them from the window with a rope (see Joshua 2:6 and 2:15).

הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיֵּרְדּוּ מִהָהָר וַיַּעֲבְרוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ
אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן־נֹון וַיִּסְפְּרוּ־לּוֹ אֶת
כָּל־הַמַּצָּאוֹת אוֹתָם (כד) וַיֹּאמְרוּ
אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ כִּי־נָתַן יְהוָה בְּיָדֵנוּ
אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ וְגַם־נִמְגְּלוּ כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי
הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵינוּ (ס)

מגילה י"ד ב

תסתיים שמעתא דאיגירא ונסבה
יהושע ומי הוּ ליה זרעא ליהושע
והכתיב (דברי הימים א ז, כז) נון בנו
יהושע בנו בני לא הוּ ליה בנתן הוּ
ליה

זבחים קט"ז ב

אמרו בת י' שנים היתה כשיצאו
ישראל ממצרים ונתתה [כל] מ' שנה
שהיו ישראל במדבר אחר נ' שנה
נתגירה אמרה יהא מחול לי בשכר
חבל חלון ופשתים:



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