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VBM 929 English Lecture

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א:דבי אליהו זוטה כב

שכל התפלה שנתפלל משה רבינו לא קיבל, דבר אחר גדולה תשובה יותר מן התפלה אבל רחב הזונה נתקבלה בתשובה, ממנו להכניסו לארץ ישראל

A separate matter. Teshuva (repentance) is greater than prayer. For even the the prayer that Moses our Teacher prayed for his entrance into the promised land was accepted by God. But Rahav the prostitute, her teshuvah (repentance) was accepted.

יהושוע פרק ב

**א** וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-נֹון מִן-הַשְּׁטִיִּים שְׁנַיִם-**1** And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two spies secretly, saying: 'Go view the land, and Jericho.' And they went, and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lay there.

**ב** וַיֹּאמֶר, לְמֶלֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ לֵאמֹר: הִנֵּה אַנְשֵׁיִם בָּאוּ הַלַּיְלָה, מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--**2** And it was told the king of Jericho, saying: 'Behold, there came men in hither to-night of the children of Israel to search out the land.'

**ג** וַיִּשְׁלַח מֶלֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ, אֶל-רַחֲב לֵאמֹר: הוֹצִיֵאִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הַבָּאִים אֵלַיךְ, אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ לְבֵיתְךָ--כִּי לְחַפֵּר אֶת-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ, בָּאוּ.**3** And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying: 'Bring forth the men that are come to thee, that are entered into thy house; for they are come to search out all the land.'

**ד** וַתִּקַּח הָאִשָּׁה אֶת-שְׁנֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים, וַתְּצַפְּנֵנּוּ; וַתֹּאמֶר כֵּן, בָּאוּ אֵלַי הָאֲנָשִׁים, וְלֹא יָדַעְתִּי, מֵאִין הֵמָּה.**4** And the woman took the two men, and hid them; and she said: 'Yea, the

men came unto me, but I knew not whence they were;

5 and it came to pass about the time of the shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out; whither the men went I know not; pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.'

6 But she had brought them up to the roof, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had spread out upon the roof.

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 melt away before you.

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond the Jordan, unto Sihon and to Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we had heard it, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more spirit in any man, because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above, and on earth beneath.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that ye also will deal kindly with my father's house-- and give me a true token--

יג 13 and save alive my father, and my  
וְאֶת-אִמִּי וְאֶת-אֲבִי וְאֶת-אֶמִּי, וְאֶת-אֲחֵי  
וְאֶת-אֲחֹתַי (אֲחֵיוֹתַי), וְאֶת, כָּל-אֲשֶׁר  
לָהֶם; וְהִצַּלְתֶּם אֶת-נַפְשֹׁתֵינוּ, מִמּוֹת.  
mother, and my brethren, and my  
sisters, and all that they have, and  
deliver our lives from death.'

יד 14 And the men said unto her: 'Our life  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ הָאֲנָשִׁים, נַפְשֵׁנוּ תַחְתֵּיכֶם  
לְמוֹת, אִם לֹא תִגִּידוּ, אֶת-דְּבָרֵנוּ זֶה;  
וְהָיָה, בְּתֵת-יְהוָה לָנוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ, וְעָשִׂינוּ  
עִמָּךְ, חֶסֶד וְאֱמֶת. LORD giveth us the land, that we will  
deal kindly and truly with thee.'

טו 15 Then she let them down by a cord  
וַתוֹרְדֵם בַּחֲבֵל, בְּעֵד הַחַלּוֹן: כִּי בֵּיתָהּ  
בְּקִיר הַחוּמָה, וּבְחוּמָה הִיא יוֹשֶׁבֶת.  
through the window; for her house was  
upon the side of the wall, and she  
dwelt upon the wall.

יז 17 And the men said unto her: 'We will  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶיהָ, הָאֲנָשִׁים: נָקִים אָנַחְנוּ,  
מִשְׁבַּעְתְּךָ הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁבַּעְתָּנוּ.  
be guiltless of this thine oath which  
thou hast made us to swear.

יח 18 Behold, when we come into the  
יֵח הִנֵּה אָנַחְנוּ בָּאִים, בְּאָרֶץ; אֶת-תְּקוּת  
חוּט הַשָּׁנִי הַזֶּה תִקְשְׁרִי, בַּחַלּוֹן אֲשֶׁר  
הוֹרְדְתָנוּ בוֹ, וְאֶת-אָבִיךָ וְאֶת-אִמְךָ וְאֶת-  
אֲחִיךָ וְאֶת כָּל-בֵּית אָבִיךָ, תֹאסֹפִי אֵלֶיךָ  
הַבַּיִתָּה. unto thee into the house thy father,  
and thy mother, and thy brethren, and  
all thy father's household.

יט 19 And it shall be, that whosoever  
יֵט וְהָיָה כָל אֲשֶׁר-יֵצֵא מִדְלַתִּי בֵּיתְךָ  
הַחוּצָה, דָּמוֹ בְּרֹאשׁוֹ--וְאָנַחְנוּ נָקִים; וְכָל  
אֲשֶׁר יְהִי אֵתְךָ, בְּבַיִת--דָּמוֹ בְּרֹאשׁוֹ,  
אִם-יָד תִּהְיֶה-בוֹ. shall go out of the doors of thy house  
into the street, his blood shall be upon  
his head, and we will be guiltless;

כ 25 But Rahab the harlot, and her  
כָּה וְאֶת-רַחַב הַזּוֹנָה וְאֶת-בֵּית אָבִיהָ  
וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לָהּ, הִחְיָה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, וַתֵּשֶׁב  
בְּקִרְבַּי יִשְׂרָאֵל, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: כִּי  
הִחְבִּיֵּאָה אֶת-הַמְּלָאכִים, אֲשֶׁר-שָׁלַח  
יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לְרַגֵּל אֶת-יְרִיחוֹ. {פ} whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקֶרֶב וַתֵּשֶׁב, יְהוֹשֻׁעַ הַחַיָּה, לָהּ-אֲשֶׁר-כָּל-וְאֶת אֲבִיהָ בֵּית-וְאֶת הַזֹּנָה רָחַב-וְאֶת כָּהֵן,  
יְרִיחוֹ-אֶת לְרַגְלֵי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ שְׁלַח-אֲשֶׁר, הַמְּלָאכִים-אֶת הַחֲבִיאָה כִּי: הַזֶּה הַיּוֹם עַד

**25** But Rahab the harlot, and her father's household, and all that she had, did Joshua save alive; and she dwelt in the midst of Israel, unto this day; because she hid the messengers, whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. {P}

### Who Was This Woman?

רש"י

מְזוֹנוֹת מִיַּיִן מוֹכֶרֶת, פּוֹנְדֵקִיתָא :יְהוֹנָתָן תִּירְגָּם זֹנָה אִשָּׁה

**A lady innkeeper.** According to *Targum Yonasson*, an innkeeper who sold various kinds of foodstuff.

ח'א':זבחים קט"ז ב

דאפילו אקשוויי נמי לא אקשו ומנא ידעה דאמר מר אין לך כל שר ונגיד שלא בא על רחב שנה שהיו ישראל 'מ [כל]שנים היתה כשיצאו ישראל ממצרים וזנתה 'הזונה אמרו בת י שנה נתגיירה אמרה יהא מחול לי בשכר חבל חלון ופשתים 'במדבר אחר נ

She implied that they even lost their virility How did she know this Mar says There wasn't a prince or king who didn't come to Rahav the prostitute They said Rahav was ten years old when Israel left Egypt, and she whored herself for forty years while the Israelites wandered the wilderness. At the age of fifty, she converted end said May I make repentance by the merit of the cord, the window, and the flax.

י"ג-י"ב:מגילה י"ד ב

איתיביה רב עינא סבא לרב נחמן שמונה נביאים והם כהנים יצאו מרחב הזונה ואלו הן נריה ברוך ושריה מחסיה ירמיה חלקיה חנמאל ושלום רבי יהודה אומר אף חולדה הנביאה מבני בניה של רחב הזונה היתה

Eight prophets, who were also priests, descended from Rahab the prostitute, and they are: Neriah; his son Baruch; Seraiah; Mahseiah; Jeremiah; his father, Hilkiyah; Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel; and Hanamel's father, Shallum. Rabbi Judah says: even Huldah the prophetess descended from Rachav the prostitute.