



## The Crimson Cord: Rahab's Story

*Jill Eileen Smith*

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## **The Crimson Cord: Rahab's Story** Jill Eileen Smith

Wife to a gambler who took one too many risks, Rahab finds herself sold as a slave to cover her husband's debt. Forced into prostitution by Dabir, counselor to the Syrian king, Rahab despairs of ever regaining her freedom and her self-respect. But when Israelite spies enter Jericho and come to lodge at her house, Rahab sees a glimmer of hope and the opportunity of a lifetime. In one risky moment, she takes a leap of faith, puts her trust in a God she does not know, and vows to protect the spies from the authorities. When the armies of Israel arrive weeks later, Rahab hopes they will keep their promise, but she has no idea what kind of challenges await her outside Jericho's walls--or if she will ever know the meaning of love.

Under Jill Eileen Smith's talented hand, the familiar story of Rahab bursts forth in high definition. Readers will find themselves fully immersed in a world of dark and dusty streets, clandestine meetings, and daring escapes as a mysterious biblical figure claims her full humanity--and a permanent place in readers' hearts.

## **The Crimson Cord: Rahab's Story Details**

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Author : Jill Eileen Smith

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# From Reader Review The Crimson Cord: Rahab's Story for online ebook

## Matty-Swytla says

Rating 3.5 stars

Biblical stories are not something I usually read, but I was in the mood for something truly historical and set in the Middle East, if only to cleanse my reading palate. I enjoyed The Red Tent a few years back, so I was optimistic this one wouldn't be a complete miss and I was right. While the book did not produce any extra sparks of excitement, it wasn't bad either. I still don't undersand why Israelites needed to genocide Caananites, or the arbitrary rules of their god, but I won't write about this topic for a historical romance story. Suffice to say I liked Rahab, even though some of her decisions did not always make sense from my modern viewpoint.

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## Rachel says

This was a well written and interesting fictional expansion of Rahab's story. I really liked how the author developed the characters and the plot.

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## Tiffany Gallant says

I love books about Rahab, interesting spin on a biblical story.

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## Piper says

Love, love, love this book. I've been looking for something that delves deeper into women of the Bible and their life stories. This is the first book I found, and I fully enjoyed it. Rahab's story is one of pain and lies and deception that is eventually redeemed through God's love for her. Jill Smith did a wonderful job, I plan on reading the rest of her books just as soon as I can get them!

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## Jane says

Interesting concept on the whole. The author gave a plausible backstory for this Biblical heroine, filling in the gaps--the author invented a life for Rahab before, during, and after the events in the Book of Joshua: her life in Jericho, how she became a prostitute, Biblical events and her subsequent life with the Israelites, acceptance of their God, and marriage. I enjoyed the book but I felt it a bit cloying. I didn't like how Rahab and Salmon tiptoe around each other--each liking the other but not admitting it. I felt soap [mentioned several times] would have been an anachronism in that time and place.

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## **Linda Klager says**

This was a beautifully written book. The author combined the actual facts in the Bible and used her imagination for the rest of the story about Rahab. Not a whole lot of information into the life of Rahab was given in the Bible. I liked how she portrayed the main character. I also liked how Rahab turned her life around and served God and boy, oh boy, did God use Rahab for His Kingdom work!

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## **Deba says**

### **CRIMSON CORD**

There are some passages in the Bible that I wish I could just step back in time and see the inside story of the person's life. Rehab is one of them.

As I read this book I found myself pulled back into time. The author's descriptions of the people, both physically and emotionally, bring them to life. This is why I commend Jill Eileen Smith's for this excellent rendition on the story of Rehab. Rahab's amazing story is a lesson for us all - from Harlot to Heroine. Whether you are a new or mature believer in Christ or not a believer at all, one can benefit from these timeless and faith-strengthening stories that Jill writes.

Jill Eileen Smith's writing style is always a delight, even as her stories are captivating. "Crimson Cord – Daughters of the Promise Land" is no exception. From the opening scene the reader is drawn into Rehab's life, and we care about her from that moment on. This is more than a heart-tugging romance—though it is that—but it is also a mind-challenging read that will leave us in a different place than when we began. In the first chapter, I wanted to swath Rehab's husband, Gamal, because he made me so mad with his ways and treatment to Rehab.

Yet, I love how Jill incorporated the "Parable of the unforgiving servant" (Matthew 18-21-35) into the story - that being reflected in Rehab's husband, Gamal. The King forgives him his debts, and yet he does not forgive the friend that owed him money. That causes his demise. A tragically flawed hero, his gambling debts led him into great trouble, for him and his beloved wife Rehab, for they are both sold into slavery. Only her intertwinement with an admirer puts her in a place of redemption. Although she knew the one that bought her, she thought at the time that she had only been "traded from one fool to another, hopelessly bound by their desires." Held prisoner in a dwelling on the walls of Jericho, she longs for escape.

She awaits her deliverance as Joshua marched on Jericho. When Joshua entered the city he set about the execution of the divine command to destroy the city. As a sign of protection - a scarlet rope hung from the window-the crimson cord. She is not left behind, but takes her place with her new found friends, Gods chosen people in the Promised Land. There the story proceeds on to her life after Jericho. And what a story it is. You must read it to see what happens next. It's a Boaz!

I received this book from the author for my honest review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. How gloriously daring she is in her faith, and how richly rewarded we are in her willingness to expound upon the life in a cause she knows to be of God! Thank you Jill Eileen

Smith for sharing your wonderful stories with us, we are truly blessed.

Jill has also written about The Wives of the Patriarchs that is a three-book biblical fiction series set in ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, and ancient Canaan. Each story is a fictional rendering of the biblical account, focusing on Sarai, Rebekah, and Rachel. The Wives of King David series is also great. She writes about Michal, Abigail and Bathsheba. And we cannot forget the Loves of King Solomon series.

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## **Mark says**

I didn't used to like Biblical fiction, and I went years without reading any. Most of what I read years ago didn't impress me and so I avoided that genre'. Then some new authors started writing it, and I started reading some of it again, and found to my amazement that there is some great Biblical fiction out there.

This book really interested me. We don't know a lot about Rahab. She was a prostitute, hid the spies that Joshua sent into Jericho and was rewarded by having her and everyone in her house spared. She evidently embraced the God of the Israelites, for she married one and is one of four women mentioned by name in the lineage of Jesus. She is a character that needs a story, and this book gives her one.

Now as with all Biblical and historical fiction, the author takes some license and weaves fiction around the real story. I liked the results of Jill's efforts to bring this story to life, while staying true to the Biblical account. The author gives a scenario from her mind of how Rahab may have gotten into the life she was living, and it worked for the story.

There is some romance in the book, and the reader gets a look at what it may have been like for a non-Jew to come into the Jewish faith and leave behind their life and gods to worship the one true God. I found myself moved by the story, as I read anew how God defeated Jericho and other cities, how Achan's sin causes so many deaths and what his end was. The book was entertaining, yet had the great message that God can redeem anyone and use them. He even used a harlot in the lineage that would bring Jesus into this world.

This is book one in the Daughters of The Promised Land Series, and if this book is any indication, this will be a great series.

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## **Debbie says**

"The Crimson Cord" by Jill Eileen Smith is a wonderful book about Rahab, a prostitute that helps spies when they came to spy out Jericho. Jill Eileen Smith has written a beautiful story of heartache and love and forgiveness. The love is between Rahab and the God she learns to love and to know He loves her!

I have loved every book of Jill Eileen Smith that I have read. She writes Biblical fiction so well that the reader can almost believe they was there when the Biblical account was happening, she researches her facts well before she writes the story.

While reading "The Scarlet Cord" I felt Rahab's pain and sorrow,as the story was written so well that the words just reveals how she was feeling.

Jill Eileen Smith has written another five star novel. Though this work is mostly fictional she does explain why she draws the conclusions that Rehab married who she does in her story and not the man she does in other books written by others!

In "The Crimson Cord" we see that maybe Rahab wasn't a prostitute by choice and even if she was, we learn that we all need to be forgiven for something, even if it is pride!

I read this in "The Crimson Cord" by Jill Eileen Smith and was amazed when I read Rahab's statement about the effort on our hearts! Any thoughts from any of you, my blog followers? I ask this because I like when a book can lead to discussions and bring us closer to understanding and following our Saviour closer! Yes, "The Crimson Cord" by Jill Eileen Smith is written about a woman from the Old Testament that we don't know much about but the sacrifices they are discussing will be replaced by Jesus's sacrifice, so I don't feel my statement is taking anything away from the story line. So here is the quote, " Rahab nodded. In the distance, she could hear the bleating of lambs kept in pens near the tents when they weren't out foraging in the fields with the shepherds. " A lot of blood must be spilled because of our sins." The image of the spotless lamb Salmon had chosen for them filled her mind." Why could God not accept a different type of offering? Why must an innocent animal be killed?" " I do not know," Eliana admitted. " All I know is that from the beginning God expected animal sacrifice. Adam's oldest son Cain tried to bring an offering of the fruit of the ground, as though he could choose which way to worship our great Creator. Elohim did not accept him, and in the end, Cain killed the brother God accepted out of jealousy. I think the blood reminds us of how grievous sin is to God." Rahab pondered the thought. " I don't suppose a pomegranate or a fig as an offering would have the same effort on our hearts. To see an innocent life taken in our place is much more humbling than offering Adonai fruit. "

I was given a copy of "The Scarlet Cord" as part of the Launch Team and for my honest review!

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### **Jill Smith says**

This book is currently "in house" awaiting cover design, editing, and all of the work that goes into a book before it is published. It should release around February 2015.

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### **Sandi \*~The Pirate Wench~\* says**

4 1/2 Stars!

Setting: Jericho.

Unknowingly, Rahab's father arranges a marriage for his daughter that turns out to have disastrous results. Rahab's husband makes unmerciful choices, which leads him to drink, gamble, women and abusing his wife. Her husband is eventually imprisoned for debt and betrayal to the prince, who recently granted him mercy. Rahab must endure greater violence than any soul can imagine when she also pays the price because of her husband's deeds by being sold into sex slavery.

Kept in a prison of her own by serving as a prostitute, she hears rumours of the Israelites and decides to consort with Israelite spies, hoping they will spare her life and give her a new freedom that she has never known before in Jericho.

Supposedly... God has a plan for Rahab, but will she ever believe she is worthy of any kind of love?

Yes, this is a "Inspirational" or "Christian" romance novel, with prostitution, women abuse, sex and other touchy subjects.

But oh how the author did a fabulous job of adding all of it so tastefully ( nothing was described in detail ) but left to the readers own vision of what went on.

The reader is also given a historical view of the treatment of women by those who worshipped idols and bowed down to their rulers who were corrupted by greed.

The story of Jericho, Rahab and her family and the only home they ever knew, unfolds slowly but builds toward the events that surrounded the rumours of the Israelites who camped and worshipped the one true God.

The author did a fantastic job of captivating the message of what took place in Jericho, with great attention to historical detail without it taking away from Rahab's trials and her finding forgiveness and love within herself. This is the first book in "The Daughter's Of The Promised Land," and I truly won't hesitate to pick up the next one as well as check out other books by this author!

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## **Shantelle says**

*The Crimson Cord* by Jill Eileen Smith is a retelling of the Biblical character, Rahab's, story. Of her fall into prostitution, the Israelites' battles, and ultimate redemption. Considering the *Bible* doesn't say very much about Rahab, I feel this book was a pretty accurate look at this particular story.

Some of the violence (Old Testament battles) and cruelty (involving Rahab's profession) were hard to read of, but Jill Eileen Smith managed it all tastefully enough. And she went deep into the matter of the blood sacrifices and such, which was thought-provoking, and much appreciated. It kind of helped you understand everything else that had to happen.

That being said, there were some scenes not appropriate for a younger audience, and also a few scenes of violent (and bloody) happenings.

What a powerful story all in all. I love reading authors' thoughts on Rahab, because her life is so inspiring. A prostitute (that's quite "down there") and a foreigner (that's a really low position too; if you've read the Old Testament, you'll understand), and yet God chooses to place her directly in the lineage of Christ! Talk about grace!

So yeah, you really felt that in *The Crimson Cord*. Not only for Rahab, but also for Salmon. A great Biblical retelling overall, exploring amazing grace, unholy and holy judgment, and a broken young woman's journey to God.

I certainly wouldn't take it as the solid truth... go read the Bible for total accuracy. But I feel Rahab's story could have perhaps gone something like the tale *The Crimson Cord* tells.

*I received a free copy of The Crimson Cord from Revell Publishers in exchange for my honest review.*

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## **Kristen Kooistra says**

It's been a long time since I picked up a biblical fiction story, but this was a great read to dive into for "re-entering" the genre. I love the story of Rahab, short as it is, and Smith did a wonderful job of fleshing out her story and adding in details of the time and lifestyles of both the Canaanites and Israelites.

I do wonder how Rahab became a prostitute, and this shows what one of those paths could've been. We see her before, during, and even after the fall of Jericho. I loved, loved, loved how fleshed out Rahab was. She had so much depth and character. The secondary characters were all so three dimensional that I found myself hating and loving them along with Rahab. I cried over the forced abortion and was saddened by the loss of the important people in Rahab's life as they left or died.

Now it's possible her family/household stayed with her for real, but I found that the idea that they DIDN'T all survive and none of them stayed extremely powerful. You have a foreign woman in a despised profession whose family falls away and yet she still stays with Israel.

My only problem with the story was Rahab's lack of faith. I always pictured Rahab as hearing a lot about God before the spies come to town and believing in Him. Something that made her save the spies at the risk of her own life, and that made her say, "I know your God is real, please save me and mine." That's a lot of faith. She's in this big town, surrounded by a huge wall, with trained, well-fed soldiers and there's a huge river between them and the Israelites. I wanted to see where she found that faith, and have it shown.

Instead it's more like, hey, I've kind of heard about you and your God. I guess I'll hide you, but I don't have a real motivation. I couldn't see THIS Rahab doing that. And then as they waited and even after the rescue, she still seemed distant with God. It wasn't until very near the end that we see her faith.

Other than that, I loved this story. I was excited to see how Smith wove the parable about the rich man who forgave a large debt, only to have the debtor turn around and not forgive a small debt into this story so that it was actually played out.

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## **Joy says**

There are very few instances where I actually find a historical novel that I like. Let alone Biblical fiction. This one had me turning page after page.

Meet Rahab in a way she has never been portrayed before in a thrilling tale of love, betrayal, and faith. You know her story in the bible. Watch it come to life in a painfully realistic way that will stay with you and encourage your faith.

I recommend this book for ages 18+ for mature (none explicit) content. This is a story of a prostitute, after all.

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## **Sara says**

4.5\*



I was extremely impressed with my first Jill Eileen Smith novel. To be honest, I was a bit hesitant about reading it: although I love biblical fiction, I know that the Old Testament (and therefore, books based on its' stories) can be violent and callous towards other peoples. However, I was pleasantly surprised with Smith's portrayal of the fall of Jericho and Rahab's role in it.

Rahab is the star in this biblical novel, where this amazing woman not only helps Israel triumph over Jericho, but triumphs over her own inner demons. Smith portrays the events with respectful honesty, honoring all those involved in the story. She depicts the bible story accurately, without dismissing some of the more supernatural phenomena that occurs. She subtly reminds the reader that the people of Jericho were human, and a few were even good people caught in a catastrophe but unwilling to free themselves from the mire they were stuck in.

I am working on reading the Bible this year, and I was lucky enough to be reading Rahab's story in the Bible at the same time as I read this novel. This certainly helped me to better understand the events of the Bible by making them real to me. They were presented in such an honest way that I could, at least begin, to understand the events of these harsh times.

Best of all, Smith's belief in the all-consuming, unstoppable, and unbelievable love God has for us is obvious throughout her novel. I adored the ending - perhaps the best ending in a biblical novel I've ever read.

The only reason this novel didn't get 5 stars from me is the pace; Rahab's challenges went on long enough to make me feel weary of her persecution.

Highly recommended for any biblical fiction fans - whether Jewish or Christian - or historical fiction, although nonbelievers may be a bit miffed by the inclusion of supernatural events and religious beliefs.

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