November 1

Samuel

Hannah’s Blessing

Hannah prayed fervently to the Lord for a son, she even promised, if her prayer was answered she would dedicate her son to the Lord’s service.

Hannah was blessed – Read: I Samuel 1:20. When Samuel was weaned Hannah took Samuel to Eli, the priest at Shiloh as she had promised. Samuel stayed with Eli and was brought up in the ways of the Lord. The Lord blessed Hannah with five more children!

One night the Lord called to Samuel three times, Samuel thought Eli was calling him, finally Eli realized the Lord was calling Samuel – Read: I Samuel 3:10. The Lord told Samuel of the plight of Eli’s family because of their sins. Eli was a man of God, but his family did evil things. When we arrive at an age of knowing right from wrong we are responsible for our own soul.

In today’s world, bringing our children up in the ways of the Lord is very important, they may stray as teens and young adults, but with a good foundation in the Lord, they will return to the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 22:6

PRAYER THOUGHT: Guide me, O Lord, as I teach my children your ways and if I teach Sunday School that I will be a good example and teacher.

November 2

Samuel

Stand Against Kings

Samuel ruled over Israel for a long time, under his leadership they defeated the Philistines and they did not attack Israel again as long as Samuel lived.

The people were displeased with Samuel’s crooked sons as judges and Samuel was growing old. The people wanted a king; Samuel was troubled about this request and he prayed to the Lord – Read: I Samuel 8:7.

Samuel tried to tell the people how a king would treat the, making soldiers of their sons, the best of their crops would go to the king and the Lord would not listen to their complaints because he would not be their king.

The Lord showed Samuel the first king of Israel, Saul from the tribe of Benjamin – Read: I Samuel 10:24.

God did not abandon the Israelites even though they sinned asking for a king, he gave them a king. We sin too, but God does not abandon us but patiently waits for us to return to the fold.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Samuel 12:24.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to always make you king of my life and please forgive me if I do turn away from you.

November 3

Saul

His Reign

Saul as king was for the most part a successful ruler; he was brave and victorious over Israel’s enemies.

His undoing came in a war against the Amalekites Saul and his men did not follow God’s commands, they did not kill King Agag and took the cattle and all the good things in the country. They used the animals for sacrifices! – Read: I Samuel 15:23.

Because of this Samuel was sent off to anoint a new king. He arrived in Bethlehem, met with Jesse and his sons – Read: I Samuel 16:11-12. Saul did anoint David and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David and the Spirit left Saul and was replaced by an evil spirit, when the evil spirit took him, Saul could only be relieved by harp music. David, son of Jesse, from Bethlehem, was a harpist and was brought to play for Saul when he was tormented.

David was now in the service of the king. When we accept Jesus as our Savior we are in the service of the King of Kings! We have a very high calling, a noble task to perform to love and care for those who are God’s children and bring the message of Salvation to those who are not saved.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Samuel 16:21

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my service, to you, O Lord, be pleasing to you and useful in furthering your kingdom here on earth.

November 4

David

Against Goliath

Saul was at war against the Philistines, David had gone home to Bethlehem but Jesse sent him with food to his brothers, who were in Saul’s army.

As David walked up, Goliath, a giant Philistine, challenged the Israelite army, disgracing them and defying God – Read: I Samuel 17:26.

David offered to stand against Goliath – Read: I Samuel 17:33.

David explained how he killed lions and bears that tried to attack his father’s sheep – Read I Samuel 17:37b. Saul loaded David down with his armor, but all David needed was God’s help, his sling and five smooth stones.

David and Goliath met, Goliath sneered at David’s size, but David knocked Goliath down with one stone and used Goliath’s own sword to kill him. The Philistines ran after Goliath was killed! David became the pride of Israel; Saul kept him with him all the time and made David an officer in his army.

The Lord was with David and his successes, we too have success in this life through the Lord, if we put our faith and trust in Him.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Samuel 17:45

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to measure my earthly success in dollars but in love and respect for you and my fellow man.

November 5

David

Life with Saul

David and Saul’s son, Jonathan became the best of friends and Jonathan would keep David informed of Saul’s plans.

In the celebration that followed Goliath’s death – I Samuel 18:7.

The next day when the evil spirit took Saul and David was playing the harp – Read: I Samuel 18:11.

David was given Merab, Saul’s daughter as his wife only if he would remain a loyal soldier to Saul. Saul thought in that way the Philistines would kill him and he wouldn’t have to.

Jonathan helped David escape from his father’s wrath on several occasions. Saul pursued David relentlessly. One night, Saul came into the same cave that David and his men were camped in, David could have killed Saul but his conscience would not allow him to kill the anointed one of God so he just cut off a piece of Saul’s robe.

We see others more successful at work, with better homes and clothes and jealousy can become hard to deal with but with God’s help we can be satisfied with our station in life.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 23:15.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to let jealousy lead to hate, but to be happy with others in their successes and to praise you, O Lord, with my own success.

November 6

David

Kingdom Divided/United

Saul and Jonathan were tragically killed in a battle with the Philistines. David was made king but only over the southern kingdom the Kingdom of Judah. Saul’s son Ish-Bosheth escaped with Abner and was made king of the northern kingdom. The Hebrew nation was now divided and civil war was certain.

While the armies were fighting David was working on ways to unite the two kingdoms. Some of the major events that brought the two kingdoms together were the mourning of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan, later the deaths of Ish-Bosheth and Abner. David rebuked Joab, his army leader and killed those that had rebelled against him.

David became king – Read: 2 Samuel 5:3. David won Jerusalem back from the Jebusites, defeated the Philistines and many other nations.

We may never unite a nation or conquer nations for the Lord, but each soul we can bring to the Lord is a conquest as well as keeping our soul growing in the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: II Samuel 7:22.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to grow daily, O Lord, in your ways and in your love.

November 7

David

Fell to Temptation

David has been portrayed as a loyal, sinless servant of God. Which may have been the case until the beauty of a woman was too great a temptation – Read: II Samuel 11:2.

David had a messenger find out who the woman was and had her brought to him, they made love.

David learned Bathsheba was pregnant, he had Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, brought home from the battle to be with his wife, but he never went to her so David had Joab put Uriah in the front lines and he was killed.

Bathsheba bore David a son but the Lord was unhappy with David. Through the prophet Nathan, David confessed his sins and was forgiven but he Lord still allowed David’s son to die – Read: II Samuel 12:24. (A side note – Read: II Samuel 12:15-23 – This perhaps was where funerals got their start – See verse 20 – Doesn’t that describe a funeral?)

Adultery is not part of God’s plan for families as David learned, if we keep ourselves to our marriage commitment our marriages, although not without problems, will be blessed.

VERSE FOR TODAY: II Samuel 12:13, 14

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for the institution of marriage and help me always to be faithful to my vows.

November 8

Solomon

Special Request

David promised that Solomon would be king and Bathsheba made sure it happened, she went to see King David and he told her – Read: I Kings 1:29b -30. Solomon was anointed.

David advised Solomon before his death to obey the Lord and through this obedience the Lord would keep his promises to the Israelites.

Solomon offered sacrifices at different altars, after a sacrifice at Gibeon something special happened – Read: I Kings 3:5-9.

The Lord granted Solomon’s request – Read: I Kings 3:12.

We will never have Solomon’s wisdom but we do have the Lord to help us make wise decisions all we have to do is ask and then do as the Lord answers.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Kings 4:29

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to make wise decisions in this life for happiness and peace of mind. Thank-you for the most important decision, receiving you as my personal Savior.