November 9

Solomon

Builds the Temple

The Children of Israel had been settled in the Promised Land for a long time but they were still worshipping the Lord from the Tabernacle and from several altars where sacrifices were burnt.

Peace finally was secure; Solomon decided it was time to build the Temple as the Lord had told David – Read: I Kings 5:5.

Solomon with the aid of neighboring kingdoms acquired the materials for the temple and the workmen set to work, the entire job took seven years to complete.(See I Kings 6:38) This was the first permanent place to worship the Lord since the departure from Egypt some four hundred and eighty-seven years before.

After the Temple was dedicated – Read: I Kings 9:3. But the Lord also warned that if the people abandoned him, he would remove the people from the land and ruin the Temple.

The Holy Spirit lives within us, we are Temples, and we need to live our lives so that our Temple does not lie in runs before the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Kings 8:61

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to keep your Temple within me pure and spotless before you as humanly possible.

November 10

Elijah

Ravens and a Widow

Solomon turned away from God by marrying foreign wives, after his death the Northern tribes revolted and once again the nation was divided.

The Lord gave the prophet Elijah a message for King Ahab of Israel – Read: I Kings 17:1.

Then - Read: I Kings 17:2-4. In faith Elijah did as the Lord instructed and he had food and water provided to him. Later the brook dried up and the Lord sent Elijah to a widow’s house in Zarephath and she would feed him. Elijah met the widow and asked her for bread and water – Read: I Kings 17:12. Elijah told her to use the last bit of flour and oil and it would be alright because the Lord had said the oil and flour would not run out and it didn’t!

Prayer, faith and hard work on our part will keep our food supply from running out and God’s everlasting love will never run out for all eternity!

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Kings 17:6

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for providing food for me at all times. I pray for all those who are hungry today that you will provide their needs and enlist me to do my part.

November 11

Veteran’s Day

To You

Veteran’s Day is kind of an obscure “holiday” that many take no notice of, but to you Veterans it is a very important day, after all you lived to be a Veteran!!

Your life of survival to become a Veteran was not an easy one, facing danger every minute of every day, as the saying goes ‘There are no atheists in a foxhole’, you must not abandon God now that the danger is gone but rely on Him to help you get your life back in order.

Those of us who stayed home cannot even imagine in our most horrible nightmare what life on the battlefield is like and must have patience and understanding as you put your life back together.

We love you – your spouse, parents, other members of your family and friends, let us help you and pray for you as well. For personal and individual help you must go to the Lord in prayer for yourself.

Words cannot express the gratitude we should have for your sacrifice to keep our country free but let us say THANK-YOU anyway!

Veterans we salute you!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 10:28.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help the Veterans, O Lord, not to be afraid of past horrors but to look to a bright new future with your help and love.

November 12

Elijah

Fire from Heaven

Elijah met with King Ahab – Read: I Kings 18:15, 17. Elijah’s response – Read: I Kings 18:18. The Children of Israel had departed from the Lord and served a foreign god.

There was a meeting set up of the Children of Israel and four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of Asherah. Read: I Kings 18:24. Ahab set up an altar on which a bull was cut up and the prophets cried until mid-afternoon and cut themselves until blood was drawn – Read: I Kings18:29.

Then it was Elijah’s turn, he repaired the altar of the Lord with twelve stones symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel, not only cut up the bull and put it on the altar but had twelve large jars of water poured over the sacrifice - Read: I Kings 18:36, 37. Wow what happened next – Read: I Kings 18:38. The Children of Israel knew for sure who the real God was!

We know the true God too, many people worship idols today, such as Buddha. Buddha like Baal is dead; we serve a living, risen Savior, one that dwells within us, a Lord of love and mercy.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Kings 18:39

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, never to follow a false prophet or worship idols but to always keep my eyes on you as my Lord.

November 13

Elijah

The Fiery Chariot

Elisha was chosen to be Elijah’s helper, when Elijah was about ready to be taken up, Elisha asked Elijah to receive some of his power so that he could be Elijah’s successor – Read: II Kings 2:10.

Very quickly, a flaming chariot pulled by horses of fire came between Elijah and Elisha, Elijah disappeared into heaven! What a sudden and grand exit.

Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak and tried to part the Jordan as Elijah had done – II Kings 2:14. Elisha had indeed received Elijah’s powers!

A group of prophets who witnessed the exit of Elijah wanted to send fifty men to look for Elijah, thinking that perhaps the Spirit of God had just whisked him away somewhere, Elisha told them not to go but they went anyway but did not find Elijah.

Elijah was taken up to heaven in splendor, we know the Lord will come for us, we too will be taken up to heaven, just how we don’t know, but we will see Jesus face to face.

We need this time on earth to prepare for our departure, because we don’t know when we will die or the Lord will come for us!

VERSE FOR TODAY: II Kings 2:12

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for the promise of eternal life with you and help me to fully rely on the promise of your return.

November 14

Naaman

A Little Helper

Naaman, an officer in the Syrian army had lead many successful raids against the Israelites. On one of the raids a little Israelite girl was brought back and became the servant of Naaman’s wife.

Naaman suffered from leprosy one day the little girl mentioned to Naaman’s wife – II Kings 5:3.

Naaman told the King of Syria what the little girl had said; the king gave him permission to go and even gave him a letter of introduction.

The King of Israel didn’t understand how he could cure this man but when Elisha heard about Naaman he had sent to his house. Elisha told Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman couldn’t believe the cure would be so simple – Read: II Kings 5:13. So Naaman washed himself and was cured, the faith of a child lead Naaman to his cure and to God.

We are often like Naaman, we try to make finding the Lord very difficult, all we need is the faith of a child, to simply love and trust the Lord and he will lead us through all eternity.

VERSE FOR TODAY: II Kings 5:15

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to look for your glory in the little things and not to doubt the faith of children whom you bless and keep.

November 15

Israel/Judah

Fall to Invaders

The kings and the people of Israel and Judah were very sinful – Read: II Kings 17:13. The Northern Kingdom, Israel was invaded and taken over by Assyrians.

The Kingdom of Judah lasted a while longer, there was a special King of Judah, King Josiah, who cleaned the Temple, repaired it and really set things right – II Kings 23:25.

Judah’s history after King Josiah was so sinful that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was allowed to invade Jerusalem and burn the Temple and carry the people into exile.

All of God’s chosen people were in captivity, the lovely Temple lay in charred ruins along with the city of Jerusalem and Samaria was occupied by Assyrians.

We cannot maintain a Temple of God and a useful life with just periods of service to the Lord; we need to dedicate ourselves to Him and His service.

VERSES FOR TODAY: II Kings 17:23b, 25:21b and II Chronicles 36:20 (For context read II Chronicles 36:15-20)

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to be a “Sunday Christian” but live for you every day of my life.

November 16

Esther

Loyalty and Courage

The story of Esther takes place in Persia while the Jews were still in exile.

Queen Vasti was ordered by King Xexes to appear at a banquet but she refused! The king followed advice of his experts and decided to choose a new queen.

Esther, a Jew, was groomed for the position and was chosen the new queen. Mordecai, Esther’s cousin who was more like a father to her, advised her to keep the fact that she was a Jew secret because she was a queen in a foreign court.

Haman was elevated to the highest position of the nobles and expected everyone to bow down to him but Mordecai refused and Haman hated him so much that he decided to punish not only Mordecai but have all the Jews killed. Haman had a gallows built for Mordecai.

Mordecai heard of Haman’s plans and asked Esther for help!

At the second banquet for the king and Haman, when the king asked Esther what she wanted – Read: Esther 7:3, 4.

Haman was hung on the gallows he had built for Mordecai! A decree was written and the Jews living in the nation were spared.

Esther revealed her identity with courage to save her people, our Christian identity should be revealed in the way that we live with courage and remain loyal to the Lord no matter what.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 31:24

PRAYER THOUGHT: Give me courage, O Lord, to proclaim your name even in the face of impending danger, let my loyalty always be totally to you.