Solomon November 8

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 – "I promise you by the living Lord, who has rescued me from all my troubles, that today I will keep the promise I made to you in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel, that your son Solomon would succeed me as King." 1 Kings 1:29b, 30. Solomon was indeed anointed king.

 David advised Solomon before his death to obey the Lord and to 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 – That night the Lord appeared to him in a dream and asked him, "What would you like me to give you?"

 "O Lord God, you have not me succeed my father as king, so give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil." 1 Kings 3:5, 7a, 9a.

 The Lord granted Solomon's request – “…I will do what you have asked. I will give you more wisdom and understanding than anyone has ever had before or will ever have again…” 1 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 then do as the Lord answers.

VERSE FOR TODAY: God gave Solomon unusual wisdom and insight, and knowledge too great to be measured. 1 Kings 4: 29.

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

Solomon November 9

Builds the Temple

 The children of Israel had been settled in the promise land for a long time but they were still worshiping the Lord from the tabernacle and were offering sacrifices at several altars.

 Peace had finally been secured, Solomon decided it was time to build the Temple as the Lord had told David – The Lord promised my father David, ‘Your son, whom I will make King after you, will build a temple for me.’ And I have now decided to build that temple for the worship of the Lord my God. 1 King 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. This was the first permanent place to worship the Lord since the departure from Egypt some 487 years before.

 After the Temple dedication - The Lord said to him, (Solomon) “I have heard your prayer. I consecrate this Temple which you have built as a place where I shall be worshiped forever. I will watch over it and protect it for all time…" 1 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 ruins before the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: "…May you, his people, always be faithful to the Lord our God, obeying all his laws and commands as you do today." 1 Kings 8:61.

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

Elijah November 10

Ravens and Widows

 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 – "In the name of the Lord, the living God of Israel, whom I serve, I tell you that there will be no dew or rain for the next two or three years until I say so." 1 Kings 17:1b.

 Then the Lord sent Elijah to the brook of Cherith, which would supply him with water and the ravens would bring him bread and meat. Through faith Elijah went to the brook and the Lord did provide as promised.

 From the lack of rain the brook dried up so the Lord told Elijah to go to a widow's house in Zarephath and she would feed him. Elijah met the widow and asked her for bread and water – She answered, "By the living Lord your God I swear that I haven't got any bread. All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a drop of olive oil in a jar…" 1 Kings 17:12a, b. Elijah told her to use the last bit of flour and oil and it would be all right because the Lord had said the oil and flour would not run out and it didn’t!

 Prayer, faith and hard work will keep our food supply from running out and God's everlasting love will never run out for all eternity.

VERSE FOR TODAY: He drank the water from the brook, and the ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and every evening. 1 Kings 17:6.

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

Veterans Day November 11

To You

 Veterans Day is kind of in obscure "holiday" that many take no notice of, but to you Veterans it's a very important day, after all you live 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 is not one atheist 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.

 We who stayed home cannot even imagine in our most horrible dream what life on the battlefield is like we must also be patient and understanding as you put the life you want back together. We love you, your spouse, parents and other members of your family, let us help you and ask the Lord to help you as well, we ask for you but for personal help you must go to the Lord in prayer.

 There are no words to express the meaning of what you Veterans have done to keep our country free, you laid your lives on the line there are no words to of gratitude that can properly express that kind of dedication and sacrifice, but thanks anyway!

 Veterans we salute you! Hopefully thru the whole year we will remember you how you Veterans put your life in jeopardy for us and remember to thank you more than once a year and to say a special prayer once in a while for you.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell…” Matthew 10:28.

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

Elijah November 12

Fire from Heaven

 Elijah met King Ahab; he greeted Elijah – "So there you are – the worst troublemaker in Israel!" 1 Kings 18:17b.

 Elijah answered that Ahab and his father were the troublemakers by not obeying the Lord's commands and worshiping Baal.

 To put Baal to the test, Elijah and Ahab set up altars on which a bull was cut up for sacrifice. Four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal cried unto Baal to have fire sent to their sacrifice, they cried till mid- afternoon, cut themselves until blood was drawn – They kept on ranting and raving until the middle of the afternoon; but no answer came, not a sound was heard. 1 Kings 18:29.

 Elijah had buckets of water poured over his sacrifice, Elijah prayed to God – The Lord sent fire down, and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood and the stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water in the trench. 1 Kings 18:38. The people of Israel knew 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 the lives within us, a Lord of love and mercy.

VERSE FOR TODAY: When the people saw this, they threw themselves on the ground and exclaimed, "The Lord is God; the Lord alone is God!" 1 Kings 18:39.

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

Elijah November 13

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 powers so that he could be Elijah's successor.

 – "That is a difficult request to grant," Elijah replied. "But you will receive it if you see me as I am being taken away from you; if you don't see me, you won't receive it." 2 Kings 2:10.

 As quick as lightning, 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 – He struck the water with Elijah's cloak and said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" Then he struck the water again, and it divided, and he walked to the other side. 2 Kings 2:14. Elisha had received Elijah's powers!

 Fifty of Elijah's followers went to look for him thinking he was around on some mountain or in a valley, Elisha told them not to go but they went anyway but they didn't find him.

 Elijah was taken up to heaven in splendor, we know the Lord will come for us, we will be taken up also into heaven, just how we don't know, but we will see HIM face-to-face! We need to use this time we have been given on earth to prepare for our departure, because we never know when we will die or the Lord will come for us!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Elisha saw it and cried out to Elijah,"My father, my father! Mighty defender of Israel! You are gone!" And he never saw Elijah again. 2 Kings 2:12a.

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

Naaman November 14

A Little Helper

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

 Naaman suffered from a dreaded skin disease, one day the little girl mentioned to Naaman's wife – "I wish my master could go to the prophet who lives in Samaria! He could cure him of his disease." 2 Kings 5:3b.

 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 him sent to his house. Elisha told Naaman to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman couldn't believe the cure would be so simple – His servants went up to him and said, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, you would have done it. Now why can't you just wash yourself, as he said, and be cured?” 2 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 like Naaman, we try to make finding the Lord very difficult, and to say we love him and want to follow him seems just too simple. We need to have the faith of children, simply love and trust him and he will lead us into the meat of his salvation and everlasting life.

VERSE FOR TODAY: He returned to Elisha and all his men and said, "Now I know that there is no god but the God of Israel…" 2 Kings 5:15a.

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.

Israel/Judah November 15

Fall to Invaders

 The kings, the people of Israel and Judah were very sinful – The Lord had sent his messengers and prophets to warn Israel and Judah: “Abandon your evil ways and obey my commands, which are contained in the law I gave to yours ancestors and which I handed on to you through my servants the prophets.” 2 Kings 17:13. The northern kingdom, Israel was invaded and taken over by the 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 – There had never been a king like him before, who serve the Lord with all his heart, mind, and strength, obeyed all the Law of Moses; nor has there been a king like him since. 2 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 off the people into exile in Babylon.

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

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: So the people of Israel were taken into exile to Assyria, where they still live... So the people of Judah were carried away from their land into exile... Where they serve him (the Babylonian King) and his descendents of slaves until the rise of the Persian Empire. 2 Kings 17:23b, 25:21b and 2 Chronicles 36:20b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to be a "Sunday Christian" but in every day Christian.