October 25

Moses

Farewell to a Leader

The Children of Israel were camping just across the river from the Promised Land. The wandering was over, Moses was to go up to Mt. Nebo and carefully look over the Promise Land because he could not enter because he had been unfaithful at Kadesh. Moses struck the rock for water not just speaking to the rock as he was told in Numbers 20:8 so Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land – Read: Numbers 20:12.

Joshua became the leader of the Israelites after Moses – Read: Numbers 27:22, 23.

Moses went up the mountain and saw the Promise Land – Read: Deuteronomy 34:1, 4. Moses put up with all the grumbling, the disobedience and the wandering for all those years and only could see the Promised Land!

Praise the Lord for forgiveness! Through Jesus Christ, the sacrifice, we have forgiveness of our sins!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Deuteronomy 34:10-12

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for your sacrifice so that I can be forgiven for my sins. Please forgive me of my sins, O Lord, both those conscience and unconscious, help me never to willfully sin against you.

October 26

Joshua

Crossing the Jordan

Spies were sent to Jericho, where they were hidden by Rahab and safely returned to Joshua – Read: Joshua 2: 23-24.

The very next day the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan River, the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant went first, when their feet entered the flood swollen Jordan – Read: Joshua 3:16, 17. The second dry crossing for the Israelites.

The Israelites set up camp at Gilgal, just east of Jericho; there a mass circumcision of the new generation of Israelites took place because during the wilderness wanderings the covenant of circumcision had not been observed.

What a joy for the Children of God to be eating the fruits of the Promised Land after manna and quail for so many years.

We can reap a harvest of joy too, if we rely on the Promises of God and are heaven bound.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Joshua 4:14

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O lord, for the joy of today and most of all praise to you for the future joy that is in store for a child of yours.

October 27

Joshua

Jericho Falls

The Lord gave the following order for taking Jericho – Read Joshua 6:3-5.

Joshua followed the Lord’s orders; the inhabitants of Jericho were frightened because of the sheer numbers of the Israelites but what a strange means of attack! Strange or not the walls fell and Jericho was taken, all people and animals were killed, except Rahab and her family because she had hidden the Israelite spies. The city was burned.

Read: Joshua 6:26, 27. Joshua had established himself as a true servant of God and a leader feared by others.

If we “attack” the sinful in a strange way, with love and kindness the walls of hate will soon fall and their evilness will be removed instead of charred remains their lives can be rebuilt on God’s love! We should build our lives on God’s love and forgiveness.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Joshua 6:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to break down barriers with your love.

October 28

Deborah

The Victory

Joshua and the Israelite armies under God’s command had won many victories and the land had been divided among the twelve tribes. Joshua died and the Israelites turned away from God. Then the Lord allowed leaders of the remaining people to rule over the Israelites, they moaned and groaned to the Lord, for a leader to emerge from the people so peace could reign. The Children of Israel were on a roller coaster of obedience and disobedience to the Lord.

Deborah, a prophetess, become judge over Israel, she had a command from the Lord for Barak – Read: Judges 4:6, 7.

Barak would go only if Deborah with too and so she did! Talk about Women’s Lib, women back then were usually considered as nothing but here was a woman, with God’s help, about to lead with Barak, ten thousand men to victory over Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army and his army was completely destroyed! There was forty years of peace throughout the land after this grand victory.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Judges 6:31

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, have me not afraid to reach out for goals in this life but also not to lose sight of the ultimate goal, life eternally with you in heaven.

October 29

Gideon

Victory Through Confusion

Israel once again sinned and the Lord allowed them to be taken and ruled by the Midianites, who were large in number and possessed all the Israelite animals and crops. The Israelites were forced to live in caves for safety.

The Lord heard the cries of the Israelites and appeared to Gideon - Read: Judges 6:14.

Gideon needed reassurance the Lord would indeed be with him with the “fleece test” – Read: Judges 6:36-40. Gideon was convinced.

Gideon chose his men, twice he had too many men – Read: Judges 7:7. That very night after midnight, Gideon and his men were divided into three groups, all armed with a torch in a jar and a trumpet, they surrounded the Midianites camp, then suddenly broke the jars, exposing the light, blew trumpets and shouted – Read: Judges 7:20. A surprise attack sent enemy army into confusion, some ran others pulled their swords and killed each other.

Surprise the world by letting the light of Jesus shine in a world of darkness and sin.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Judges 8:28.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord to keep your light bright and steadfast in my life and let it shine for others to see.

October 30

Samson

Strands of Strength

Samson from birth had been a dedicated Nazirite, a special vow to the Lord, with special rules to follow.

Samson had displayed extreme strength, in defeating the Philistines on different occasions; the rulers of the Philistines would pay Delilah, Samson’s wife, for the secret of his strength. Delilah kept after him for the truth, he got so sick of hearing her – Read: Judges 16:17.

Delilah knew Samson was telling her the truth, she notified the Philistine rulers, they paid her, she lulled Samson to sleep and had his hair cut off. The Lord left him and Samson was captured by the Philistines and put to turning the grinding wheel at the prison mill.

Samson was brought from prison to entertain the rulers and three thousand people, with one last prayer to the Lord; Samson regained his strength and brought down the house, killing everyone including himself.

People want to learn the secret of peace and happiness that only the Lord can give, it should be our pleasure to tell them about Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Judges 16:29-30

PRAYER THOUGHT: Praise you, O Lord, for all the peace and happiness you have given me, help me to pass it on!

October 31

Ruth

Loyalty Beyond Reproach

Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons had left Bethlehem and went to live in Moab because of a famine. Elimelech died and the sons married Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah.

After about ten years the sons died leaving all the women widows.

Naomi heard that there was plenty now in Bethlehem and decided to go back home. Ruth and Orpah were going to go with Ruth but Orpah decided to return to her people and Ruth was urged by Naomi to also go back – Read: Ruth 1:16.

Our loyalty should be to God first, then to our family and country and it should be strong and everlasting like Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi.

Naomi and Ruth arrived back in Bethlehem just in time for the barley harvest; Ruth became acquainted with Boaz while gleaning the fields after the regular harvest workers. Boaz was part of Naomi’s family, Ruth and Boaz were married they had a son called Obed – Read: Ruth 4:14. Indeed the future generations of Obed did become famous as we will see!

Ruth loved her mother – in –law enough to make her life co-inside with Naomi’s life; our love for the Lord should be so that we want our life to co-inside with His will.

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 15:13

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, to have my loyalty to everything good and right be sincere.