Ruth October 31

Loyalty beyond Reproach

Ruth and her family had left Bethlehem to live in Moab because of a severe famine. Naomi’s sons had married Moabite women, her husband and sons had died. Naomi heard that there was plenty now in Bethlehem so decided to go back home. Ruth and Oprah were going to go along with their mother-in-law Naomi, Orpah decided to return to her people – But Ruth answered, "Don't ask me to leave you! Let me go with you. Wherever you live I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16.

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

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, and they had a son called Obed – The women said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord! He has given you a grandson today to take care of you. May the boy become famous in Israel!...” 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 coincide with Naomi's life; our love for the Lord should be so that we want our life to coincide with His will.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them…” John 15:13.

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

Samuel November 1

Hannah's Blessing

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

Hannah was blessed – So it was that she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, and explained, "I asked the Lord for him." 1 Samuel 1:20.

When Samuel was weaned Hannah did take Samuel to Eli, the priests at Shiloh. 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 Samuel three times, Samuel thought Eli was calling him, finally Eli realized the Lord was calling Samuel – The Lord came and stood there, and called as he had before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel answered, “Speak; your servant is listening." 1 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!

As Samuel was growing up the Lord continued to show himself to Samuel and he grew into a true prophet of God.

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: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 KJV.

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.

Samuel November 2

Stand Against Kings

Samuel ruled over Israel for a long time, under his leadership they defeated the Philistines and they did not attack Israel for 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 the request and he prayed to the Lord – and the Lord said, "Listen to everything the people say to you. You are not the one they have rejected; I am the one they have rejected as their king…" 1 Samuel 8:7.

Samuel tried to tell the people how a king would treat them, making soldiers out 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 there king.

The Lord showed Samuel, the first king of Israel, Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. -Samuel said to the people, "Here is the man the Lord has chosen! There is no one else among us like him."

All of the people shouted, "Long live the king!" 1 Samuel 10:24.

God did not abandon the Israelites even though they had sinned against him for 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: “…Obey the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. Remember the great things he has done for you…” 1 Samuel 12:24.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to always make you King of my life please forgive me if I do abandon you, O Lord.

Saul November 3

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. Then use the animals for sacrifices! Samuel said to Saul - “…Rebellion against him is as bad as witchcraft, and arrogance is as sinful as idolatry. Because you rejected the Lord’s command, he has rejected you as king.” 1 Samuel 15:23.

Samuel was sent off to anoint a new king. He arrived in Bethlehem, met with Jesse and all his sons, except the youngest, when David appeared – The Lord said to Samuel, "This is the one – anoint him!" 1 Samuel 16:12b.

Samuel did anoint David and the Spirit of the Lord came up on David and the Spirit left Saul and was replaced by an evil spirit, but 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 the harp for Saul 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 to bring the message of salvation to those who are not saved.

VERSE FOR TODAY: David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much and chose him as the man to carry his weapons.

1 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.

David November 4

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, challenge the Israelite army, disgracing them and defying God.

David offered to stand against Goliath –"No" answers Saul. "How could you fight him? You're just a boy, and he has been a soldier all his life!" 1 Samuel 17:33. David explained how he killed lions and bears that tried to attack his father's sheep – "All right," Saul answered, "Go, and the Lord will be with you." 1 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 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 making him a successful person, we to can have success in this life to the Lord, if we put our faith and trust in him.

VERSE FOR TODAY: David answered, "You are coming against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the Israelite army, which you have defied..." 1 Samuel 17:45.

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

David November 5

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 death – In their celebrations the women sang,

"Saul has killed thousands, but David tens of thousands." 1 Samuel 18:7.

The next day when the evil spirit took Saul, David was playing the heart – "I'll pin him to the wall," Saul said to himself, and he threw the spear at him twice; but David dodged each time. 1 Samuel 18:11.

David was given Saul's daughter Merab 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 and David and his men camped in the same cave, David could have killed Saul but David's conscience would not allow him to kill Saul 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 becomes hard to deal with but with God's help we can be satisfied with our station in life.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Don't be envious of sinful people; let reverence for the Lord be the concern of your life.  Proverbs 23:17.

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

David November 6

Kingdoms 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 Ishbosheth escaped with Abner and was made king of the northern kingdom, the kingdom of Israel. The Hebrew nation was now divided into two kingdoms 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 nations together were the mourning of the death of Saul and later of Abner and Isbosheth, David rebuked Joab his Army leader and killed the rebels.

David was made king – So all the leaders of Israel came to King David at Hebron. He made a sacred alliance with them, they anointed him and he became king of Israel. 2 Samuel 5:3.

David's first-order business after he became king and had the whole nation behind him was to attack and capture Jerusalem that was held by the Jebusites. Jerusalem was made the political and religious headquarters of the entire nation.

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: How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is none like you; we have always known that you alone are God. 2 Samuel 7:22.

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

David November 7

Fell to Temptation

David has been portrayed as a loyal, faithful servant of God. Which was the case until the beauty of a woman was too great a temptation – One day, late in the afternoon, David got up from his nap and went to the palace roof. As he walked about up there, he saw woman having a bath. She was very beautiful. 2 Samuel 11:2.

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

When 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 the Lord still allow David's son to die. – Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba. He had intercourse with her, and she bore a son, whom David named Solomon. The Lord loved the boy. 2 Samuel 12:24.

Adultery is not a part of God's plan for families as David learned; if we keep ourselves to our marriage commitment our marriages will be blessed.

VERSE FOR TODAY: "I have sinned against the Lord," David said. Nathan replied, "The Lord forgives you; you will not die…" 2 Samuel 12:13.

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