

Prayer List

Gene
Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 10:00 a.m.
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

When Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, what priest was taken prisoner to Babylon?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Rimmori - 2 Kings 5:17-18

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Joshua: A Giant of Faith

Leonard White

Hebrews chapter eleven lists sixteen Old Testament heroes of faith by name. Have you ever noticed that Joshua's name is not among them? He is, nevertheless, certainly not excluded. Verse 30 says, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days." In fact, Joshua's life is one of the greatest examples of courageous trust in Jehovah recorded in scripture. Consider the following:

Victory at Rephidim

Just months after escaping Egypt the Israelites came under attack by the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8ff). Moses chose Joshua, grandson of the Ephraimite hero Elishama, to conscript and lead a defense force. In the ensuing battle Joshua and his men prevailed as long as Moses' hands were upheld. The lesson was clear: only with the aid of Jehovah was victory assured. What an impression this must have made upon Joshua. Years later, as commander of the conquest, he could remember Jehovah-nissi and confidently march under that banner.

Crisis at Kadesh-barnea

When he arrived at the threshold of Canaan Moses sent spies into the land, one from each tribe (Num. 13:1ff). Joshua was named to represent Ephraim. Forty days later the twelve returned to report that the land was exactly as God had told them, “a land flowing with milk and honey.” However there were also fortified cities inhabited by mighty people, including the Nephilim, giant descendants of Anak. Compared to them the spies saw themselves as grasshoppers. Ten of the spies strongly advised that any attempt to conquer Canaan was sure to fail. Only two, Joshua and Caleb, expressed confidence that, with God’s help, they could succeed.

Believing the majority report, the congregation wept and bemoaned their plight. The lips which had only recently sung the song of praise for God’s deliverance from Pharaoh now spewed forth blasphemy! They murmured against God for bringing them to a place where they were sure to be killed. The nation’s trust in God was completely gone. Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes and pled with the people to cease their rebellion and trust the Lord, but to no avail. Only Moses’ intercession dissuaded God from destroying the whole nation at that very moment. Instead He decreed that the entire adult population, except for Joshua and Caleb, would wander and die in the wilderness.

As you consider the faith and courage displayed by Joshua on this occasion, remember that the nation now numbered over 600,000 fighting men, plus the Levites, plus women. When was the last time you faced such odds, among those professing to be God’s people? Joshua was not a descendant of Anak, but he certainly was a giant of faith!

Triumph at Jericho

Upon crossing Jordan Joshua was challenged to put his words of faith into action (Josh. 6). Here stood a walled city defended by valiant warriors. How could it be taken? God’s instructions were clear, but most strange. March around the city, blow the rams’ horns and give a shout. Who could believe that? Joshua did. And he walked over the rubble of the wall into the city! Whenever someone undertakes to give a naturalistic explanation for the fall of Jericho they are missing the whole point. It does NOT make sense to overthrow a walled citadel the way Joshua did. He was required to do what the departed generation had refused to do—“walk by faith, and not by sight.”

Farewell at Shechem

His life’s work done, the aged Joshua realized that he was soon to “go the way of all the earth.” As Moses had done before him, he gathered the nation to deliver his parting words (Joshua 24). It was on this occasion that he spoke the stirring exhortation: “Choose you this day whom ye will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Are you impressed by the life of Joshua? So am I. The next time you sing “dare to stand like Joshua ...” remember this stalwart leader of Israel, and be encouraged to imitate his faith.

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