## The Lives of God's Prophets and Servants

Joseph was sold into Egyptian slavery by his own jealous half-brothers; Later when he had the power, he didn't take revenge, unlike most others. The boy Samuel spoke to his mentor, Eli, the unpleasant truth; Samuel heard the audible voice of God, from the time of his youth. [Acts 7:9; Gen. 37:11; 45:4,5; 1 Sam. 3:15-18]

Moses faced the Pharaoh of Egypt and said, "Let my people go"; Pharaoh and his army later drown, as the Red Sea waters flowed. God knew the most humble man, Moses, face to face; God opposes the proud, but to the humble he gives grace. [Ex. 5:1; 7:16; 8:1,20,21; 9:1,13; 10:3; Psa. 136:15; Dt. 34:10; James 4:6)

Caleb had great faith and wanted the land of the giants to be his own; After forty years, the Israelites died off, except Joshua and Caleb alone. "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." At 85 years of age, faithful Caleb through God, was still physically able and fit. (Num 13:30; Josh. 14:10,11)

King Ahab thought wrongly of Elijah, "the troubler of Israel", was he; Neither Ahab, nor his father's family served God, and that was key. Elijah stood alone against 850 false prophets, who ate at Jezebel's table; With God, he won the victory at Mt Carmel, against them and their fables. [1 Kings 18:17-40]

The hated Micaiah was outnumbered 400 false prophets to him one; All alone he spoke God's truth and went to prison when he was done. Micaiah was slapped in the face by a false prophet before two kings; After Ahab's death, it was apparent Zedekiah didn't know a thing. A lying spirit in the mouths of the prophets led to Ahab's doom; And the false prophet, Zedekiah, tried to hide in an inner room. [1 King 22:6-37]

Daniel was thrown into the lion's den to spend there a whole night; He prayed to and trusted in God, and that's how he won his fight. Daniel was known to have served God continually; Most church people now only do that conveniently. [Dan 6:10-23]

Jeremiah the prophet had a very unpopular message to declare; He was hated and opposed over God's truth and was not spared; Pashhur had him beaten and locked in stocks at the Upper Gate; Jeremiah sank down into the cistern mud, because of their hate. [Jer. 38:1-6; 20:1-6] Jeremiah told Hananiah that he persuaded the people to trust in lies; And the same Hananiah, who rebelled against the Lord, that year died. Shemaiah was another false prophet who led the people to believe a lie; In the end, it was apparent that his message was both empty and dry. [Dan. 9:2 cf. Jer. 28:1-17; 29:31]

Because of sin, the inspired man is considered a maniac and the prophet a fool; The unjust persecutions on the Godly and the words of the sinful are very cruel. Dear saint, you must be able to suffer and stand alone, and not buckle under fear; Paul was all alone at his defense, yet about the message of God, he was very clear. [Hosea 9:7; Jer. 29:26,27; 2 Tim. 4:16,17]

Nathan was sent by God to confront David about his sins of adultery and murder. "You are the man," Nathan told the king and his message continued on further. Never were David's sins secret to God, for from the beginning, He saw them all; David in his shame, tried to cover them up, but Nathan mentioned his sinful fall. Psalm 51 was after Nathan spoke of his sins, which God did see; And David prayed to God, "take not your Holy Spirit from me." [2 Sam. 12:7; Psa 51:11]

Zechariah told the people to return to God, and God will return to you; Though that was spoken years ago, the same truth now applies too. Azariah told Asa, if you forsake God, God will forsake you; That's the truth of God, but is that your own theological view? [Zec 1:3; 2 Chron. 15:2]

The prophet Amos stood all alone as he spoke out God's condemning word. Because he was faithfully courageous, the true word of God, the people heard. But Amaziah falsely accused Amos of conspiracy and told him to "Get out"; Despite opposing Amos, Israel was still exiled, which God brought about. [Amos 7:10-17]

Micah declared, if a liar and deceiver came to prophesy plenty of wine and beer; The wicked and rebellious people of that day would give him their listening ear. Noah was God's preacher of righteousness, yet only eight were in the ark; The people were violently wicked, and the flood waters rose, as it was dark. [Micah 2:11; 2 Pet. 2:5; Gen. 6:13]

Job was blameless and upright, a man who shunned evil and feared God; People who love their Lord and live holy are often considered odd. John the Baptist boldly rebuked the king - the effects he didn't weigh; For being bravely faithful, later on a platter John's severed head did lay. [Job. 1:8; 1 Pet. 4:4; Mt. 14:3,4; 14:11]

Multiple religious men argued with Stephen, but he stood like an oak; They couldn't stand against his wisdom or the Spirit by which he spoke. Like Antipas, Jesus' faithful witness, fearless Stephen died a martyr; When it came to being faithful to God, such heros wouldn't barter. [Acts 6:10; Rev 2:13; Acts 7:79,60] God sent Philip out onto the desert road and he went there all alone; Warnings of us not disowning Jesus are valid, for he will also disown! For the righteous to suffer, as they serve God, has never been easy; For the unrighteous, in fiery torment - it will be windy and breezy. But compared to the lost, in fiery torment - it is light and breezy. [Acts 8:26; Mt. 10:33; 2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Pet. 4:12; Rev. 2:9,10; Psa. 11:6]

Paul was holy, righteous and blameless as the Lord he continually served; Narrow escapes and pursued from town to town - none of that he deserved. Paul was beaten, unjustly imprisoned, but from there, even wrote epistles four; He endured the suffering that continued on and on, to save souls even more. [1 Thess. 2:10; Acts 9:23-25; 16:22-24; 21:30,31; Col. 4:18; 2 Tim. 2:10]

All those heros of the faith shared one thing, which stood out so clear; They lived Godly, believed God's truth and with God conquered their fear. They were persecuted and suffered at different times and in various ways; We can stand true too as they did, for their God is our God in these last days. Though they were beaten and died martyrs at the hands of sinful man; They were really victorious and died overcomers, as you and I surely can. [Rom. 8:31b; 8:18; Heb. 11:35-39; Rev. 3:11]

We must fear God first and more than what the wicked do in our day; Whatever happens, don't be afraid, even if your physical body they slay. To die is gain for the Christian and to be persecuted is to get a reward; The servants of God fight with the Word of God - sharper than any sword. [Mt. 10:28; Phil. 1:28; 1:21,23; Lk. 6:22,23; Heb. 4:12]

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