

# Wise and Faithful



Sunday Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

# Judah remained faithful

- **2 Samuel 20:2 (NKJV) Judah remains loyal**

<sup>2</sup> So every man of Israel deserted David, *and* followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king.

- **Hebrews 12:25 (NKJV) Do not turn away**

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven,

- **Numbers 12:6-8 (NKJV) Moses an example of “faithful”**

<sup>6</sup> Then He said, "Hear now My words: "If there is a prophet among you, *I*, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

<sup>7</sup> Not so with My servant Moses; He *is* faithful in all My house.

<sup>8</sup> I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"

- **Colossians 1:1-2 (NKJV) To the faithful**
  - <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
  - <sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1 Timothy 1:12-13 (NIV) Considered faithful**
  - <sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.
  - <sup>13</sup> Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.
- **2 Timothy 2:1-3 (NKJV) commit to faithful**
  - <sup>1</sup> You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
  - <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
  - <sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NKJV) required faithful**
  - <sup>1</sup> Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
  - <sup>2</sup> Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

# Wise and Faithful women in scripture

- Sarah - Abraham's wife who submitted to him even when he didn't obey God, and who had faith in God's promises to have a child.
- Hannah - Who prayed to God for a child after years of being barren, and who sacrificed willingly and rejoiced in it.
- Ruth - Who was widowed during a famine but refused to give up on her husband's people, and who worked faithfully in the fields for her mother-in-law.
- Mary - Who is known for her humility, obedience, and faithfulness, and who humbled herself at Jesus' feet .
- Martha - Who showed strength of faith in her testimony about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead

- Abigail - Who is described as beautiful and intelligent, and who carries herself with dignity and integrity.
- Deborah - Who is a prophetess and judge of Israel during a time of spiritual decline and was influential in leading the nation.
- Anna - Who is an 84-year-old prophetess who recognizes Jesus as the Messiah and becomes one of the first Christian missionaries
- Phoebe - Who is trusted to serve the needs of the church, likely visiting the sick, aiding the poor, and offering financial support to Paul and other ministers of the gospel.

# Wise and Faithful Joab? Faithful Followers?

- **2 Samuel 20:13-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> ..... all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

<sup>14</sup> And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Berites. So they were gathered together and also went after *Sheba*.

<sup>15</sup> Then they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maachah; and they cast up a siege mound against the city, and it stood by the rampart. And all the people who *were* with Joab battered the wall to throw it down.

- **2 Samuel 20:13-15 (NIV) (V14 refers to Sheba)**

<sup>13</sup> .....all the men went on with Joab to pursue Sheba son of Bicri.

<sup>14</sup> **Sheba** passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel Beth Maacah and through the entire region of the Berites, who gathered together and followed him.

<sup>15</sup> All the troops with Joab came and besieged Sheba in Abel Beth Maacah. They built a siege ramp up to the city, and it stood against the outer fortifications. While they were battering the wall to bring it down,

# Comments

- The hunt for Sheba led to the far north, to the city of **Abel of Beth Maachah**. This was located north of the waters of Merom. It was a city famous for its **wise** people. Believer's Bible Commentary
- As we continue to look at Sheba, he is roaming the land of Israel recruiting rebels. The Berites follow him. They were unknown, unreasonable, unreliable, uncaring young men who looked for trouble and found it. We will see that their loyalty was very fickle. They were as dependable as ice in a blast furnace. The friends of the prodigal son were also fickle. When this boy got into trouble, they were gone. Thank God, in Jesus Christ, we have a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Treasures From the Scriptures
- NIV translates verse 14 as Sheba looking for recruits for his rebellion. Joab has taken command of David's military.

# A Wise Woman

- <sup>16</sup> Then a wise woman cried out from the city, "Hear, Hear! Please say to Joab, 'Come nearby, that I may speak with you.' "
- <sup>17</sup> When he had come near to her, the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I *am*." Then she said to him, "Hear the words of your maidservant." And he answered, "I am listening."
- <sup>18</sup> So she spoke, saying, "They used to talk in former times, saying, 'They shall surely seek *guidance* at Abel,' and so they would end *disputes*."
- Joab besieges the city. He builds a siege ramp to scale the wall of the city. This is a tragic misunderstanding. Many conflicts can be traced to misunderstandings. The people of Abel feel Joab is out to destroy their city, reasons unknown. Joab thinks they have sided with Sheba and are protecting Him. Treasures From the Scriptures
- As Joab laid **siege** to the city, a **wise woman** called down to him and asked him why he was going **to destroy a mother... city in Israel** (i.e., an important city) that had always been proverbial for its wisdom.



# A Wise and Faithful Woman

- <sup>19</sup> *I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?*" <sup>20</sup> And Joab answered and said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy!" <sup>21</sup> That *is* not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city." So the woman said to Joab, "Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall."
- One bad man exposed the city to destruction. One good woman affected its deliverance. As Joab's men batter the wall, a wise woman cries out for a conference with Joab. She stops the attack not with weapons, but with wise words and a plan of action. Treasures From the Scriptures
- When **Joab** explained that he was simply after the rebel leader, **Sheba**, who was hiding inside, she agreed to have him killed and **his head... thrown over the wall** as proof that he was dead. Believer's Bible Commentary

# Faithfulness rewarded

- <sup>22</sup> Then the woman in her wisdom went to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw *it* out to Joab. Then he blew a trumpet, and they withdrew from the city, every man to his tent. So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem.
- As soon as this was done, Joab **blew** the **trumpet** and **returned to... Jerusalem**, his mission accomplished. Sheba's revolt probably did not last more than a week. Believer's Bible Commentary
- Joab clarifies the confusion and his intentions. He doesn't want the city; he wants Sheba. If they will deliver him, he will depart. The woman very wisely says that Joab will have this man's head thrown over the wall. The woman gives wise counsel to the people and they quickly follow through. Sheba lost his head because he rebelled. He paid for his sin with his life. He lost his head spiritually when he rebelled against God's king and now he loses his head physically. Rebellion results in disaster. Forever, Sheba will be known as a traitor. Where are the Berites? They were not very loyal. Treasures From the Scriptures

# Wisdom and Faithfulness

- **Proverbs 2:6-8 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

<sup>7</sup> He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

<sup>8</sup> for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

- **Matthew 24:45-46 (NIV)**

<sup>45</sup> "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?"

<sup>46</sup> It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

- **Job 28:12-28 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> "But where can wisdom be found? And where *is* the place of understanding?

<sup>13</sup> Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> The deep says, '*It is not in me*'; And the sea says, '*It is not with me.*'

<sup>15</sup> It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor can silver be weighed *for* its price.

<sup>16</sup> It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire.

<sup>17</sup> Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold.

<sup>18</sup> No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.

<sup>19</sup> The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

- 20 "From where then does wisdom come? And where *is* the place of understanding?  
21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the air.  
22 Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.'  
23 God understands its way, And He knows its place.  
24 For He looks to the ends of the earth, *And* sees under the whole heavens,  
25 To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure.  
26 When He made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt,  
27 Then He saw *wisdom* and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.  
28 And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom, And to depart from evil *is* understanding.' "

## Psalm 111:1-10 (NKJV)

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with *my* whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and *in* the congregation.
- <sup>2</sup> The works of the LORD *are* great, Studied by all who have pleasure in them.
- <sup>3</sup> His work *is* honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever.
- <sup>4</sup> He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; The LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion.
- <sup>5</sup> He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.

- <sup>6</sup> He has declared to His people the power of His works, In giving them the heritage of the nations.  
<sup>7</sup> The works of His hands *are* verity and justice; All His precepts *are* sure.  
<sup>8</sup> They stand fast forever and ever, *And are* done in truth and uprightness.  
<sup>9</sup> He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome *is* His name.  
<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.

# Judged Faithful

- **Acts 16:14-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

<sup>15</sup> And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

- **Romans 12:9-13 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

<sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

<sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.