

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Dare To Stand Like Joshua

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Dare to stand like Joshua...

This is the first line of the chorus of the hymn by the same name. It is in our song book, and we sing it with feeling. We sing it for inspiration. It is an excellent hymn to prepare us for our service in the Lord's church.

I have a grandson named Joshua. He too, as the Joshua of old, is in an army. He is in the U.S. army, and he'll be returning to Afghanistan in the next few days. He's a young man, and is just starting his life. He's just beginning to find his way and have his first worldly adventure. He'll be far from church and home, and he'll be hoping he doesn't make any major mistakes, because in the back of his mind, he knows a mistake in Afghanistan could have very serious consequences.

Here too, there can be serious consequences, in Joshua 24:15 the writer tells us, *If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose*

land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. We as Christians understand that the Old Testament is included in our Bibles for our instruction (Rom. 15:4, I Cor. 10:13), and a history of our spiritual heritage. Looking within the books of the Old Testament, we can find heroes, where we have historical figures to look up to and to emulate.

We would have to look long and hard to find a better Old Testament character than Joshua, to illustrate to our children, or to any of us for that matter, the qualities of life needed to become and remain a good Christian. We think of Joshua at the beginning of the odyssey of his life when the Lord asked him to be strong and courageous (Josh. 1:6), when he then lead his people against the cities of Jericho and Ai against great odds (Josh. 6-7) and when the Lord made good the promises of victory. According to the verses above, we see him in his older years telling those he has lead in battle to the promised land that even despite their history, they should chose whom they will serve. You can picture him standing tall, although aged, with a fire in his eyes, and the Lord on his side, using himself and his family

as examples, choosing the Lord's honor as his own. He was strong and courageous.

Reading the Book of Joshua, we find his personal traits and qualities abundantly clear, starting from the first verse to the last. He has a very focused view of how his role in the events of his life should unfold. He has the clear thought and understanding of the goals needing to be achieved, and the means by which to achieve them. He has the undisputable knowledge that the Lord's absolute judgment is his for all time. In his old age we find a man still strong and courageous in the Lord.

When we need a hero, let us look to Joshua of the Old Testament. Let us dare to take the same stand he did. Remember, how we live our lives is serious business, and it has serious consequences.

My grandson Joshua is involved in a serious business, and like the character of Old Testament fame, he will stand tall. He will tell you; *as for me I will serve the Lord.* Josh is a Christian; he's also a Texan, and to this observer, they don't come any better.