

A MOMENT OF MEDITATION

Use this time of quiet and solitude to read the three “news reports” below. Mentally go “back in the day” and place yourself in the situations described in these reports. How would you have reacted to these events and circumstances? Do we have people today like those featured these reports? If so, who might they be? If not, who will bring the change we need to help our community reach the “promised land” of our collective future?

Think on and remain prayerful about these things.

News Report No. 1

Hand-picked Leader Dies Too Soon

Blacksburg, Virginia – March 1, 1406 BC -The community mourns the death of Moses, the greatest prophet in Jewish history, and God’s handpicked servant to lead the Hebrew people out of the Egypt. Although he reached 120 years of age, Moses was unable to finish the job of getting his people to the Promised Land.

Moses, the son of the Hebrew woman, Jochebed, survived many dangerous situations throughout his life. Many people in the community remember how his mother saved him from the Egyptian Pharaoh who was intent on killing all newborn Hebrew boys. He himself was alleged to have killed an Egyptian slave-master, and had to escape across the Red Sea to a land where he spent some time tending Jethro’s flock on the slopes of Mt. Horeb. Yet, God still picked him to be the pioneer, the leader who would fulfill His will.

Because of their evil-doing and idolatry, God unleashed Ten Plagues on Egypt, and then ordered Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt, across the Red Sea. It was during this time that Moses received the Ten Commandments. As “law giver” and prophet for the community, Moses spent much of the time dealing with criticism for taking too much leadership to himself. According to God, “Moses was a reluctant leader of a rebellious people. But, he had faith in Me, so I gave him all the support he needed to follow through on My instructions for the liberation of the Hebrew people.”

God would not comment on who would succeed Moses, but it is clear that He has someone in mind.

For more information contact your local church or synagogue.

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News Report No. 2

God appoints Joshua to succeed Moses.

Blacksburg, Virginia – March 31, 1406 BC - Joshua, son of Nun, receives a commission from God at eighty-six years of age. He follows Moses at the helm of God's project to relocate Israel in a great exodus movement across the Jordan into the Promised Land. Anonymous sources say that the term of the commission is about 25 years.

Apparently, Joshua has been part of a succession plan structured by God, in which the late prophet, Moses, played a key role in preparing Joshua for this assignment. Joshua supporters proclaim God's choice is a good one, based on the selection criteria of humility, faith and trust in God, knowledge of the Word, willingness to pray and put God first at all times. During the press conference, God's response to critics of the decision was, "Those are fittest to rule, who have learned to obey."

One enterprising reporter, speculating on the next step in God's planning, asked "Who do you think will replace Joshua after his time is up?" Again, God would not answer directly, but hinted it could be anyone, "Even you."

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News Report No. 3

First Woman Judge appointed

Blacksburg, Virginia – February 21, 1233 BC- A new Judge for Israel, a woman, has been selected, following mixed results from her three predecessors. Deborah, wife of Lapidot, and a well known prophetess and song writer, will be the fourth and only woman Judge of Israel. Sources say Commander Barak will be reporting to Deborah and managing the military activities related to her leadership initiatives.

Deborah assumes her duties at a time when most observers say Israel is experiencing a spiritual and moral decline, partly due to the loss of their national leaders, Moses and Joshua. (Editor's note: It may also be the start of a reoccurring cycle of sin, servitude, supplication, salvation and peace for Israel.)

Speaking to reporters at the announcement of her appointment, the normally soft-spoken, calm and diplomatic Deborah was most candid and clear about her sense of what God's view of the situation might be. "I think God is getting a little tired of being ignored, having to mete out punishments which, in turn, prompt cries by the backsliders for deliverance, only to have them go back to their sinful ways," said Deborah. "We need to do a better job in focusing on Him and positioning ourselves, as unworthy as we are, to receive His Love, Grace and Mercy."

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