

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

20 January 2008
VOLUME 8; ISSUE 03

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“Remember Miriam”

Moses had just finished instructing Israel in relation to marital laws when he states, “Remember what Jehovah thy God did unto Miriam, by the way as ye came forth out of Egypt” and then the prophet moves on to various other admonitions (see Deut. 24:9). This short statement is made with no context to understand its deep meaning. Moses depended upon the people’s knowledge of the event. Why would Israel need to “Remember what Jehovah thy God did unto Miriam?”

Let us look back to the book of Numbers for the lesson learned from Miriam. Moses records, “And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married; for he had married a Cushite woman. And they said, Hath Jehovah indeed spoken only with Moses? Hath he not spoken also with us? And Jehovah heard it...” (Numb. 12:1-2). Note that Miriam’s name is mentioned before Aaron’s. The order likely indicates that she took the lead in this rebellious move. Miriam and Aaron’s complaint against Moses is two-fold. First, they accuse Moses of sin in that he married a Cushite woman. Secondly, they accuse Moses of usurping authority over others, such as themselves, in that God had spoken with them as He had with Moses. Apparently, Miriam was jealous of Moses’ exalted place he experienced with the Lord. She was, after all, a prophetess (see Ex. 15:20) and Aaron the divinely appointed high priest of the people (see Ex. 28:30).

God answers Miriam and Aaron’s complaint by saying, “Hear now my words: if there be a prophet among you, I Jehovah will make myself known unto him in a vision, I will speak with him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so; he is faithful in all my house: with him will I speak mouth to mouth, even manifestly, and not in dark speeches; and the form of Jehovah shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant, against Moses? And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against them; and he departed. And the cloud removed from over the Tent; and, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow...” (Numb. 12:6-10). Moses was divinely appointed, by the sovereign will of God, to receive instructions and deliver them to the people as God’s spokesman. Miriam makes a grave error in calling God’s use of Moses into question. The Lord asks her, and all today who are not satisfied with His sovereign will,

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing.

Pam Husak's surgery that was scheduled for this past Thursday has been put on hold. After a recent visit to the doctor he noted that her wound is healing and they want to keep close watch on its progress.

Patricia Robertson had to go to the emergency room this past Friday morning. She was having intense pain in her stomach. She has been medicated and scheduled visits to doctors for this week.

Herb Sims doing well and is scheduled to have a stress test next month (February 8).

Please remember **Nina Gray** in your prayers as she continues with her health struggles. Nina has broken her toe and is having a hard time getting around.

Deirdre Wilson's last day at work was this past Friday. She asks that we pray for her to find employment very soon.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

“Wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant, against Moses?” Miriam and Aaron should have looked back at past events and unequivocally concluded that Moses was God’s man of the hour. God had saved Moses as a baby from the death edict of Pharaoh. God performed His mighty signs in Egypt through Moses. Moses lead Israel out of Egypt. God spoke directly to Moses at Sinai, and so forth. The evidence of God’s sovereign choice of Moses was, as some would say, astronomical.

Where is the fear of God in man today? The evidence of God’s divine will is recorded in our Bibles. Many today are not afraid to speak out against God’s sovereign will. They are likened unto Miriam of old when they reject God’s ordained authority in the church. Said people **reject Christ** when they reject God’s ordained methods of worship, work, and organization of the church because these instructions are divinely recorded as His will (see II Pet. 2:1; I Jn. 2:23; II Jn. 9; Jude 4). Many complain against God’s sovereign will in relation to **elders in the church**. God has divinely ordained elders to exercise the oversight of a church yet as these men do their authorized duties people murmur against them. Some go so far as arrogantly **usurping deity from Jehovah God** by making themselves law givers. These men reject truth and make their own laws for people to follow (see II Thess. 2:4ff). There are “**false teachers**” who teach doctrines that affront the word of God and cause many to follow their pernicious ways (see II Pet. 2:1ff). The Lord God Almighty has a question for these people who are likened unto Miriam. God asks, “*Wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my...*” prophets, apostles, and divinely appointed elders in the church.

Four years ago a mass exodus took place here at the Floral Heights church of Christ. The issues were clear. These men and women rejected the eldership’s authority. These men and women deemed their conscience to be their judge rather than the word of God. These men and women rejected divine Bible authority in that they would not permit the names of false teachers to be called from the pulpit. These men and women rejected the divine commands to watch on behalf of each other’s souls. These men and women rejected and confused the divinely appointed autonomy of the church of Jesus Christ. These men and women caused “*the way of the truth to be evil spoken of*” (II Pet. 2:2b). What is God’s response to their wicked deeds? “*And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against them...*” (Numb. 12:9). Said wickedness will not be “*spared*” by the Lord God Almighty (see II Pet. 2:4) and neither should any of us give consent, hearken, spare, sympathize, protect, conceal, or harbor today (Deut. 13:8-11; II Tim. 3:5-8; Titus 3:10-11). To do otherwise to a false teacher would be to remove the STING of their sin through shame and lessen their willingness to repent (see Jer. 6:13-15). Let us “**Remember Miriam**” today that God’s sovereign will be upheld with a spirit of conviction lest we too be found guilty (Gal. 6:1ff; II Jn. 10-11).

"SHINING AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD"

With Fear And Trembling (Ph 2:12)

By Nicolas Long

I. Introduction

- A. Developing a Christ-like character
- B. Developing a Christ-like service
- C. In this lesson, I hope to accomplish three things:
 - 1. Define the "fear of the Lord"
 - 2. Point out why the "fear of the Lord" is important to the Christian
 - 3. Suggest how we can develop a healthy "fear of the Lord" without going to one extreme or the other

II. DEFINING THE "FEAR OF THE LORD"

- A. THE WORD "FEAR"
 - 1. Hebrew - YIR'AH
 - 2. Greek - PHOBOS
- B. "REVERENCE" OR "AWE"
- C. "FEAR OF THE LORD" SHOULD INCLUDE A PLACE FOR "TREMBLING"
- D. PROPER "FEAR OF THE LORD INCLUDE
 - 1. reverence and awe

III. IMPORTANCE OF THE "FEAR OF THE LORD"

- A. Fear of the Lord
 - 1. is the beginning of knowledge - **Pr 1:7**
 - 2. will cause one to hate evil - **Pr 8:13**
 - 3. will prolong life - **Pr 10:27**
 - 4. provides strong confidence and is a fountain of life - **Pr 14:26-27**
 - 5. prompts one to depart from evil - **Pr 16:6**
 - 6. leads to a satisfying life, and spares one from much evil - **Pr 19:23**
 - 7. is the way to riches, honor, and life! - **Pr 22:4**

IV. DEVELOPING THE "FEAR OF THE LORD"

- A. THE "FEAR OF THE LORD" COMES THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD
- B. THE WORD OF GOD, PROPERLY USED, WILL MAINTAIN A PROPER BALANCE

V. CONCLUSION

Are you "perfecting holiness in the fear of God"?