

Hebrews 11:32

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets.

We are almost done with our study through verse 32. Tonight we move on from David to a study of Samuel, as we attempt to understand why he was included in the famed Hall of Faith. We will be entirely in **1 Samuel**.

Samuel's story starts off quite strange. His dad, Elkanah, had two wives, one named Peninnah (who had children) and another named Hannah (who had no children). It seemed that Hannah was the favored wife and that really ticked off Peninnah so she constantly provoked Hannah over the fact that she had no children. This, as you would imagine, totally stressed out Hannah.

So one year when they went to offer their annual sacrifices Hannah cried out to God and made a vow to the Lord. She said, "O Lord of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the Lord, his hair will never be cut" (**1 Samuel 1:11**).

The Lord heard her prayer and gave her a son and she named him Samuel, which means "asked of the Lord." She kept her boy until he was weaned, which culturally would have probably been around 3-years old, and then she took him back to the Tabernacle in Shiloh where Eli, the high priest and his two sons Hophni and Phinehas, ministered; and she left him there with the Lord permanently.

Now it is important to understand that even though **1 Samuel 1:1** says that Elkanah (Samuel's dad) came from the land of Ephraim, according to **1 Chronicles 6:27** Elkanah was a Levite. If you remember the Levites (who were the priests) were not given any property within Canaan; instead, they were instructed to spread out amongst the people and minister to them, as priests, in each tribe.

This explains why Eli, the high priest, had no issue with Samuel being left with him since Samuel's natural role as a Levite would have been to care for the tabernacle. But in addition to being a priest, we will find out that Samuel was also a judge of Israel and a prophet of God.

Now Elkanah came from Ramathaim-zophim, in the hill country in Ephraim. The reason we are given this little detail in **1 Samuel 1:1** is because it establishes the theme of Samuel's life. Ramathaim and Zophim were two contiguous hills upon which watchtowers were built where men continually kept guard over the country. Accordingly, we will find out that Samuel is a spiritual watchman over the country; and like all watchmen he is required to give his warning even when he might otherwise want to be quiet and passive. In this Samuel stands in contrast to the high priest, Eli, who seemed to always choose passivity when he should have been taking action.

Now, the sons of Eli were scoundrels. They had no respect for the Lord or for their duties as priests. People would come to give their offerings to the Lord and they would take the meat for themselves and if anyone refused they would take it by force. "So the sin of these young men was very serious in the Lord's sight, for they treated the Lord's offerings with contempt" (**1 Samuel 2:17**).

And as if that was not bad enough, they were also seducing all the young women who assisted at the entrance of the tabernacle. Hophni and Phinehas were horrible and Eli did nothing about it.

For some reason, Eli was incredibly passive and was unwilling to take a hard stand against his sons. According to **1 Samuel 2:29**, Eli honored his sons more than he honored God (which as we discussed last week is a huge problem—he owned his blessings instead of enjoying them). He never even disciplined his sons; at best he merely pleaded with them. He said to them:

1 Samuel 2:23-25

I have been hearing reports from all the people about the wicked things you are doing. Why do you keep sinning? You must stop, my sons! The reports I hear among the Lord's people are not good. If someone sins against another person, God can mediate for the guilty party. But if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede?" But Eli's sons wouldn't listen to their father, for the Lord was already planning to put them to death.

It is so interesting that the Lord closed their ears to their father's instruction. They had so hardened their hearts to the Lord that He left them to their own devices. Eli should have done something about these boys and thereby protect both them and the people; but he refused to intervene so the Lord chose to intervene. The Lord sent a prophet to Eli who gave him this harrowing message.

1 Samuel 2:30-35

I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.

Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever. The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men. And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day.

So as a result of Eli's passivity and refusal to take action on behalf of the Lord, the Lord decided to take action. What an awful message to receive. I want you to take note: position and titles do not really matter to the Lord. The issue is honor. If a person, who has a title or position, chooses to honor the Lord they will be honored by the Lord. But if they do not honor the Lord, they may be slightly esteemed because of their title and position, but they will be judged.

This role of a priest was and is a role that must not be taken lightly. I hope you know that as believers we have all been appointed to be priests of the living God. *1 Peter 2:9* says, "But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY

NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” In this way, we are like the Levites, we have been specially chosen and ordained by God to tell others about the goodness of God; and this is a role that is clearly to be honored. After all, we are God’s own possession.

Now, the Lord takes this role seriously, just like He did back in the day; therefore, so must we. I want to quickly look at a passage in **Malachi 2** just so we can understand why the Lord brought such a hard message to Eli and why we also need to heed His warning and take our role as priests seriously.

Malachi 2:1-9

Listen, you priests—this command is for you! Listen to me and make up your minds to honor my name, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, or I will bring a terrible curse against you. I will curse even the blessings you receive. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you have not taken my warning to heart. ...

The purpose of my covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and that is what I gave them. This required reverence from them, and they greatly revered me and stood in awe of my name. They passed on to the people the truth of the instructions they received from me. They did not lie or cheat; they walked with me, living good and righteous lives, and they turned many from lives of sin. The words of a priest's lips should preserve knowledge of God, and people should go to him for instruction, for the priest is the messenger of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Our role is to give life and peace and pass on to others the truth we have received from Jesus. We are never to take advantage of others for our own gain. But we are to walk with the Lord, living good and righteous lives, turning from sin. And our lips should preserve the knowledge of God because we are the Lord's messengers; we are His ambassadors who must accurately represent Him.

And since others are dependent upon us to carry out our commission, the Lord takes our job quite seriously; and again so should we. This is something that Eli failed to do which is why Eli was judged, and his candle went out so to speak; whereas Samuel was esteemed and his light was just beginning to rise. I am not just waxing in metaphors, but there is a little prophetic note that is given to us at the beginning of Chapter 3 which makes this point.

Now Samuel was just a boy and was busy in the service of the Lord by assisting Eli. In those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon but the Lord chose to speak to Samuel. One night, however, Samuel was asleep in the tabernacle near the Ark of God and we are told that the lamp of God had not yet gone out. The lamp of God, or the candlestick, would burn from night until the morning light and it was provisioned with enough oil to burn through the night. So it seems that the Lord spoke to Samuel somewhere close to sunrise. But this also serves as a little prophetic foreshadowing.

Eli, as the high priest, was to be the light to Israel but his candle is soon to be extinguished and Samuel's light, signified by the sunrise, was ready to burn bright. I just love those little tid-bits the Spirit puts throughout the scriptures.

Now the Lord called out to Samuel who woke up thinking that Eli had called him. This happened twice when Eli realized that the Lord was speaking to Samuel.

He told Samuel to go back to bed and if he again hears his name to say, “Yes, Lord, your servant is listening.” And Lord again called his name and told Samuel,

1 Samuel 3:11-14

I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings.

Keeping true to His word that He does nothing without first warning His servants the prophets (***Amos 3:7***), the Lord confirms Eli's judgment to Samuel. In the morning Eli makes Samuel tell him what the Lord said and when he did Eli just responded: “It is the Lord's will...Let Him do what He thinks best” (***1 Samuel 3:18***).

Can you imagine such passivity? He was just told that he and his sons were going to die; he did not even drop on his knees and repent. I don't understand. This is totally different than the way David responded to the Lord's judgment. David humbled himself and cried out for mercy. He knew that the Lord did not want the traditional sacrifices and offerings, but a broken and repentant heart (***Psalms 51***). Eli, however, was so disinterested in the things of the Lord that he could not even say that he was sorry much less plead for mercy.

As a result of Eli's hardness of heart, the Lord raised Samuel to be the light to the nation. We are told that as Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and

everything Samuel said was wise and helpful. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet and “The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle. And Samuel’s words went out to all the people of Israel” (**1 Samuel 3:19-21**).

Samuel was the Lord’s priest and prophet. As he received messages from the Lord, like a good watchman, he spoke them to the people for his lips preserved the knowledge of the Lord. In this he was never passive but always active. In this he displayed true Biblical faith.

Shortly thereafter, the Lord carried out His threats against Eli and his family. In **1 Samuel 4**, we are told that the Lord sent the Philistines to invade the land of Israel and they captured the Ark of God and killed Phinehas and Hophni. When Samuel heard the report, he fell backwards over in his chair and broke his neck for he was old and to very fat (**1 Samuel 4:18**).

Samuel then stepped up and took leadership of the people. Samuel told them that if they are serious about returning to the Lord they must get rid of their foreign gods and images of Ashtoreth and determine to obey the Lord. Only then would the Lord save them from the Philistines. The people followed Samuel’s instructions and destroyed their images of Baal and Ashtoreth and worshiped only the Lord.

Then Samuel called together all the people to Mizpah and it is there that he prayed for them. They in turn had a great ceremony where they drew water from a well and poured it out before the Lord symbolizing that they were pouring out their hearts in repentance to the Lord. It was at Mizpah where Samuel became Israel’s judge (**1 Samuel 7:3-6**).

With the Israelites all gathered together, the Philistines thought it would be an opportune time to attack, which they did. But Samuel sacrificed before the Lord and pleaded with the Lord to help Israel, and the Lord answered. As the Philistines were getting ready to attack the Lord spoke with a mighty voice of thunder from heaven, and the Philistines were so freaked out and confused that the Israelites easily defeated them. And throughout Samuel's lifetime, the Lord's powerful hand was raised against the Philistines (**1 Samuel 7:7-14**).

We are also told that Samuel continued as Israel's judge for the rest of his life. Each year he traveled around, setting up his court, judging the people's cases. And while all this sounds wonderful; it seems that Samuel fell into the same trap which we discussed last week in terms of living during a time of blessing. Like Eli he also seemed to own his blessing instead of enjoy his blessings and it led him to make some serious mistakes that set forth the course of the nation.

Samuel appointed his two oldest sons to be judges over Israel. "But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice" (**1 Samuel 8:3**). First of all, what was he doing appointing judges? That was the Lord's role not man's role. Samuel let his position get to his head. God raises up judges, and they fulfill His purposes; for when man raises up judges they sadly fulfill their own purposes and the people suffer. This was a lesson he should have learned from Eli.

This same principle applies even today. God is the one who raises-up leaders (He calls them and gifts them) and when He does they fulfill his purposes. But too often it is man who raises-up leaders; and over time they tend to fulfill their own purposes, even though it may be all wrapped up in a visage of ministry. I know

this sounds harsh, but it's true. For example, too many people seek "ministry" as a career or as a "thing" to do and don't even really know if they have been called by the Lord. When this happens, people always get hurt; it's just a matter of time.

1 Samuel 8:4-5

Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. "Look," they told him, "you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have."

I am sure the people had flashbacks to the atrocities of Hophni and Phinehas and were so afraid of what Samuel's boys would do once Samuel was dead. Therefore, they decided to ask for a king instead of endure these corrupt man-made "judges" (which if you think about it makes no sense; they just traded one atrocity for another).

But Samuel's compromise is, in part, why it all started. Because Samuel took matters into his own hands and owned his blessing, the people of Israel suffered under many madmen-kings. We know for sure that Saul was crazy, but out of 39 kings that ruled over the people, only 12 were good. The rest were mad-men (70% bad and only 30% good; those are horrible statistics).

Now it is also true that the people never really did want to be ruled by God as they were always following some foreign god whose statues they could get their hands around, but this situation gave them their opportunity to demand to be like the other nations.

We must learn from these lessons and not walk down the same paths. Again, when God leads us into a time of blessing, we have to be vigilant and be like true watchman, priests of God, who do not live to please ourselves, who do not live to own our blessings, but men and women who can enjoy the blessings of God while letting Him have first place in all things; and I mean first place in all things.

Samuel was very upset with the people's request, even though he did not seem to be that upset at the way his sons were behaving and dealing with the people. He took their request to the Lord for advice (I still don't know why he did not ask the Lord's advice about appointing his own sons), and the Lord said:

1 Samuel 8:7-9

"Do everything they say to you," the Lord replied, "for it is me they are rejecting, not you. They don't want me to be their king any longer. Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them."

We will just file this one under the title, "Be careful what you ask for." Shortly thereafter the Lord told Samuel to appoint Saul as King saying that he will rescue Israel from the Philistines. So the people wanted a man to rule them and God granted that request; but He had other purposes in mind and that is the judgment over the Philistines. We talked about this, even though he was a king, Saul (and David after him) was the Lord's judge against the enemies of God. Let's look at how God spoke to Samuel:

1 Samuel 9:16

About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him to be the leader of my people, Israel. He will rescue them from the Philistines, for I have looked down on my people in mercy and have heard their cry.

I love it; the Lord looked on them with mercy. Now that word mercy has many facets to it (almost as many as the word love), but in this instance God wanted to ensure a few of things: 1) that they would be protected even though they had rejected the Lord's direct rule over their lives; 2) that they would learn why it is better to submit to the Lord's rule instead of man's; and 3) in His mercy, He wanted to lead their hearts back to Him (which would ultimately play out in His desire that they accept His King, His Messiah, the Son of God).

As we know, Samuel anointed Saul; but then he gave his farewell address to the people where he essentially surrendered his power as their leader to the king and he went back to being just their prophet/priest (***1 Samuel 12***). It is at that this time that he gave his famous and often quoted speech: "As for me, I will certainly not sin against the Lord by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right" (***1 Samuel 12:23***).

But here is where things became very difficult for Samuel. Remember, Samuel had been weak in terms of his kids, he had been passive and tolerant, but he also demonstrated the same kind of emotional weakness when it came to Saul.

You know how it is; if you are part of choosing something or someone, and it is a big deal, your ego and emotions get a bit attached and that can lead to personal bias that tends to cloud things and keeps you from really seeing things from the Lord's perspective. In fact, if truth be told, Samuel loved Saul and really did not care for David at all. Except for the time he anointed David with oil, he had nothing to do with David. He never went to him, he never encouraged him, and he never helped him even though he knew that David was the Lord's chosen one and that Saul had been rejected by the Lord. You would think the prophet and priest would want to be on the same side as the Lord, but that is not the case with Samuel.

With this background in mind, it does not take much to imagine that Samuel was tempted with that same tolerance and passivity (as with his sons) because of his great affection for Saul. We will get to the stories behind my comment in a moment, but I just want to first make my point. When God had rejected Saul as king, we don't see Samuel rejoicing that the Lord had picked someone after His own heart; rather, Samuel cried out to the Lord all night long (**1 Samuel 15:11**).

Samuel was emotionally attached to Saul in an unhealthy way which posed a threat of his being compromised in his role as a watchman. Fortunately, as we will find out, Samuel chose to set aside his emotional attachments and faithfully follow the Word of the Lord giving us both an example to follow and the very reason he was included in the famed Hall of Faith.

You see, Samuel was a true watchman. He was the Lord's messenger. He faithfully passed on the instruction he received from the Lord and his lips preserved the knowledge of God; but his emotions were still a point of concern.

So in the first event, Samuel had instructed Saul to wait for him 7-days before venturing off to war against the Philistines. He told Saul that he will sacrifice to the Lord to seek His help and obtain His blessing. But Samuel did not show up right away and Saul was freaking out because his troops were abandoning him as the Philistines came in numbers that were overwhelming. So Saul thought that he would go ahead and offer up the burnt offering so the troops would believe that God would be on their side. Big mistake; offering sacrifices was the role of a priest not a king. Then just as Saul was finished sacrificing, Samuel showed up and said:

1 Samuel 13:10, 13-14

“What is this you have done?” “How foolish!” Samuel exclaimed. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. Had you kept it, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.”

I am sure this was hard for Samuel to deliver. Saul was early into his reign and with one mistake—wham—the kingdom was ripped away from him. A while later, the Lord had Samuel deliver another message to Saul. The Lord decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt. He instructed Saul as follows: “Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys” (***1 Samuel 15:3***). This was the time for a complete reckoning.

So Saul mobilized his army and had a great victory but he foolishly spared king Agag, the Amalekite king. In addition, Saul and his men kept the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything, in fact that appealed to them. They destroyed only what was worthless and of poor quality (**1 Samuel 15:1-9**). Then the Lord said to Samuel:

1 Samuel 15:11

"I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command." Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the Lord all night.

If you don't understand the relationship between Samuel and Saul (and the lack of relationship between Samuel and David), you might think that Samuel was upset because Saul refused to obey the Lord, thereby presuming that Samuel's loyalties lie only with the Lord. Yet, we will find out that even though Samuel's loyalties do, for the most part, lie with the Lord, his emotions were tied to Saul.

This explains why he cried out to the Lord all night long. Samuel wanted Saul to be king; and as we will see he was even willing to exalt Saul in front of the people purely for image sake even though God had rejected Saul. Let's read the exchange:

1 Samuel 15:16-23

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! Listen to what the Lord told me last night!" "What did he tell you?" Saul asked. And Samuel told him, "Although you may think little of yourself, are you not the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord has anointed you king of Israel. And the Lord sent you on a mission and told you, 'Go and completely destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, until they are all dead.' Why haven't you obeyed the Lord? Why did you rush for the plunder and do what was evil in the Lord's sight?"

"But I did obey the Lord," Saul insisted. "I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal." But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

Saul is ridiculous; he makes up the worst excuses and wraps them all in religious notions. He even blames his troops for keeping the animals. He is a king but he is by no means a leader. By the way, the ramifications of this rebellion stretch out for over 500 years. The next time you read the book of Esther pay close attention to the lineage of the antagonist in that story (you know the bad man named Haman). Haman came very close to executing a total genocide of the

Jews; and he just happens to be a descendant of King Agag. We must never underestimate the potential ramifications of our sin. It's a bit scary if you think about it.

Anyway, back to Samuel. We see that he was faithful to confront Saul and speak the Words the Lord gave him, but let's see what happens next.

1 Samuel 15:24-35

Then Saul admitted to Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship the Lord." But Samuel replied, "I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the Lord's command, he has rejected you as king of Israel."

As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you. And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!"

Then Saul pleaded again, "I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the Lord your God." So Samuel finally agreed and went back with him, and Saul worshiped the Lord.

Then Samuel said, "Bring King Agag to me." Agag arrived full of hope, for he thought, "Surely the worst is over, and I have been spared!" But Samuel said, "As your sword has killed the sons of many mothers, now your mother will be childless." And Samuel cut Agag to pieces before the Lord at Gilgal. Then Samuel went home to Ramah, and Saul returned to his house at Gibeah of Saul. Samuel never went to meet with Saul again, but he mourned constantly for him.

This is unbelievable; after all that happened Samuel actually agreed to go and worship with Saul leaving the people with a pretense of solidarity, support, and an erroneous belief that the Lord stood by their king. It was all a lie, a concession, a compromise that was rooted in Samuel's emotions. It was all for the purpose of honoring Saul in the presence of the leaders and the people (**1 Samuel 15:30-31**).

It just goes to show you that a genuine worship experience does not equal genuine faith; and we know that without faith it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**). This worship had the form of "true worship" but it was a sham, it was empty, and it was worthless.

And although Samuel never went to Saul again and, as a watchman, had been completely obedient to the Lord, he spent the rest of his life absolutely miserable as he constantly mourned for Saul. This is so sad. From here, the only other 2 things we read about Samuel is when the Lord tells him to stop mourning and go and anoint David and when he dies (**1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Samuel 25:1**). That's it.

I have to tell you; having an area in your life that just will not be submitted to the Lord will haunt you one way or another. You may feel good about yourself for

not letting your weakness interfere with what the Lord has asked you to do, but you will pay the piper; it is just a matter of time.

We must be careful to not let our emotions take the lead in our lives. I understand there will often be a struggle between what the Lord asks of us and what we want (we all know that very well), but we must let our complete loyalties lie with the Lord and not with our emotions. That is why we are told that we must love the Lord with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength (**Mark 12:30**). We cannot make concessions in any of these areas.

This actually speaks to the issue of our bricks in the wall over which we have been praying. Our bricks represent the areas of our heart, mind, soul, or strength that we have not brought into alignment with what we know to be true of God's Word or with His character and nature. This wall will fall as we relinquish our areas of defiance and submit them to the Lord trusting that He is good and that He really does love us. He has proved it to each and every one of us and He wants us to now believe it with our heart, soul, mind and strength—with everything!

I can see it; our belief will be like an acid that dissolves even the most resistant of stones. Remember, even the gates of hell cannot prevail over a son of God who lives in true Biblical faith. By "Biblical faith" I mean a person who bets their lives on the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God (**Matthew 16:13-20**), which clearly means that He is worthy of our trust with no reservations at all.

As we wrap up tonight, I think it is clear why Samuel was in the Hall of Faith. He was an amazing man who by faith served the Lord; yet, sadly, he was also an amazing man who held some things back from the Lord. Let's learn from this. Let's not find ourselves trapped in a similar way. Let's take our areas of weakness,

our areas of wrong belief and unbelief, and our areas where we want something other than what God wants and submit it all to the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God—the one who loves us and who is always good!

Now as far as the rest of **Hebrews 11:32** “and the prophets,” well you are just going to have to read your Old Testament. And now that you have learned how to read not just the words but also understand the stories, I think you will understand why each of the prophets also line the halls of the great Hall of Faith.

Let's Pray.