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*enemies into your hand”* (19-20). This event is referred to in the New Testament as **“the slaughter of the kings”** (Hebrews 7:1). The man who fights to defend his family is blessed.

**Moses** was so great a prophet that he was the type to Jesus’ antitype (Deuteronomy 34:10). He was also priest of God (Psalm 99:6). Moreover, *“Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth”* (Numbers 12:3). Notwithstanding his deep humility, he was a killer (Exodus 2:11-12). *“When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand”* (Acts 7:23-25). When his fellow Hebrews failed to grasp his intent, Moses fled the country and lived the next forty years a fugitive in Midian. The very next event recorded in his life was God summoning him to do what had been his purpose in slaying the Egyptian, to deliver Israel from oppression (Acts 7:30-36). The man who risks his own safety to defend his neighbor might serve a higher purpose in God’s plan.

**Phinehas**, the grandson of Aaron, was a priest in Israel during the wilderness wanderings when Israel joined itself in harlotry to idol-worshipping Gentiles. God was provoked to anger and a plague broke out, killing 24,000 Israelites, but Phinehas, seeing an Israelite named Zimri taking a Midianite woman *“in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel”* (Numbers 25:6), was stirred to action. *“He rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel”* (7-8). In one fell swoop, Phinehas ended the lives of two fornicators. Moses had commanded, *“Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor”* (5), but Phinehas is singled out for having actually done anything. Jehovah commended him and rewarded his action: *“Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the*

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*children of Israel”* (11-13). He deserves remembrance and honor for his decisive action: *“Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stopped. And that was accounted to him for righteousness to all generations forevermore”* (Psalm 106:30-31). The man who practices discipline spares many more from punishment.

**Samuel**, quite uniquely, served as prophet (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:20), judge (7:15), and, evidently, priest in Israel inasmuch as he was a Levite (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 6:1, 28) who wore an ephod (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:18) which was meant for the priest (Exodus 28:4). When King Saul was told by the Lord to *“attack Amalek and utterly destroy”* (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 15:3), he did not fully obey, but *“took Agag king of the Amalekites alive”* (8). For having spared this man, God told Samuel, *“I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments”* (11). After rebuking Saul (17-29), Samuel said, *“Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me”* (32). Turning to Agag, Samuel said, *“As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before Jehovah*” (33). The man who truly leads does the dirty work other so-called leaders won’t.

*“Elijah said to the people, ‘I alone am left a prophet of Jehovah; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men”* (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 18:22). Despite the overwhelming proportion of idolatrous prophets, Elijah knew *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31), so he challenged Baal’s prophets to a contest. Each side was to have a bull prepared for sacrifice, but were not to light any fire. *“You call on the name of your gods, and I will call upon the name of Jehovah; and the God who answers by fire, He is God,”* said Elijah (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 18:24). The Baal worshipers spent the whole day, from morning until evening, crying out to their idol and leaping around the altar, and they even bled themselves in a vain attempt to gain Baal’s attention (25-29). Nothing worked. After all that, Elijah had twelve waterpots dumped over his sacrifice, and he dug a trench around the altar and filled it with water, too (32-35). Then, the prophet of God worded a simple prayer, the essence of which was, *“Let it be known... that You are God”* (36-37). *“Then the fire of Jehovah fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench”* (38). By this wonder, the people were convinced. *“They fell on their faces; and they said, ‘Jehovah, He is God! Jehovah, He is God!’ And Elijah said to them, ‘Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!’ So they seized them; and Elijah*

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***"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"***

***ACTS 16:30***

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

***HEBREWS 10:24-25***

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

***"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"***

***GALATIANS 6:1***

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

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*brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there*" (39-40). Elijah ended the lives of 450 pagans *"with the sword"* (19:1). The man who stands for God never stands alone.

Men of God must stand firm for what is right, being willing to undertake unpleasant and dangerous tasks because that is the test of moral fortitude.

***"WHOLE COUNSEL"***

***ACTS 20:27***

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 18

MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025

**PROPHESYING AND PRIESTIFYING LIKE A BOSS**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

While the kings of Israel and Judah were expected to lead in battle (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8:19-20; 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 11:1), prophets and priests would generally have been expected to be more peacefully engaged. However, that was not always the case.

Abraham, whom God identified as a prophet (Genesis 20:7), slaughtered kings. His nephew Lot was dwelling in Sodom when war befell the city and he and his household were taken captive (Genesis 14:1-12). *"When Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them... So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people"* (14-16). Abraham had a private militia – 318 servants who were already trained to fight before the need arose, and enough weapons to arm them all. He put their skills to use in the defense of his family and was subsequently blessed for doing so. The first person ever called *"priest of God"* in Scripture, before ever there was a Levitical priesthood in Israel, Melchizedek, came out to meet Abram and declared, *"Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your* – Continued on page 2 –

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