

THE DEATH OF GREAT MEN, #1

INTRODUCTION

- I. The word “great” is used around 800 times in the Bible, with 70 of these being in the book of Revelation.
 - A. It is used to describe God, His power, Christ, John the Baptizer, and many other things as well.
 - B. It is used to describe some who may be great **in the sight of God**, or in the eyes of men.
 1. Some men are considered great by man’s standard because of their accomplishments, but would NEVER be great in the sight of God.
 2. Greatness in the kingdom of God is possible through **SERVICE**. Matt. 20:26
- II. Now let’s consider “THE DEATH OF GREAT MEN” of God, as revealed in scripture. We shall first look at some great servants of God as recorded in the Old Testament, and THEN some that are recorded in the New.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, ABRAHAM was great because of his SERVICE.

- A. God chose Abraham to become great and establish a great nation. Gen. 12:1-3
- B. Abraham was indeed a great servant of God, and would always do His bidding. Gen. 18:16-23; 19:29; Deut. 9:27
 1. Abraham was not only a servant of God, but a friend of God. Jas. 2:23
 2. God eventually placed Abraham over the Hadean realm for souls who have departed this life, as shown in Luke 16.

II. 2nd, MOSES of old was great because of his SERVICE.

- A. Moses was born in a time of turmoil among the Israelites. (Exo. 1, 2)
- B. Moses was chosen of God to lead His people out of bondage. Exo. 3:(1-22)
 1. Moses was willing to serve, but lacked confidence. Exo. 4:1-16
 2. Moses was troubled beyond measure because of the complaints of the people. Num. 11:1-15
 3. Moses died and was buried on Mt. Nebo, as a “faithful” servant of God. Deut. 24:11-12; 18:15; cf Acts 3:22-24; Heb. 3:5

III. 3rd, JOSHUA was great because of his SERVICE.

- A. After Moses’ death, Joshua succeeded Moses and served God faithfully in leading the Israelites into the promised land—completing the work Moses began. Josh. 1:1-9; 5:14
- B. The name “Joshua” means “God saves” and is equivalent to the Greek name for “Jesus”, which means “Savior.” Matt. 1:21

CONCLUSION

- I. May these examples of great servants be an inspiration to us. Heb. 11:13
 - A. Service to God begins when one is baptized into Christ for the remission of sins.
 - B. Service to God continues as long as one lives upon this earth. Rom. 12:1-2
- II. Won’t you begin your life of being God’s servant, by putting on Christ in baptism, and living faithful to God all the days of your life?

THE DEATH OF GREAT MEN, #2

INTRODUCTION

This is a continuation of our study of Great Men of the O.T. who died in faith. Now, we want to consider the death of great men whose lives are recorded in the N.T.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, JOHN the baptizer was great because of his SERVICE.

- A. John was the forerunner for the Lord, to prepare the way FOR him, by preaching repentance, baptizing the people and announcing the coming kingdom. Matt. 3:1-2
- B. Jesus reminded the people of John's greatness. Matt. 11:11
 - 1. John was the greatest of all Bible prophets. Luke 7:28
 - 2. John gave his life in devotion to God. Mark 6:(14-29) (Summarize)

II. 2nd, STEPHEN was great because of his SERVICE.

- A. Stephen is first mentioned in Acts 6, when some were selected to serve tables while the apostles continued in their ministry of the word of God.
 - 1. He was the first one on the list when this selection was made, reminding us of his high regard for the brethren in Jerusalem.
 - 2. He was said to be "full of faith and of the Holy Ghost." Acts 6:5
 - 3. He is next mentioned as being full of faith and power, v. 8
 - 4. His defense of the gospel was full of power in his defense of truth.
 - 5. His enemies could not answer his arguments, so they created false witnesses to testify against him before the High Priest of the day.
 - 6. He is an example of what one can do for the Lord in a public way, which obviously began with his SERVICE in helping in the "daily ministrations."
 - 7. He was given the opportunity to speak the truth before the High Priest.
- B. His sermon so agitated the hearers that he was stoned to death, and had a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus.

III. 3rd, Jesus was great because of His SERVICE.

- A. Jesus is **called** God's servant. Isa. 53:11
- B. How DID He become God's servant?
 - 1. 1st, He left heaven to come to earth to give His life to bring the plan of salvation to the world. Phil. 2:5-8
 - 2. 2nd, Jesus became a servant of GOD for the sake of mankind. Matt. 20:26-28

IV. 4th, Christians are great because of their SERVICE.

- A. Paul and the other apostles were great servants of God and gave their lives in devotion to God. Rom. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1; Rev. 1:1
- B. ALL Christians should strive to be good servants in the kingdom. Matt. 11:11; Luke 7:28; John 15:20; Matt. 18:4; Rom. 16:1; Gal. 5:13
 - 1. Teachers and workers serve in the kingdom, and are great.
 - 2. Preachers can be great IF they speak the truth of God. Mark 16:15-16; 1 Pet. 4:11

CONCLUSION

I. It will be GREAT for Christians to faithfully serve God and then DIE in that faithful relationship. Rev.14:13

A. Christians have a great inheritance—that of living eternally in heaven.

1. What anyone inherits earthly possessions is subject to destruction. Matt. 6:19-21

2. Christians anticipate a GREAT inheritance, that shall never perish. Matt. 5:12; 1 Pet. 1:4

B. Your inheritance can be great if you are obedient to God, and live faithfully till death. Heb. 5:8-9

II. God's inheritance is for His children, who are in Christ. Gal. 3:26-29

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