

Preaching Dates

Sunday 10 May 2020

Hazel Brooks (am via YouTube)
at Larkhall Baptist Church

Graham Bruno (am via Zoom) at
Bridge of Don Baptist Church

Glen Cartwright (am via Zoom)
at Fusion for Newton Mearns Baptist
Church

Stephen Ilett (am) will be providing, via
email, a written sermon and prayers for
Dingwall Baptist Church

Jim O'Hara (am) pre-recorded at Perth
Baptist Church

Charles Sommerville (pm via Zoom)
at Kelty Evangelical Church



“Ready And Reliable”

By John Locke

Ready and Reliable for times like these, Joshua ch1 v1-9

In January I prepared a few notes on Joshua for this article with no "covid crisis" in sight. Over the past few days thinking again about this I assumed my notes would be out of date and no longer relevant. Now it's April 30th and I have returned to write to find Joshua really relates to our times here and now; a relevant word for the week.

Joshua, was a pyramid builder, a slave and both spiritual leader and servant. He was at the top of his nation, only a cloud ceiling as it were between him and Jehovah. He is God's leader in unprecedented times.

1. The era of recent times has gone - Moses is dead (vs2)
2. Israel have stalled as a nation waiting further instructions - Arise and cross Jordan (vs2)
3. New changes & encounters will be encouraged as the Lord grants new territory (vs3-6)
4. God is not leaving - He is just reinforcing His Presence (vs5)
5. God is asking His servant for a demonstration of his personal attributes (vs6,7,8,9)
 - Strength, courage, boldness and tenacity

The "covid 19 crisis" is demanding a great leap forward in our personal thoughts, habits, methods and tolerance. This time will reveal our personal attributes like never before, 4 attributes are required of Joshua and of us

1. Strength - reliability like never before, an unwavering trust that the Lord will supply all his needs and give accurate direction.
2. Courage - not bravery but a determination to embrace and carry on through the tough situations
3. Boldness - an extraordinary capacity to override timidity and mediocrity yet encourage motivate and excite God's people
4. Tenacity – the agility to surmount bad news, the ability overcome discouragement; yet forge on beyond the setbacks.

Our nation, indeed our world, is on response alert at present, and preaching for most of us is in a surreal environment. Joshua is preaching to us by and through our observation of his response and responses to Gods call, his leadership and the actions of the people responding to his leadership. Our current responses will teach us a lot about us! About us and our relationships, the display of our personal attributes will preach loudly to our family, friends and neighbours.(probably our most important audience)

However, the big outcome will be how we respond to God's call in our times, whither we preach and pray for God's will or preach and pray to our nation's longings for the old ways.

WAYS that were UNRESPONSIVE TO GOD.

Let us realise the past is dead, the new has arrived, let us be strong radiating courage, bold and full of tenacity for the purposes of our Lord Jesus Christ.