

## Guarding Your Heart and Keeping Your Faith

### Eleazar

- He was not as popular compared to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, however, he was able to guard his heart and keep his faith.
- He is like the unseen foundation of a tower, which sometime is overlooked by others.

### Proverbs 4:23

- Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.
- For those who are able to guard their hearts and keep their faith, God will continue keeping His promises, even after they died, God keeps their descendents blessed.

### Numbers 20:22-29

- **The death of Aaron** -- 22 The whole Israelite community set out from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. 23 At Mount Hor, near the border of Edom, the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 24 'Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land I give the Israelites, because both of you rebelled against my command at the waters of Meribah. 25 Call Aaron and his son Eleazar and take them up Mount Hor. 26 Remove Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar, for Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will die there.' 27 Moses did as the Lord commanded: they went up Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community. 28 Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. And Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain, 29 and when the whole community learned that Aaron had died, all the Israelites mourned for him thirty days.

### Who is Eleazar:

- Aaron is the older brother of Moses. Miriam is their eldest sister
- Eleazar is the third child of Aaron:
  - Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Itamar
  - Eleazar has a son called Phinehas

- Faith indeed grows in the midst of a challenge not in the absence of it.
- Steps to keep the Faith:
  - Do not find excuse for not having to keep the faith
  - Do not fall into disappointment and bitterness
- Eleazar lived in the midst of a family which were full of bitterness, envy and murmuring:
  - His father (Aaron) and aunty (Miriam) rebelled against Eleazar's uncle, Moses.
  - But Eleazar was able to guard his heart and able to faithfully serve under Moses.
  - Eleazar chose to keep his heart clean and not to follow the circumstances surrounding him
- Eleazar became Moses' right hand...however, he did not become Moses' replacement...he later remained faithful to continue serving under Joshua

### **Joshua 24:29-33**

- Buried in the promised land
- 29 After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. 30 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. 31 Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel. 32 And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver[b] from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants. 33 And Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried at Gibeah, which had been allotted to his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

### **Phinehas**

- Phinehas was the grandson of Aaron and son of Eleazar. He is also the priest during the Israelites' Exodus journey.
- He distinguished himself as a youth at Shittim with his zeal against the Heresy of Peor.

- He was displeased with the immorality with which the Moabites and Midianites had successfully tempted the Israelites (Numbers 25:1-9) to inter-marry and to worship Baal-peor, so he personally executed an Israelite man and a Midianite woman while they were together in the man's tent, running a javelin or spear through the man and the belly of the woman.
- His action brought an end to a plague said to have been sent by God to punish the Israelites for sexually intermingling with the Midianites.
- God promised to those who are faithful that He will keep the blessing for their descendents until thousand of generations.
- **Deuteronomy 7:9:** Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

### Zadok

- Zadoq was a priest, descended from Eleazar the son of Aaron.
- He aided King David during the revolt of his son Absalom and was subsequently instrumental in bringing King Solomon to the throne.
- After Solomon's building of The First Temple in Jerusalem, Zadok was the first High Priest to serve there.
- The prophet Ezekiel extols the sons of Zadok as staunch opponents of paganism during the era of its pagan worship and indicates their birthright to unique duties and privileges in the future temple (Ezekiel 42:13, 43:19).

### Azariah

- Son of Zadok, a high priest during King of Salomon
- Azariah, son of Zadok, was the third High Priest after Zadok.
- Azariah was a priest that served at King Solomon's Temple.

### Ezra

- An expert biblical scholar and the Law given by God to Moses (Torah)
- Ezra was highly respected priest and writer of the book of Ezra.
- He led the first batch returning Jews from the exile and highly regarded by Persian King, Artaxerxes.