

Walk Through The Bible

*St. Barnabas Parish
Wulff and Baillou Hill Roads
Nassau, New Providence,
The Bahamas*

*24th April 2007
Ecclesiasticus*

1. Ecclesiasticus 44:1-23 Praising our Ancestors

- a. 1-15 The great men of piety or loyalty are praised. Their greatness is a gift from God. Some who were Kings, warriors, and counselors were honored in their generation, but only a few are still praised in later times and others completely forgotten. And why are they remembered??? The answer lies in the following verses.
- b. 16-23 Each of the great figures from the past provides a quality that caused them to be remembered.

2. Ecclesiasticus 45:1-26 Moses, Aaron and Phinehas

- a. 1-5 Moses possessed certain qualities that caused his name to be remembered.
- b. 6-22 Aaron is given an extraordinary attention by Ben Sirach. There are certain qualities that he possesses that causes his name to be remembered.
- c. 23-26 This section is based on Numbers 25:6-13. Again, all of the qualities are a gift from the Lord.

3. Ecclesiasticus 46:1-20 Joshua, Caleb and Samuel

- a. 1-10 After Moses' death, Joshua arose as leader. Joshua's name is "Yahweh is Salvation." Joshua lived up to his name. He and Caleb were the only ones who stood against the rebellious congregation. They were the only ones whose lives were spared to lead the people into the Promised Land. God blessed them for their faithfulness.
- b. 11-12 The judges who remained faithful to their causes, Sirach asked for their descendants to remember them for generation.

- c. 13-20 Samuel is remembered for being faithful and trustworthy. He helped to bring relative peace and he was the one responsible for introducing the monarchy to ancient Israel. So powerful in life and death he was able to speak even after he died and tell Saul of his own death.

4. Ecclesiasticus 47:1-25 Nathan, David, Solomon, Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

- a. 1-11 Nathan played an important role not only in the life of David but in the choice of his successor. He served a prophetic role between Samuel and Elijah. Just as certain portions were chosen for the peace offerings, so God set David aside for the kingship. David is remembered for his military victories. He is also remembered as the one who provided for the worship of Yahweh in the city of Jerusalem and he influences the daily and yearly Liturgies of the worship centre.
- b. 12-22 Solomon started out well. His wisdom served its purpose in the early years of his administration. But in his later years, he allowed his foreign wives to dominate his life, his beliefs and practices. It was this latter action that would cause the division of the one nation into two kingdoms.
- c. 23-25 Rehoboam showed a lack of wisdom on his part, refusing to follow the advice of the elders who counseled him about lightening the burdens that his father had imposed on the nation. Jeroboam just pushed things to a logical conclusion - but two wrongs do not make a right.

5. Ecclesiasticus 48:1-25 Elijah, Elisha and Hezekiah

- a. 1-11 Elijah is featured. He is responsible for the draught that shut up the heavens for three years. He calls down fire three times (I Kings 18:30-40; II Kings 1:9-12). He escaped death only to return one day to prepare God's people for His coming wrath.
- b. 12-14 Elisha becomes Elijah's successor. He received a spirit of boldness that enabled him to stand up against national and foreign kings.
- c. 15-16 Yet despite all the warnings, the northern kingdom refused to repent. Some obeyed while others continued to sin willfully against God.
- d. 17-22 Hezekiah is remembered for his fortifying of the city of Jerusalem and providing water through its tunnels. Despite the mockery of foreign agents, he remained faithful to God.
- e. 23-25 Isaiah is remembered for his vision. His miracles and vision provided the people with a great source of encouragement that God would indeed look after His people.