

## What are you willing to die for?

By Matthew Day

Below are stories of people who were willing to die for their commitment to Adonai. As you read them, ask yourself "What am I willing to die for?"

Eleazar died because he chose not to disobey God. Not only that, he chose not to do something to cause someone else to stumble.

18: Eleazar, one of the scribes in high position, a man now advanced in age and of noble presence, was being forced to open his mouth to eat swine's flesh.

19: But he, welcoming death with honor rather than life with pollution, went up to the rack of his own accord, spitting out the flesh,

20: as men ought to go who have the courage to refuse things that it is not right to taste, even for the natural love of life.

21: Those who were in charge of that unlawful sacrifice took the man aside, because of their long acquaintance with him, and privately urged him to bring meat of his own providing, proper for him to use, and pretend that he was eating the flesh of the sacrificial meal which had been commanded by the king,

22: so that by doing this he might be saved from death, and be treated kindly on account of his old friendship with them.

23: But making a high resolve, worthy of his years and the dignity of his old age and the gray hairs which he had reached with distinction and his excellent life even from childhood, and moreover according to the holy God-given law, he declared himself quickly, telling them to send him to Hades.

24: "Such pretense is not worthy of our time of life," he said, "lest many of the young should suppose that Eleazar in his ninetieth year has gone over to an alien religion,

25: and through my pretense, for the sake of living a brief moment longer, they should be led astray because of me, while I defile and disgrace my old age.

*2Maccabees 6:18-25*

Abraham was willing to give up his son for God.

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of

them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me.  
Genesis 22:1-12 KJV

Stephen died for proclaiming that Yeshua is the Messiah.

And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon *him*, and caught him, and brought *him* to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. . . . But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.  
Acts 6:12-15; 7:55-60 KJV

Daniel was sentenced to death because he refused to skip the appointed times of prayer.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask *a petition* of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing *is* true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which *is* of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day. Then the king, when he heard *these* words, was sore displeased with himself, and set *his* heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and

said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians *is*, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast *him* into the den of lions. *Now* the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.  
Daniel 6:7-22 KJV

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:25 KJV

## Preparing for the End Times

By Matthew Day

Every day the coming of Yeshua and the tribulation gets closer. How long we will have before then is impossible to tell. Therefore, we should be ready at all times.

Some believe that the rapture will happen before the tribulation, others after the tribulation, and still others in the middle of the tribulation. Regardless of when you believe the rapture will happen, we should be prepared for all three scenarios. In this section, I am going to focus on the possibility that we may have to go through the tribulation.

Why prepare? Some biblical examples of preparation are: when Noah built the ark to escape the flood, when Joseph stored grain for seven years of famine, and when the Israelites put the lamb's blood on their doorposts before the angel of death came.

I got the idea of tribulation preparation from my congregation. They are taking steps to make sure that everyone there is prepared for disaster.

I plan to add a section on this topic to each issue of the newsletter, so for now I will just go over some basics. I admit that I am not an expert on this topic, so any input you can give will be appreciated.

First, you should have what is called a "go bag." This is a bag that contains everything that you need in case you have to leave. Someone with a go bag could simply pick it up and leave. Someone without a go bag would either have to waste time gathering supplies or leave with nothing. A suggested list of supplies for a go bag can be found at:

[http://www.safety.caltech.edu/manuals/grabngo\\_emergency\\_kit.pdf](http://www.safety.caltech.edu/manuals/grabngo_emergency_kit.pdf)

My congregation has also set a place for everyone there to meet in case of a disaster. That way if we lose communication, we can still contact the rest of the congregation by going to the meeting place.

A program that I would recommend for disaster preparation is CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). They train people to provide support during a disaster. This includes: basic first aid, using a fire extinguisher, and safety. The training takes three full days, but it is free. Their website is: <https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>