



DO YOU HAVE FEET OF CLAY?

Which of the following people of God would you prefer to be like (you may choose two)?

- [] Job, [] Moses,
 [] Solomon, [] Hezekiah [] Paul,
 [] Demas

The correct choices are Job and Paul. What's wrong with the others? The others had "feet of clay," Paul could claim, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*"

II Timothy 4:7-8

Job, in spite of physical afflictions, a nagging wife, and three "friends," remained faithful to God. None of the others did.

And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying: "Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah.

Numbers 20:23-24

Both Moses and Aaron died in the wilderness because of their rebellion at Meribah. Solomon was one of the wisest men who ever lived but, of his later years we read, *For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.*

I Kings 11:4

Hezekiah was one of the few good kings of Judah. When Isaiah came to him and announced that Hezekiah was about to die, Hezekiah prayed: *Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.*

II Kings 20:2-3

God heard his prayers and gave him an additional 15 years. If you read verses 12 through 20 of this same

chapter, you will discover it would have been better if Hezekiah had died when he was supposed to!

Of Demas, Paul writes: *for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.*

II Timothy 4:10

So much for historical people. I could name some people today whom the Lord entrusted with very significant ministries but, because they "loved the present world" too much, lost these ministries and have now been relegated to much lesser ministries (I am not referring to certain TV evangelists).

They had "feet of clay." The expression comes from Daniel, Chapter 2, where Nebuchadnezzar's statue is described. As mighty as the statue was, its feet, made partially of clay, made it vulnerable to destruction. We, as Christians, still possessing our fleshly bodies, are not immune to failure.

Now, I am not writing this to be discouraging. This is meant to be an encouragement. Why? Even though you and I will, at times, slip and fail in what God has set before us to do, we still have the opportunity to get up and continue on. You do not have to remain on the sidelines for the rest of your earthly existence.

Moses did not enter the promised land. Yet, Moses is spoken of in the New Testament as a man of great faith. Solomon slipped in his later life - yet three of the books of our Bible were written by him. Hezekiah is still regarded as one of the good kings of Judah. I do not know about Demas - perhaps he, too, had a fruitful life.

We all make mistakes, we all have our failings. We all also have the ability to get up and to continue on after these short comings. Friend, if you are currently discouraged and feel that you have failed God - stop! Pray for the Lord's help and get up and continue on living for Him!

Wayne

C:\WPDOCS\bible\wwws\www4n06.wpd, ©October 1, 2005 by Wayne E. McMorran

