

“Zabud”

Short Talk #2

Zabud is mentioned only once in the Holy Scriptures - "And Zabud, the son of Nathan, as principal officers, and the King's friend".

Nathan the father of Zabud, was a prophet of God. He was ordered by the Lord to rebuke King David for causing the death of Uriah the Hittite, so David might marry Bath-Sheba, who was Uriah's wife.

And so it was, that the two boys, Solomon and Zabud, were about the same age, where educated by the same teachers, and doubtless became very close to each other. So close, in fact, that the sacred historians recorded the fact in the Scriptures that Zabud was "the King's friend" But Zabud was more than that, he was the principal officer of the army and navy.

Why Solomon maintained such a large army is not known. His kingdom was at peace

with all surrounding nations, and no other power in any way threatened Israel.

But notwithstanding, he maintained a vast standing army when it is considered that the population of the entire kingdom was only five million people.

Certainly, the chariots and horsemen which Solomon had in his army, and which were stationed not only in Jerusalem, but in various cities throughout the land, made up a formidable armed force.

Solomon, of course, knew of the military exploits of his father, and remembered that because he was a "man of blood", Jehovah refused to let David build the House of the Lord. God promised Solomon that there should be peace during all his reign, but notwithstanding that fact, he did maintain any army throughout his reign.

Part of these fighting men were stationed at various fortresses along the caravan routes leading to Jerusalem, to guard the merchants coming into the country from robbers which then -- and even now -- infest that part of the world. And in charge of this military and naval organization was Zabud, the King's friend.

Every candidate for the degree of Select Mater knows the history of Zabud, so far as Cryptic Masonry is concerned, and the bright example of true friendship exhibited therein.

Solomon, in his Proverbs, had many references to friendship, and these proverbs of Solomon may give us a suggestion of what is meant when it is said in the Bible that Zabud was the King's friend.

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity". "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly". "He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the King shall be his friend". "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful". "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart so doth the sweetness of a man's friend". "Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not".

So when we remember Zabud, let us remember that he was a "friend" as well as the highest military officer in the kingdom of Israel.