

3/5/95

The Journey From Sinai To Kedesh Barnea**Deut. 1:1-8**

The beauty of the Old Testament is that it is full of stories that we can all identify with for the people were as real as each of us and therefore they were prone to that very same weaknesses and failures.

For that reason we are told in the New Testament that whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Rom. 15:4

We are also told that all these things happened to them as examples, and they are written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 1Cor. 10:11

If this is true than we should be able to learn some important lessons for our lives as we study Israel's journey form Mount Sinai to Kadah Barnea.

The prophet Moses reminds the second generation who are ready to go in and inherit the promise land, about the journey from Sinai to Kadesh Barnea and the reason why they failed to enter in the first time.

1. Sinai represents the place where each of us have met God face to face knowing that He delivered us from the world.
2. Kadesh Barnea represents the place of faith, a place of decision to trust God despite of what I see, feel or don't understand.

* The key note through the book of Deutreronomy is "remember" and "obey"!

Moses points out to the second generation that the journey from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea was accompanied by three things. Deut. 1:1-8

- I. God's promises regarding the journey. vs. 7-8
- II. God's preparation for the journey. 1:6
- III. God's timing of the journey. 1:1-5

* I want to take the reverse order of our text for it seems to serve our purpose better.

I. God's promises regarding the journey. 1:7-8

- A. The journey was to go to a specific area. vs. 7
 1. The mountains of the Amorites to the south to the Red sea.
 - * The abomination of the Amorites was fully come, their judgment by God. Gen. 15:16
 2. The land to the Mediterranean Sea to the west.
 3. The Northern boundary to Lebanon and the Euphrates River. Ex. 23:31
- B. The journey was in order to possess the land. vs. 8
 1. God said He had set the land before them.
 - a. The land was chosen by God for them.
 - b. The land was given to them by God.
 2. God told them to go in and possess the land.
 - a. The obstacles had already been considered by God.
 - 1) The walled cities would not present a problem to them even as Jericho's walls fell down. Deut. 1:28
 - 2) The giants in the land would not be a threat to them for even God allowed Esau to dispossess them. 2:11-12
 - b. The help of God was a given.
 - 1) He would put fear in the heart of he inhabiance of the land. Ex. 23:27, Deut. 2:25

- 2) He would send hornets before them to drive out the Hivite, Canaanites and Hittites. Ex. 23:28
 - 3) He would fight for them. Deut. 1:30
- C. The journey was in fulfillment of the oath to the Patriarchs. vs. 8c-g
- 1. The Lord swore to Abraham. Gen. 12:1-3, 15:18
 - 2. The Lord swore to Isaac. Gen. 26:24
 - 3. The Lord swore to Jacob. Gen. 28:13
 - 4. The Lord had sworn to their descendants. Gen. 28:14
- * God is not a man that He should lie nor the son of man that He should repent, whatever He says He will perform. Num. 23:19

Illustration-Spergeon regarding the promises of God.

If all my senses were to contradict God, I would deny every one of them and sooner believe myself to be out of my right mind than believe that God could lie. And I desire to feel that in every emotion of my spirit, every throb of my heart, every thought of my brain, and every thing that is contrary to the plainly revealed truth of God, I will count myself a fool and a madman, and I will reckon God to be wise and true. (faith #464 Spergeon's notes)

Application

- 1. God has promised to the believer in his journey through life that there is protection within the boundaries that God defined.
 - a. The love of God verses the lust of the flesh. 1Jn. 2:16
 - b. The pleasure of God verses the lust of the eyes. 1Jn. 2:16
 - c. The will of God verses the pride of life. 1Jn. 2:16

- 2. God has promised to the believer that in his journey through life he has the ability to overcome the flesh, Satan and the world.
 - a. God has given to us all things pertaining to life and godliness through a divine nature to escape the corruption of this world. 2Pet. 1:2-4
 - b. God has promised that He will never allow us to be tempted more than we are able to bear. 1Cor. 10:13
 - c. God has promised that His grace is sufficient and that His strength is made perfect in our weaknesses. 2Cor. 12:9a-c
 - d. God has promised that our faith is what makes us overcomers. 1Jn. 5:4-5
- 3. God has promised to believers in their journey through life that they can have spiritual victory over the strongholds of the flesh and Satan which are many.
 - a. They are called unrighteousness. Rom. 1:29-31
 - b. They are called works of the flesh. Gal. 5:19-21

God's promises regarding our journey through life are very clear!

II. God's preparation for the journey. 1:6

- A. The journey was preceded by a great deliverance.
 - 1. God had judged the gods of the Egyptians for all the plagues were indicative of their various gods. Ex. 12:12
 - 2. God made a difference between the Egyptians and the Hebrews in the latter plagues. Ex. 8:22-23
 - 3. God smote the first born of every Egyptian home including Pharaohs. Ex. 12:29

4. God delivered them from Egypt with a mighty hand the night of the Passover with great reward. Ex. 12:36-37
 5. God destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red Sea after they had crossed on dry land. Ex. 14:27-28
- B.** The journey was preceded by one year at Sinai.
1. They came to Mount Sinai which is Horeb. Ex. 3:1
 2. They heard the voice of God and saw the mountain completely in smoke and the whole mountain quaked greatly. Ex. 19:18
 3. They experienced the judgment of God as they broke the ten commandments before they even received them and three-thousand died. Ex. 32:26-28
 4. They were given the pattern of the tabernacle with it's court as a pattern of heaven in which God would dwell with them through the journey. Ex. 25-31
 5. They were given civil, religious and ceremonial laws to insure a holy society in contrast to the other nations. Ex. 20-24, Lev. & Num.
- C.** The journey was preceded by complete guidance.
1. God led them with a cloud by the day. Ex. 40:38a
 2. God led them with a pillar of fire by night. Ex. 40:38b
 3. God carried them through the wilderness and went ahead of them to provide the best place for them to camp. Deut. 1:31-32

Once there was a King who insured himself against the loss of his throne, his name was Prajadhipok, King of Siam who reigned from 1925 until he was forced to abdicate in 1935. But having taken out unemployment insurance policies with French and British underwriters early in his reign, he was able to live comfortably on the income from them until his death in 1941. #4755

Application

1. God has prepared each of us equally for our journey as believer's through a great deliverance from the gods we were living for.
 - a. Some of us were lost in the intellectual pursuits of the mind, believing only what we understood or saw.
 - b. Others of us were delivered from the deceptiveness of self righteousness due to our good moral life-style, thinking we were better than others and that God certainly would not send us to hell.
 - c. Yet others of us were delivered from a life of bondage to sexual promiscuity, drugs, alcohol, perpetual anger, bitterness and a heart of stone that was unwilling and unable to forgive.
2. God has prepared each of us for our journey since our deliverance.
 - a. We have heard the voice of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - b. We experience God's grace and mercy daily.
 - c. We experience the judgment of God over people's lives and chastening as we walk, even our own.
 - d. We have been given His word as a standard for our lives.
3. God has prepared each of us for our journey by providing complete guidance.

Illustration

- a . God has given to us His word which He honors above His name. Ps. 138:2e
 - 1) To transform our minds.
 - 2) To reprove us.
 - 3) To rebuke us.
 - 4) To exhort us.
 - 5) To obey by us.
- b. God has given to each of us His Holy Spirit.
 - 1) To Illuminate our minds.
 - 2) To convict us of sin.
 - 3) To Empower us for service.
 - 4) To mold and shape us into His image.
- c. God has given to us the privilege of prayer.
 - 1) To alien ourselves with His will.
 - 2) To tap into the things of God not simply get things from God.
 - 3) To intercede for others.
 - 4) To get direction and guidance.
 - 5) To praise Him and thank Him.

* These three were the weapons that Jesus used against Satan in the wilderness. Lk. 4

God's preparation for the journey through life are sufficient!

III. God's timing of the journey. 1:1-5

- A. The journey had brought them to the land of Moab. vs. 1
 - 1. This side of Jordan means the east side on the Jordan wilderness.
 - 2. The plains refers to the great Jordan rift north and south of the Dead Sea.
 - 3. The other geographical marking is believed to be opposite the Red Sea "Suph".
- B. The journey was an eleven day journey. vs. 2

- 1. The journey was necessary to arrive at their destination.
 - 2. The journey was not a hardship on them.
 - 3. The journey was only about 165 miles.
 - 4. the journey would require them to travel some 15 miles a day.
- C. The journey took forty years. vs. 3-4
- 1. The time was drawn out to 1327 times longer than the necessary time.
 - 2. The time was lost time.
 - 3. The time was spent going nowhere.
 - 4. The time kept them from enjoying their inheritance.
 - 5. The time only reminded them of their failure living in regret.
- D. The journey was postponed due to unbelief.
- 1. They failed to believe God for His word to go in and possess the land so they sent spies into the land. Deut. 1:20-22, Heb. 4:1-3
 - 2. They failed to believe the good report of Joshua and Caleb but rather the evil report of the other ten. Deut. 1:25-26a
 - 3. They failed to honor God. Deut. 1:26b-28
 - a. They rebelled against the command of the Lord. vs. 26b
 - b. They murmured in their tents that the Lord hated them and therefore He brought them out of the land of Egypt to deliver them into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy them. vs. 27
 - c. They used the excuse that their brethren had discouraged their hearts when they heard of the fortified cities and the giants in the land. vs. 28

- E. The journey's time claimed many lives.
1. The Lord heard the sound of their words and was angry. Deut. 1:34a
 2. The Lord swore by an oath that not one on them would enter the land except for Joshua and Caleb. Deut. 1:34b-38
 3. The Lord declared that the children for whom they were concerned about would be the ones to inherit the land instead of them. Deut. 1:39
 4. The Lord condemned them to death in the wilderness. Deut. 1:40
 5. The Lord warned them of their insincere repentance and not to presume upon the land for He was not with them. Deut. 1:41-44
 6. The Lord would not listen to them, so they returned and remained in Kadesh many days. Deut. 1:45-46
 7. The Lord kept His word and not one survived the wilderness except the two he named. Deut. 2:14

Illustration

He does not lead me year by year
 Nor even day by day,
 But step by step my path unfolds;
 My Lord directs my way.
 Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
 I only know this minute;
 But He will say, "This is the way,
 By faith now walk in it."
 And I am glad that it is so,
 Today's enough to bear.
 And when tomorrow comes, His grace
 Shall far exceed its care.
 What need to worry then, or fret?

The God who gave His Son
 Holds all my monment in His hand
 And gives them, one by one.
 --Barbara C. Ryberg #6729

Application

1. God's timing for each of our journey is to bring us to certain situations of life within a certain time.
 - a. The amount of time is right.
 - b. The measure of maturity is sufficient.
 - c. The willingness to believe God is denied.
 - d. The failure to trust God results in lost opportunities that will never come again.
2. God's timing of the testing that should be over in one week or month of our journey is turned into years and a life time due to unbelief, rebelling against the Lord, by not walking in the Spirit by faith.
 - a. The refusal to forgive by opening myself up to the love of God robs us of joy, peace and fellowship with God and people.
 - b. The refusal to reckon the old man to be dead daily results in a life of carnality that grieves the Lord and hurts people.
 - c. The refusal to deal and resolve the disappointments of life in our mates, children, family and friends by appropriating the promises of God in a loving and Scriptural way causes us to go around in circles in our minds, living in anger and bitterness.
3. God's perfect timing will result in giving us life but our refusal to except God's time and preparation will result in destruction and loss of life, at times literally.
 - a. The time of warning to stop and turn from a sinful practice can be ignored too long and the

consequences will not be removed but must be lived with.

- b. The perfect time to reconcile a marriage can be lost by vengeance or bitterness.
- c. The opportune times of life can be missed and once they are gone they never come again.

God's timing of the journey through life is perfect!

Conclusion

Moses pointed out that the journey from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea was accompanied by three things._

- I. God's promises regarding the journey, they are very clear!
- II. God's preparation for the journey, they are sufficient!
- III. God's timing of the journey, is perfect!.