



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24

AUGUST 5, 2007

"Bound For The Promised Land"

"And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Rael the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel" (Numbers 10:29). The setting for this verse is early in the journey of Israel to the promised land. Moses was speaking to a relative of his wife, a Midianite. We would like to make an analogy of this touching scene to Christians today.

We Are Journeying

Moses said: "We are journeying." Notice who the "we" were. This referred to Moses and the

Israelites. His wife's relatives were Midianites, and were not part of the provisions God had made. But, still, Moses invited the relatives to accompany them. He said: "We will do thee good." It will be good for you to do so is the idea.

"We" are making a journey, too. By the term "we" I am referring to those of us who are truly Christians—the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16). Peter referred to us in this manner: "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." We are journeying!

Moses did not mention the hardships which they had already faced toward having this which was good. Perhaps he did not know the hardships which were yet to be faced by Israel. Still, he wanted to go on. Christians have faced hardships along the way some more than others. We are told that persecutions will come (2 Tim. 3:12). But we must view this journey as Moses viewed it. "The Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel."

To The Place

Israel was not just journeying. They were journeying to the *place* which the Lord had promised to give them. This was a place of wonder and of glowing report. They had been told this: "For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil, and honey. A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack of any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest

dig brass" (Deut. 8:7-9). Oh, how much that promise should have inspired Israel!

Spiritual Israel is also journeying unto a place which the Lord has promised. It is also a place of wonder and of glowing report. Heaven is called a *place*. Recall John 14:2: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Like Israel, we do not now know all about this place, but we are told some things about it. It will be a place of happiness. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4). It will be the place for the victor. The apostle said: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:7,8).

*"To Canaan's land I'm on my way,
Where the soul of man never dies;
My darkest night will turn to day,
Where the soul of man never dies."*

*"I am going to a city where the street
with gold is laid,
Where the tree of life is blooming,
and the roses never fade."*

"Come Thou With Us"

Moses then said: "Come thou with us, and we will do thee good." We don't

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Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehnt
Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

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know much about Zipporah, the wife of Moses, or about her relatives. We are told in Exodus 18 of some good advice her father gave to Moses. But let us notice that Moses thought enough of her people to invite them to go along and enjoy the good thing which the Lord had promised. Moses was persuaded that it would be good, as the Lord had spoken.

Christians have relatives and in-laws who ought to be invited to go along with them. Jesus meant for everyone to go along who wants to go. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16). It will be good to make this journey now and forever. "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother or wife, or children or lands, for my sake, and the gospels, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:28-30). We need to rekindle fires which burned brightly in the past in this regard (Acts 8:4). Oh, that we could sing with real meaning the song drawn from this verse:

*"I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land.
O who will come and go with me:
I am bound for the promised land."*

By Curtis Flatt (via *Gospel Guide*, 11/92)

Blessed Are The Families

By David Hurst

Blessed are the families who follow God's pattern for the home, for they shall secure the future for their lineage (Gen. 2; Matt. 19; Eph 5; 1 Pet. 3).

Blessed are the families who communicate through the fruits of the Spirit, for their lives speak volumes of truth (Gal. 5:22-23).

Blessed are the families who understand and follow the precepts of *agape* love, for they shall be the light and envy of a lost world (1 Cor. 13:4-9).

Blessed are the families whose standards in ethics and morals are in accordance to the teaching of God, for their examples, though abhorred by the world, will be loved by God (Tit. 2:1-8; 2 Tim. 1:5; Eph. 6:1-4; Book Of Proverbs).

Blessed are the families who understand the nature, importance and worth of the Kingdom so as to be totally devoted to it in time, resources and energy; for their labors will be abundantly fruitful (Matt. 6:33; Matt. 12:29-30; Gal. 6:6-9).

Blessed are the families who prepare their young to put God first, for they shall continue the cycle of godly homes (Isa. 28:9-10; Prov. 22:6; 2 Tim. 3:15).

Blessed are the families that find their solace in a godly home and not in the arms of an idolatrous and lost world, for they shall have a greater place of refuge and peace (Luke 15:11-24).

Blessed are the families who worship, study, labor, pray and praise God together daily, for they do continually manifest their great love of the Lord (Deut. 6:4-9).

The Bible Lives

Author Unknown

Generation follows generation—yet it lives.
Nations rise and fall—yet it lives.
Kings, dictators, presidents come and go—yet it lives.
Hated, despised, cursed—yet it lives.
Condemned by atheists—yet it lives.
Doubted, suspected, criticized—yet it lives.
Scoffed by scorners—yet it lives.
Exaggerated by fanatics—yet it lives.
Misconstrued and misstated—yet it lives.
Its inspiration denied—yet it lives.
Yet it lives—as a lamp to our feet.
Yet it lives—as a light to our path.
Yet it lives—as the gateway to heaven.
Yet it lives—as a standard for childhood.
Yet it lives—as a guide for youth.
Yet it lives—as an inspiration for the matured.
Yet it lives—as a comfort for the aged.
Yet it lives—as water for the thirsty.
Yet it lives—as food for the hungry.
Yet it lives—as rest for the weary.
Yet it lives—as light for the heathen.
Yet it lives—as salvation for the sinner.
Yet it lives—as grace for the Christian.

**To know it is to love it.
To love it is to accept it.
To accept it means life eternal.**

*1 Peter 1:23-25 having been born again,
not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,
through the word of God which lives and
abides forever, 24 because "All flesh is as
grass, And all the glory of man as the
flower of the grass. The grass withers,
And its flower falls away, 25 But the word
of the LORD endures forever." Now this is
the word which by the gospel was
preached to you.*

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Bruce Dehut**

Song Leader: **Greg Walker**

Opening Prayer: **Jim Phelps**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner
Jr. Stout
Andy Milliner
Chris Runner**

Scripture Reading: **Randall Hood**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Mark Smith**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Bruce Dehut**

Song Leader: **Greg Walker**

Opening Prayer: **Brian Shepherd**

Song Service

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner**

Closing Prayer: **Arvil Young**