

GOD IS ON THE MOVE

PREAMBLE

"God is on the Move" will be the theme of our series of studies in the first quarter of 2016. They will be largely based on the book of Joshua. The book finds the Israeli wandering nation at Shittim. Though the Israelites still faced daunting odds as they gathered beside the Jordan River, there is a sense of a new beginning after the death of Moses and the ascent of Joshua to leadership. The older Israelites, except for Caleb and Joshua had been judged and had perished in the desert. The long-awaited marching orders from the LORD are at hand. God is on the move to lead His people to the land He had promised their forefathers. Will they move with Him?

STUDY ONE

WEEK OF 27TH DEC

GOD IS ON THE MOVE

Introduction:

When God starts moving, we had better be moving too because otherwise we are on our own. We expect great things when God is on the move.

Read: Joshua 3:1-17

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What preparations were made before crossing over the Jordan?
2. What kinds of people were involved in the preparations?
3. What instructions did Joshua give to the people regarding the ark of the covenant of the Lord?
4. What instructions did he give to the Levites regarding the same?
5. What did the LORD promise Joshua?
6. What message did the LORD send to the priests?

7. How were the Israelites to know that God was among them?

8. How did the Israelites cross the Jordan?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

9. Why did the Israelites depart from Shittim?

10. What do you know about the ark of the covenant?

11. What was the significance of each of the instructions that were given regarding the ark of the covenant of the LORD?

12. How does the crossing of the Jordan compare with the crossing of the Red Sea?

13. What is the significance of referring to the LORD as "the Lord of all the earth" in this passage?

Application:

14. How do you personally ensure that you are moving with God?

Memory Verse:

Joshua 3:3b

"When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it."

(NIV)

Joshua 3:3b

WHAT DO THESE STONES MEAN?

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Joshua 3:3b]

Introduction:

Each of us should have a history of the acts of God in our lives. Those incidences form part of our testimony on the faithfulness of God. What testimony do the Israelites carve into history as they come face to face with the swollen Jordan?

Read: Joshua 4:1-24

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What did the LORD say to Joshua when the whole nation of Israel had finished crossing the Jordan?
2. What were twelve men selected to do?
3. Why were they to do that?
4. Was there more than one set of twelve stones? Explain.
5. What happened to Joshua after the Israelites crossed the Jordan?
6. When were the waters of the river returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before?
7. Why did God part the waters of the river?
8. Where did the Israelites camp after crossing the river?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

9. What do the stones mean?
10. What are the twelve tribes of Israel?
11. Why did God exalt Joshua in the sight of all Israel?
12. Why were the Israelites armed for battle as they crossed the Jordan?

Application:

13. Using examples from your life or church illustrate experiences which resemble the crossing of the Jordan?

Memory Verse:

Joshua 4:7

"Tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

(NIV)

Joshua 4:7

COURAGE TO LEAD, COURAGE TO FOLLOW

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Joshua 4:7]

Introduction:

When God says, "Fear not, you better be afraid", someone has said. Yet God calls us to courageous leadership based on the promise of His Word. If we obey and follow His move we will succeed.

Read: Joshua 1:1-18

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What did the LORD instruct Joshua to do after the death of Moses?
2. Why were the Israelites to cross the Jordan River?
3. What promise did the LORD make to Joshua?
4. What territory did the LORD promise to give to the Israelites?
5. How many times did Joshua hear the call to "be strong and courageous" in this passage?
6. Why did the LORD command Joshua to be strong and courageous?
7. What did the LORD command Joshua regarding the law?
8. What did Joshua order the officers of the people to do?
9. What command did Moses give to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

10. What would the command to "be strong and courageous" entail for a leader like Joshua?
11. Does one need to be strong and courageous to be a follower? Explain.
12. Why were the two and half tribes of Israel ordered to send their fighting men across the Jordan?
13. How did the Israelites respond to the leadership of Joshua?

Application:

14. Have you ever needed to be strong and courageous in your Christian walk?

Memory Verse:

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

(NIV)

Joshua 1:9

THE SCARLET CORD

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Revelation John 1:9]

Introduction:

In spite of being a Canaanite woman, the fame and the move of God in the experience of Israel had made Rahab put her faith in God. Her faith not only saved her and her family but also made her an ancestor in the genealogy of Jesus.

Read: Joshua 2:1-24

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. Why did Joshua send out spies from Shittim?
2. Where did the spies end up hiding?
3. How did the king of Jericho get to know about the spies?
4. What had his people heard about the Israelites and the LORD?
5. What did the king do about it?
6. What oath did the spies swear with Rahab?
7. What potentially useful information did Rahab give to the spies?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

8. Why was it necessary to spy the land, especially Jericho?
9. What is the significance of the scarlet cord?
10. How much did the spy mission success depend on Rahab?

Application:

11. What opportunities have you had to protect people of God?

Memory Verse:

Joshua 2:17-18

"The men said to her, 'This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you have let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.'"

(NIV)

Joshua 2:17-18

RENEWED COMMISSION: "ARE YOU FOR US?"

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Joshua 2:17-18]

Introduction:

In moments when a major battle awaits us, we often desire an encounter with God to reassure us of His presence. The visible appearance of God (theophany) here is reminiscent of the burning bush and commissioning of Moses. It is a fresh commissioning of Joshua.

Read: Joshua 5:1-15

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. How did all the Amorite and Canaanite kings lose the courage to face the Israelites?
2. What instruction did the LORD give to Joshua?
3. Why was such instruction given?
4. Why was the place named Gilgal?
5. What else did the Israelites celebrate at Gilgal?
6. What happened the day after the celebration?
7. What did Joshua experience near Jericho?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

8. What is the significance of circumcision and celebration of the Passover at this time?
9. What do you understand by the Lord's statement in verse 9 that, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you"?
10. What does Joshua's encounter with the commander of the army of the LORD mean to you?

Application:

11. What has God commissioned you to do this year?

Memory Verse:**Joshua 5:9a**

"Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.'"

(NIV)

Joshua 5:9a