

Eleven Days

Deuteronomy 1:2, 6

FOCAL Read Responsively Deuteronomy 1:2, 6
(There are eleven days journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.) ... {6} **The LORD our God spoke unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:**

God's people are people of purpose. God never saves a person then ignores that person, or allows that person to ignore Him. God not only saves His people *from* – but He saves them *to*. God saves His people *from* condemnation, *from* death, *from* slavery, *from* Satan, *from* defeat and despair, and *from* hellfire. God also saves His people *to* glorify Him, *to* tell others about Him, *to* win the land for Him, and most importantly *to* be like Him. You see this pattern repeated over and over again in the Scripture.

Look at **Abraham**. The son of unbelieving parents, God called Abraham out of ancient Babylon. God told Abraham “If you follow Me I will use you to bless this entire world”. The Lord was true to His Word, for Abraham is revered as the Father of Faith, and the Father of many nations. Look at **Jacob**. Here was a man who was born grasping and greedy, but who met the Lord one day and gave his life to Jesus. Saved from his own greediness Jacob was transformed into Israel, the man who would be the founder of God's Chosen nation. Look at **Moses**. He was born the son of Jewish parents at a time when Israel was in bondage to Egypt. His mother was commanded to kill him, to toss him into the river to drown. God saved Moses from drowning so that He could use him to lead Israel out of Egypt. Look at **David**. This man was of such little consideration in his own



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

family that his parents gave him the worst job. David was a shepherd. God saved David and trained David to be the greatest mortal king Israel would ever know.

God's people are always people of purpose. The unbeliever – like the firefly – dances from leaf to flower, bobbing in the breeze of whim and fancy. God has a greater purpose for His people than to be will 'o wisps. We were not saved to be carried about by **every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, by the cunning craftiness of those who lie in wait to deceive (Ephesians 4:14)**. We see these deceivers dressed often in expensive suits or clerics robes, speaking swelling words to justify sinful and evil practices. Beloved, God never saves people *in* their sin. Jesus said **“Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worst thing come unto thee” (John 5:14)**. God saves men and women *from* sin to serve Him. The wind that guides us is the Mighty Rushing Wind of God's Holy Spirit, driving us onward and purposefully upward. At Christ's Word we wait for direction, at Christ's Scripture we move into the land. We have been given a tongue to speak to every heart, telling them that **“God so loved this world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)**.

Yet we also warn – along with our Master – that you should **“count the cost”** of coming to God through Jesus **(Luke 14:33)**. Coming to Jesus means a **forsaking of all that you have**. The first thing that must go is *pride*. You belong to God once God saves you. The Bible says that you **“are redeemed” - a purchased possession**

(Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18). You belong to God, dear Christian, and the Potter has power over the clay. The Redeemed are bound to God and His will for our lives. Surrender to His will, and do as He says. That's not a bad thing, though. Bound to God, you are also protected by God in all that you do for Him. Pray, seek His direction in the worship services of your local Church. Heed the preaching of the Word, and study the Scriptures yourselves. It is God's Will that we win this land for Christ. Revive – awake from sleep, dear Church, and carry the message of salvation beyond the four walls of your sanctuary and into this world. Advance, dear believer, advance! Jesus came to do God's Will – can we who are His do any less?

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

1. God's People Are Purposefully Saved By God

FOCAL Deuteronomy 1:6 The LORD our God spoke unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:

Beloved, this world is lost. But Jesus Christ said:

Luke 19:10 {I am} come to seek and to save that which was lost.

This world is sick. But Jesus Christ said:

Mark 2:17 ... They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Israel was given a command by God: “Go into Canaan, and take the land for Me. Do as I say! You are My People. **“The Lord our God spoke unto us in Horeb”**”.

God did not speak to Canaan. In fact, God did not speak to *Israel* until after Israel was saved from Egypt. What principle does this show us from Scripture?

God did not speak to Canaan. In fact, God did not speak to *Israel* until after Israel was saved from Egypt. There is a principle at work here: God does not speak to the unbelieving and the defiled. God does not speak to those who are not His by faith. **God spoke to US at Horeb – to US at the Mountain of God.** Horeb is the same as Mount Sinai, the place where God gave the Law to Israel.

God never speaks to the unbelieving. He speaks to the saved, to those who dwell in the shadow of His Presence.

Who are those who will one day be cast into Eternal Damnation? The Bible says:

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The short hairs on the back of my neck rise up every time I hear someone who is supposed to be God's Preacher preaching wickedness and sinfulness as an acceptable way of life. They **cast God's Word behind their backs, and with lying tongues deceive others into the very hell they claim to have escaped.** God despises sin. God cannot look on sin. What does God say?

Psalms 50:16-21 But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? {17} Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. {18} When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. {19} Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. {20} Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son. {21} These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself: but **I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.**

And again,

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

God wants His people – people who are saved by faith in Christ – to go forward into the land and tell others of Jesus.

Tell them that Jesus Christ loved us before we ever loved Him. Tell them that **God sent His Son to be the payment – the atonement – for our sins (1 John 4:10)**. Tell them that **Jesus Christ was manifested – brought to this earth – to take away our sins (1 John 3:5)**. Tell them that God will forgive no man's sin unless they call upon the Name of Jesus. **Our sins are forgiven for Christ's sake (1 John 2:12)** – not because we have worked our way into God's good graces. **Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God (John 1:29) Who takes away the sin of the world**. The sin of failing to believe in Jesus, of failing to surrender the life to God in Christ, is the chief sin that will send every soul unto eternal damnation. What is Christ's promise to all who believe?

John 6:35-40 And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. {36} But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. {37} All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. {38} For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. {39} And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. {40} And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

Here is the entirety of what we believe. **Jesus alone is the Source of Life. To believe in Him is to cease to**

hunger and thirst for righteousness. To believe in Him is to have assurance of salvation. You say, “But I am too big a sinner to be saved”. Is Jesus a liar? Has He not said “**him that cometh to Me I shall in no wise cast out**”? You say, “How do I know that my salvation is secure?” Hasn't Jesus said “**every one that seeth the Son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day**”? What is convoluted in this statement? Where is the confusion?

Jesus was quite plain – He calls all into the shadow of the Mountain of God. He wants whosoever will to be saved by faith in Him. God's people are purposefully saved by God.

But here is the second part of this text:

2. God's People Are Purposefully Set Apart By God

FOCAL Deuteronomy 1:6 **The LORD our God spoke unto us in Horeb**, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:

God did not *immediately* send His people into Canaan. After He saved them from Egypt the Lord led them to **Mount Horeb – also called Mount Sinai** – where the Lord instructed them. Israel was supposed to cease being a ragged group of slaves – each doing his or her own thing – and were called to bond with one another and with God.

The Lord gives you and I times of peace and prosperity so that we can grow in our faith. We abide in the shadow of the Mount of God to grow – then we move outward to do as our Lord has commanded.

Everything that God has given you is a tool that you should use to serve Him. Your prosperity – if you are a Christian – has been given so that you can use it to serve the Lord. God has *set you apart* to be more like Him. Israel, going into Canaan, dwelt in the shadow of the Mount to be more like God, to learn more of His Word. God tells His believers:

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

The world cannot understand the things of God – but they can see your life, and what God has done in it. You are to **grow in grace, to grow in faith while you dwell in the relative peace of God's Mountain.**

God has a goal for each and every Christian's life. His goal is *not* that we wander in the wilderness of this sinful land, nor is His goal that we live *defeated lives*. The Bible tells us that each Christian is:

Romans 8:29 ... predestined¹ to be conformed to the

1 G4309, προοριζω, proorizō, *pro-or-id'-zo*, From G4253 and G3724; to *limit in advance*, that is, (figuratively) *predetermine*: - determine before, ordain, predestinate

image of God's Son, that Jesus might be the firstborn among many brethren.²

On the day that God saved you He *predetermined* that He wanted each and every one of you to be **conformed to the image of Jesus.**

God wants us to be like Jesus! He wants us to be like Jesus in the way we love others.

God wants us to be kind like Jesus, to be giving like Jesus, to be worshipful like Jesus. He wants others to see Jesus in us – and He prepares every believer – not to sit in the shadow of the mountain – but to go out and *be like Jesus in a non-Jesuslike world.*

You come together and assemble together because Jesus commanded it. You worship together because – like Jesus – we who are saved by His shed Blood are **kings and priests unto God (Revelation 1:6)**. We are kings and priests because **God made us so (Revelation 5:10)** – not because we made ourselves. You who are saved by faith in Him:

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Were saved to be greater than you naturally are. You are **predestined by God** to be like Jesus just like Israel was **predestined to enter the Promised Land.** The

2 Author's paraphrase

Almighty God Who

Philippians 1:6 ... hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Israel chose to refuse to enter the land of Canaan as God commanded. What happened to them? Did they eventually enter?

Do you have a choice? Absolutely! You can choose to heed Jesus and continue to **grow in Grace**, to be more like Jesus every day *in this life* – or you can choose to rebel against God. I recommend the former way, for that is the way of greater happiness.

If you choose to refuse the Lord Who saved you, I am certain that God will not mind taking you to glory where there you can meet your destiny!

God's people, changed by faith in Christ, should be world changers. We should expect change. We should not expect to stay in the same place at all times. **You have dwelt in this mountain long enough.** There is no water more bitter than stagnant water. The Christian way of life is about change. Jesus told His disciples:

Matthew 4:19-20 ... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. {20} And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Immediately they left their nets and followed Jesus.

Those who stayed behind missed the greatest blessing a person can have. The disciples followed Jesus as He preached. They followed Jesus as He healed the cripple, as He gave sight to the blind, as He raised the dead. They were there when Lazarus jumped out of the tomb. They looked for Him with tears in their eyes as they went to the empty Tomb, and were blessed beyond measure when they knelt in His presence and kissed His nail scarred hands.

God's people are not rooted to this earth, but our ultimate inheritance is in Heaven.

If you're going to be like Jesus, then like Jesus you must *leave the Mountain of God* and go about your Father's business. There's an old song that truly says:

**“This world is not my home,
I'm just a passing through.
My treasures are laid up,
Somewhere beyond the blue.
The angels beckon me,
From Heaven's open door.
And I can't feel at home,
In this world anymore.**

Jesus said the same thing in the prayer He said for His Church before He was crucified. He said:

John 17:15-18 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil {one}. {16} They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. {17} Sanctify

them through thy truth: thy word is truth. {18} As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Those who belong to Jesus by faith are **no longer of this world**. We are here – but we are changed creatures. We are no longer of the sons of Adam, but **we are sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus (John 1:12)**. We are agents of change. God changed us, and embraces us daily. He equips us – through prayer and the study of His Word – to **go into all the world**. Israel complacent would not enter the Promised Land, but the Church complacent allows the land to fall to Satan. Israel had to move from Horeb to Canaan if they were going to do what God commanded. The plant must be moved to another pot lest it become root-bound. The root-bound plant dies, but the comfort-bound Christian lets others fall to spiritual death. Grow in Him. Pursue your faith, because ...

3. God's People Are Purposefully Sent By God

FOCAL Deuteronomy 1:2, 6 **(There are eleven days journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.) ... {6} The LORD our God spoke unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:**

If you are saved, you are saved for a greater purpose. Israel was not saved from Egypt so that she could bivouac or mark time in the shadow of God. God does not save His people just so they can huddle together in the meetings of their local Church, safe and content,

protected by four walls. His people are saved so that they can go out and win others to Christ. We are, like the early Church, to **“give testimony unto the Word of His Grace” (Acts 14:3)** – to tell others what Jesus did for us in our lives.

What is the significance of the statement: **“there are eleven days journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir unto Kadesh-Barnea”**?

The most profound statements in God's Holy Word are often ignored or overlooked because we don't carefully examine them. For instance, in this text we read **“There are eleven days journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir unto Kadesh-Barnea”**. You might read this and say “So what – who cares how far it is between those two areas?” Yet **that eleven days journey is very important**. You see, God's Israel came to the Mountain of God – a place where they were to grow in their relationship to the Almighty – in the third month following their amazing departure from Egypt. Israel dwelt in the shadow of God's Mountain for nearly a year – eleven *months* - as God lovingly trained them in what He wanted them to do. God fed them bread from Heaven. The Lord prospered them. **He gave them their meat in due season (Psalm 145:15), quail for meat and water to drink. Israel grew fat in the shadow of God's Mountain.** Then one day

God told His people **“It's time to move. Go and take the Promised Land. Leave this Mountain and do**

what I trained you to do. Trust Me. Have faith in Me. Though the mountain will be left behind you, I'll be with you every step of the way”.

Israel spent eleven months training – and lost it all in eleven days. Israel sent spies into the Promised Land to see what was there. Those spies brought back huge clusters of grapes and other bounty. These men said “It's exactly as God said. The land literally flows with milk and honey. It is a great land.” But then ten of the men said **“we can't go into this land. We feel that we just won't be able to go, regardless as to what God has said (Numbers 13:27ff).”** These men, because of their negative feelings, led the rest of Israel to rebel against God. God's Israel – eleven days from promise, eleven days from God's blessing – ended up spending forty years dying in the wilderness. The entire first generation died off because they allowed feeling and not faith in God to dictate their way of life. They never learned what I pray each of you learn.

The Mountain of God is not the goal of the Christian way of life, no more than it was the goal of Israel. Our goal is to **“go ye into all the world preaching the Gospel, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)”**.

You who have drank of the love of God in Christ should be willing to share this with others. The Church must *never* justify sin – homosexuality, abortion, murder,

hatred, racism, drug abuse, along with other works of evil. The **Episcopal Church** is dying because it would not go into Canaan and speak the Word of Truth. The **Methodist Church** is mortally wounded because it will not remember that

The Church is sanctified – not with the words of some ruling council or some opinion of man – but with God's Word (John 17:17). The Church is separated from Canaan – just as Israel was – because it was set apart unto God's direction.

The **Church of Christ** and **Catholic Church** have turned from faith in Christ and to ritualism and baptisms as means of salvation. They stepped from faithfully following the Lord and now follow the word of man above the clear Word of God. And lest we be left out, **Baptist Churches** are dying all around us because their people will not go into the Land as God has commanded.

May I point out that God's people will go into the land? Either we will go, or someone else will go. I want us to go. I'd like to stand before my Lord one day and hear Him say:

Matthew 25:21 ...Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

How sad that he with one talent *buried his talent in the ground* where it could do no good. America will never

change while we stay huddled together, hiding the Message of Grace that God has given us. Enter the land of Canaan, dear believer. Take that land for God's sake – and for your children's sake!



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

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