
Weekly Schedule

Fri, Feb 12th (Mesquite) Fasting Prayer @ Parsonage (10 AM)

Bible Study @ Metro (6:30 PM)
Topic: The Victorious Christian Life
Guest Speaker: Rev T. J. Samuel

Thur - Sun, Feb 11-14th (Metro)



The Sunday School Question

At the end of Sunday School little Joey asked his teacher a question:

"Mr. Goldblatt," announced little Joey, "there's something I can't figure out."

"What's that, Joey?" asked Goldblatt.

"Well, according to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Phillistines, right?" "Er, right."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?" "Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians, and the Children of Israel fought the Romans, and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed Goldblatt. "So what's your question?"

"What were all the grown-ups doing?"

-www.saltforsermons.org.uk

Prayer for the Nations: Uganda (Africa)*

- Uganda has rebuilt itself after the crazed dictatorship of Idi Amin in the '70s and '80s when millions were killed through brutal and random murders and famine. Since 1986 President Museveni has brought a long needed peace to the country.
- The country's economy was destroyed through the years of war but has been gradually improving. Uganda relies heavily on money from coffee crops – which make up 93% of its sales abroad.
- The Lord's Resistance Army, fighting in the north, have abducted 10,000 children as child-soldiers or sex-slaves. Pray that they can be freed, protected and cared for
- The impact of AIDS has impacted Uganda and slowed the growth of the population, but it is the only country in the world to have halved the rate of infection, from 25% in 1992 to around 10% today.
- Christians in Pentecostal and Catholic churches are being filled with the Spirit and are more passionate about prayer and getting closer to God.
- Recovery from the devastation of Amin's rule will take years and Uganda continues to be affected by the ongoing Central African War around the borders of Sudan, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.
- Pray that the church can address the AIDS crisis with compassion, wisdom and love. Pray that the rate of infection in Uganda will continue to fall.
- Christians in Uganda has suffered persecution and also seen renewal. God can do amazing things through both these experiences. Pray for maturity, humility and a closeness to God for those in leadership in the Ugandan church.

* http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=48

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*Celebrating the Presence of God
Demonstrating the Love of God
Communicating the Word of God
Educating the People of God*

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"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night" (Ps 92:1,2)

Welcome

“He has the best of interest for You”

“...if the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt” (Ex 13: 17)

Praise the Lord. We have great pleasure in welcoming you all to the house of the Lord for praise and worship. In the passage before us we read of a tactical method employed by the Lord when making sure the escape route of the Israelites from Egypt. In many ways we can join with the people of Israel and criticize the choice of God. In many ways we do not understand the best of God’s way. Often his ways seems irrational and unintelligible to us from our human vantage point of view.

The people of Israel had three choices when it came to their escape route. One commentator notes them as (1) a northeast route going to Qantara through the land of the Philistines to Gaza and Canaan; (2) a middle route heading across the Negeb to Beersheba, which incorrectly assumes Mount Sinai is Gebel Halal near Kadesh-Barnea; and (3) a southeast route leading from the wilderness east of modern Ismailia to the southern extremities of the Sinai Peninsula. Israel was warned not to take the shorter route through Philistia, for the prospects of fighting the quarrelsome Philistines would so demoralize Israel that they would change their minds and return to the servitude in Egypt.

From the book of Num 14:1ff we read that the people of Israel were so scared of war that they began to cry and wail and decided to go back to Egypt selecting a new leader. The all wise God knows better than us. He knew how much preparedness they had when leaving Egypt. It is interesting to note that in v.18 the people marched out from Egypt like an army. But this was an army that had no actual practice or experience of facing or fighting a battle. Even though they left Egypt looting the Egyptians of their wealth, within their being of being they were very much slaves. They had been under the bondage of slavery too long and were in no way prepared for any battle in the ensuing days. God knew that well and took them through a circuitous way around the wilderness.

Sometime we do not know why God is dealing with us in this way. But God has some purpose in his heart and he always has our best interest. It is in wilderness that they will time and again experience the riches of God’s gratuitous provisions. They will truly see the wonder working power of God on their behalf. Many a times when we may have found the easy way out God wants to lead us through the treacherous so that we shall come to trust him more completely in our dire needs.

Are you walking through a wilderness today? Does the way that you are walking seem laborious and painful? It is time that you considered the loving hand of God molding and making you to find the place of your destiny and purpose. God always does something with a purpose. He has the best of your interest in his mind.

In Christ Alone,
Pastor Satish Kumar

Sermon Notes