**Bible/College Class Notes – *Studies in The Old Testament* – Lesson 70**

**The Christian Pilgrimage – Pictures of Salvation and Heaven.**

We continue our lessons teaching us about how to live now, anticipating Heaven .

**NOTES**

***The Lord, He it is that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee, fear not, neither be dismayed. VA Deuteronomy 31v8.***

**Home At Last! – A Picture of Heaven.**

**Background to Todays’ Lesson.** As punishment for their unbelief all the adults of Israel had now died in the desert, and it was time for their grown children to enter The Promised Land.

**Faithful Moses, aged 120,** **is to hand over the leadership to faithful Joshua.**

**The River Jordan. In flood. A great barrier before them.**

**A Step of Faith is Required** – **VA** To Cross the Flooded River Jordan. The river was in flood. Much deeper than normal. The water was flowing fast. **Quite daunting.**

**God gave specific instructions to Moses. The people obediently and faithfully moved towards the water’s edge. Keeping 2,000 cubits – 1,000 metres behind it. The Priests stepped** into the swollen river with The Ark of The Covenant just as God had directed Joshua.

**2**

**God rewarded their faith –** The Priests were to stand still in the water. **God immediately and miraculously parted the waters** – providing a dry crossing.

Some of the grownups would have remembered it as being very similar to crossing the Red Sea 40 years earlier, when they were children. This encouraged the people and sent the message ahead –  **”The Hebrews are coming; their God is with them.” God promised Joshua that He would show the people that He was with Him. VA Love, Kindness, Honesty.**

**Do you stop to remember God’s goodness in events in your life? Have you thanked Him for it? Are you encouraged to trust Him fully?** We too will know the blessing of God if we trust Him fully and faithfully as our Lord and Saviour.

We too will know the blessing of God if we trust Him fully and faithfully. He has promised to lead, guide, and protect all who sincerely repent and trust in Him.

**The People’s Wonderful Experience in The Promised Land.**

**A New Home - Over Jordan. Their own Land** – Flowing with **‘Milk and Honey’**, **VA Milk and Honey** with every **Good Thing** to enjoy, including God.

**A New Way of Life,** and the Knowledge that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had lived there, as nomads, before them.

**VA Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**

**3**

**Application. What will Heaven be Like for Those Who Enter It?**

**‘Crossing Jordan’** is a Biblical picture of death – **VA Turnover Jordan - Death**

A **‘door’** that God **‘opens’** taking our souls from this life into the next. **The timing is all in God’s Sovereign Plan.**

The people would be moving from living in temporary tents to living in permanent houses - and so the believer will be given a new body in Heaven which will last for ever. **No more sickness, ageing or death!**

**New, delicious foods to eat and enjoy.** **VA Turnover Milk etc. – Happiness etc.** Reminding us that Heaven has many new and exciting experiences for us – far better than those of this world. **Far beyond our knowledge and imagination.**

This world’s **‘desert experiences’** – falling into sin, sadness, illness, ageing, pain, etc. will be left behind – to be remembered and experienced no more.

**On entering Heaven,** we will be welcomed by those who have entered before us – those mentioned in the Bible and those we knew as Christians on earth. **VA Turnover Abraham etc. – Meeting etc.**

**Best of all we will be welcomed by our Saviour.**  **Oh! What joy that will give us.**

**Heaven will only be for those sinners who are forgiven and cleansed. All for whom Christ died.**

**4**

The Bible clearly teaches us that we have no right to enter Heaven without the guilt of our sin being removed and replaced by Christ’s Righteousness.

**Thankfully, God has come to our rescue** in sending His Son – Jesus Christ, as a Perfect Man, to take our place under His Holy Wrath.

Christ suffered the punishment we rightly deserved when He died on the Cross of Calvary.

**His death was sufficient to save all His People.** He presents those who repent to His father without spot or blemish. **Totally washed clean** **in His precious Shed Blood.**

**God, The Father, accepts all for whom Christ died. None shall be lost. VA**

**The Lord Jesus prayed, *“Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me* (The Elect)*, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world” VA* John 17v24.**

**The Lord Jesus said, *“Of them which Thou gavest Me have I lost none.” VA* John 18v9.**

**The Doctrines of the Bible – Doctrines of Grace teach us that The Holy Spirit will ensure that all for whom Christ died will come in sincere repentance and faith and that they will be preserved in faith and never lost.**

**The Lord Jesus promised this. VA**

**5**

**Important Thought for us Today:**

**Most people desire to go to Heaven when they die.**

**A good desire** - but the devil deceives many into believing that Christ has died for everyone and therefore all will go to Heaven regardless of their sin,

**or** whether they repent, or not. **This is not so,**

**Heaven is God’s and He sets the rules for entry.**

**As God is holy, so too is Heaven.**

To keep it eternally holy He can only accept in those who are perfectly holy.

**But we must ask the question. As there are none without sin, how can anyone enter?**

***See 1 John 1v8-10.***

We read in **John 3v16,** ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”.***

**Romans 5v8** tells us,

***“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”. VA***

God’s holy wrath at our sin was fully satisfied when Jesus Christ (the sinless one) suffered Hell for us on Calvary.

**He did not die for everyone**

- only for those who repent of their sin and trust in Him.

**Once forgiven and clothed in His righteousness**

**only then can we enter Heaven.**

**Do you know Christ as your Saviour and Lord.**

**Will you enter Heaven?**

**The Lord is calling you to come now.**