

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE DESERT OF LIFE

For you did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb I will confess and praise You for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awful wonder of my birth! Wonderful are You works, and that my inner self knows right well; My frame was not hidden from You when I was bring formed in secret [and] intricately and curiously wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them... (Ps. 139: 14-16).

The beautiful creation of man expresses the depth of the wisdom of our God! Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable are His judgments! And how untraceable are His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord and who has understood is thoughts, or who has been His counselor? ... For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever! Amen. (Rom. 11:33- 34,36).

When God created man, He created him in His image, like no other creature he had created. Some special to consider and feel honored by. He gave man a beautiful garden to take care and live in. The earth was filled with beauty, as life was sinless and perfect. "It was good!" So, God said. Emerged in the wisdom of God in everything created, the world made its turns, bringing new days with the brightness of the sun which nourished and beautified all. A smile confirmed peace and joy all enjoyed. The Garden of Edem was the ornament of all lands and still is, because it is the Lord's land. The fragrances the garden sent out were the fragrances of purity. Man needed nothing more to have his life complete and fulfilled, as God visited him and fellowshiped with him in the cool of the day.

The world enjoyed that period of time, short or long, I do not know, although, we wished that time would have lasted forever, as the pages of history would have had a different story to tell. We do not have understanding of what happened in that garden, but we have the promise that all will be changed someday. Meanwhile, life portrays that of Adam and Eve in their disobedience to God. The journey through this world became filled with challenges. We are born to die; the future is dark and uncertain in many ways, as dark as that day when Adam and Eve opened the door to sin, then sin entered into the world, bringing man the reality of his consequential destiny. The everyday choices we make in our journey will certainly dictate our day. Adam's new journey started on cursed ground, on roads of thorns and with the sweat of his face he labored to provide food for the family and of course, life was not the same; death was now part of his life. Out of the dust he was formed, to that end he will return. It is rather depressing when we reason life this way: a beautiful beginning with a tragic end. New lives are sprouted every moment into the world, bringing happiness, a smile that will take a long time to fade. The future of everyone is written in the book of God. His Words determine the destiny of all lives. A journey is seen from the distance, with clear choices to make. Choices of all kinds, good or bad. As an example, Adam and Eve's fall to sin changed the world, for sin continued spreading to all generations. When Cain, their first son, was born, he already had in his DNA the root of iniquity; His life was unique and strange.

Becoming a vagabond, his life's journey was rough and unpleasant, for he lived under God's judgment.

The word Journey gives us a feeling of refreshing freedom. When all is packed and we are ready to leave our comfort zone, the excitement starts. The near future smiles in that adventure. Unfortunately, life does not have a certificate confirming its certainty of longevity, many die on their journey. Fragile and uncertain, life is a journey itself. We only have to be born to be a participant in the journey. In the blue skies of life, in its spring season, life shines as the sun's rays pointing its shining in every direction in a smile, we all appreciate. Showers, flowers, green grass all sparkle with joy as a young life, who experiences innocence, sings, and dances to his future unknown to him. Maturity, the winter of life has a different view of life's journey, through experience- our teacher in time. There is yet another journey we take beside the earthly one, that is destined to heaven. The spiritual journey has two places we will arrive to. While traveling the earthly roads, we make decisions that are of eternal value. The desert we travel on is temporary, preparing us for the final destination.

When the Israelites left Egypt, God went ahead of them, providing for all their needs. A cloud of protection against the sun, and a pillar of fire at night for light were their way to travel to the Promise land. In that journey, God was visible through all miracles and supernatural happenings. Forty years of experiencing the presence of God in that desert, Israel had the chance to know God like no other nation ever did. The amazing experience they had, was the encounter with Him, when He descended to the top of Mount Sinai to covenant with Israel, it was through thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. (Exodus 19:16). That was for a serious business God had come down shown in the manner in which He came. The Bible says in Hebrews 12 that they could not bear the command that was given... In fact, so awful and terrifying was the sight that Moses said, I am terrified; Israel must do what God demanded of them, or that would bring serious consequences.

In contrast, When YAHSHUA came to the world, it was not to establish the law with its demands, but it was with the purpose to save the lost world. He was the mediator of a new covenant with the sprinkled blood, which speaks a better and nobler and more and more gracious message than the blood of Abel. (Heb.12:20,24)

With His redeeming death He "ratified the new covenant between God and man" establishing it. He called it the covenant of blood. YAHSHUA, then changed the direction of our journey from hell to heaven. He promised to be with us until the end of ages. If you have Him in your life by means of new birth, you are a recipient of this blessing. He said, I will not leave you as orphans (John 14:18). Through the person of the HOLY SPIRIT, YAHSHUA abides in all who believe in Him. He guides, He comforts, He teaches, and convicts us of sin. He does the work of sanctification while we are on our journey to the Promised land, where He is preparing a dwelling place for each of us, His children. Our journey through this desert becomes meaningful, because we know where we are going. Psalm 23:4 assures of His presence even through the valley of the shadow of death; no need to fear, for He is with us, protecting and comforting, and providing for our needs. In these

days, we know that we are coming to the end of our earthly journey. This earth is going to suffer God's great judgment. Yet, many will continue on the wrong way without repenting. YAHSHUA said, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. Only one God! Do you find that the way you have taken in your journey is wide, easy, filled with pleasures? YAHSHUA said, Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious and broad is the way that leads away to destruction and many are those who are entering through it; but the gate is narrow and the way is straightened and compressed that leads away to life; and few are those who find it. (Matt.7:14-15)

My friend, God did not create you to send you to hell. Pay attention where you are going in your journey through the desert; if not through the narrow way, turn around while there is yet opportunity for you to do so.

THINK ABOUT IT !