

THE JOURNEYS OF LIFE

Introduction

- 1) Summertime is a popular time for taking vacations, many of which involve **journeys**
- 2) Journeys often take us to different and sometimes faraway places
- 3) Journeys are taken for different reasons (recreation, work, school, family, etc.)
- 4) We read about journeys in the Bible – from these we learn lessons about our life’s journeys

I) **Abraham’s Journey to a New Land**

- A) Abraham made a long journey from Ur of the Chaldeans to the land of Canaan (Gen. 11:31)
 - 1) A journey of more than 1000 miles
- B) Abraham made the journey because God called him to move to this new land that He would give to his descendants (Gen. 12:1; 13:14-15)
- C) Abraham understood that trusting and obeying God was more important than any of his personal desires (Heb. 11:15-16); *do we understand this important principle?*

II) **Baal’s “Journey” Away from His False Prophets**

- A) Elijah, taking note of Baal’s silence in the great contest, suggested to the false prophets that he might be meditating, busy, sleeping, or “on a journey” (1 Kgs. 18:25-28)
 - 1) Elijah is being sarcastic, but he does use what they believed about how the gods acted
 - a) The Ugaritic Baal myths confirm these beliefs (blindness of error – Matt. 15:14)
- B) The one true God does not disappear on journeys like man or false gods do – always ever-present to help us in time of need (Psa. 139:7-8; Acts 17:27; Heb. 4:16)

III) **Jonah’s Journey Fleeing from God’s Presence**

- A) When God told Jonah to go preach to Nineveh, Jonah took a ship and journeyed the other way toward Tarshish (Jonah 1:1-3)
 - 1) Tried to flee from the presence of the Lord (escape from his spiritual responsibilities)
- B) His prejudices darkened his judgment and caused him to disobey God (4:1-2)
- C) We do not “escape” our obligations to God and church when we travel (cf. Acts 20:6-7)

IV) **The Prodigal Son’s Journey from Home**

- A) The young son took his inheritance and left home on a long journey (Lk. 15:11-13)
 - 1) Symbolic of impulsive, inexperienced idealism that can turn bad without wisdom
 - 2) “Came to himself” – humbled enough to see his error and seek correction
- B) When we journey away from God, we will fall prey to the devil and his deceptions
 - 1) Every sinner must seek his way “home” to the heavenly Father (Matt. 11:28-30)

V) **The Journeys of Life – Lessons to Remember**

- A) During our earthly journeys, let us remember to be faithful to God everywhere and at all times – take no vacations from God and spiritual responsibilities
- B) The journey of life must be characterized by faith and obedience to God – all that we do must be defined by these considerations; if not, why are we traveling the wrong direction?

Conclusion

Whenever you journey, always “take the name of Jesus with you”! Will your “journey” of life end at the city built without hands, whose builder and maker is God? Some start good but end in disaster (example - Israel in the wilderness). Travel wisely, follow God’s directions, and keep your sights on getting to our eternal home.