

ARE THESE EVILS COME UPON
US BECAUSE OUR GOD IS NOT
AMONG US
DEUTERONOMY 31

Text: Deuteronomy 31:17

(Deuteronomy 31:17) "Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?"

Introduction:

One of the reasons the Allied Forces won World War II was the invasion of Normandy. There was tremendous loss of life, but the only way to defeat Hitler was to move forward.

There are many unsaved people who live all around us. The only way to win them is to move forward through various means of evangelism.

There are many issues confronting our churches and families. The only way to solve them is by moving forward under God's direction.

In our text Moses is getting ready to pass off the scene. He is turning over leadership of Israel to Joshua, and challenging Joshua to move forward.

Notice:

1. COMMAND (VS 7)

(Deuteronomy 31:7) "And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it."

- Personal Command
- Proven Command
- Prepared Command
- Predicted Command

We too have been told to go

- It is a personal command (Go ye)

(Mark 16:15) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

- It's a proven command (Ps 127:5-6)

(Psalms 126:5-6) "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. {6} He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

- It's a prepared command

(Isaiah 53) "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? {2} For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. {3} He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. {4} Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. {5} But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. {6} All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. {7} He was oppressed, and he was

afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. {8} He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. {9} And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. {10} Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. {11} He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. {12} Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

A. Remember the Power of God.

(Deuteronomy 31:4-5) "And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed. {5} And the LORD shall give them up before

your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you."

B. Remember the Presence of God.

(Deuteronomy 31:6-8) "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. {7} And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. {8} And 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."

C. Remember the Preservation of God

(Deuteronomy 31:7) "And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it."

1. It was theirs

D. Remember the Purity of God (Word of God)

(Deuteronomy 31:9-13) "And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel. {10} And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, {11} When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. {12} Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: {13} And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."

1. Meditate on it.
2. Memorize it.
3. Mark it
4. March by it

2. CALL (VS. 7, 23)

(Deuteronomy 31:7) "And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it."

(Deuteronomy 31:23) "And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee."

I still believe people are called today and those that are called are those that are:

A. Saved

B. Surrendered

(Luke 14:26-27) "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. {27} And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

(Luke 14:33) "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

C. Solid

(Psalms 62:6-7) "He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. {7} In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God."

Illustration:

Palm tree anchored by lines verses those that went through the storms. Those that go through the storm seek out a rock to anchor its root to.

D. Sound

(2 Timothy 2:15) "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

3. CHARGE (VS. 23)

(Deuteronomy 31:23) "And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swore unto them: and I will be with thee."

A. Prerequisite

1. Be strong
2. Good courage

B. Promise

1. Thou shalt bring.

We want the promises of God without fulfilling the prerequisites of God.

- Revival (2 Chron 7:14)

(2 Chronicles 7:14) "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

- God's protection (Matt 28:18-20)

(Matthew 28:18-20) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

- Salvation

(Romans 10:9-10) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

(Romans 10:13) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

4. CONCERN (VS. 16, 20)

(Deuteronomy 31:16) "And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them."

(Deuteronomy 31:20) "For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swore unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant."

A. Forget the Blessings

B. Forsake the Lord

5. COST (vs. 17)

(Deuteronomy 31:17) "Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?"

A. It's Disturbing to think that God is not among us

B. It's Dangerous if God is not among us.

1. He's our fortress

C. It's deserved if God is not with us

1. They had been warned.

2. They had God's Word.

6. CHOICE (JOSH 24:15)

(Joshua 24:15) "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

A. Unavoidable choice

B. Unmatchable choice

Close

We too must go forward, but with God's guidance, wisdom, direction, help.