

MARCH 4

Read Joshua 1–3

CHAPTER 1

NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel.

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the

land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

10 ¶ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three

days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

12 ¶ And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying,

13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;

15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as *he hath given* you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sun-rising.

16 ¶ And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

17 According as we hearkened

unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

18 Whosoever *he be* that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

CHAPTER 2

AND Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country.

3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they *were*:

5 And it came to pass *about the time* of shutting of the gate, when it

was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

6 But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

7 And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

8 ¶ And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of

you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

13 And *that* ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

15 Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house *was* upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

16 And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.

17 And the men said unto her, We *will be* blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

18 Behold, *when* we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.

19 And it shall be, *that* whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood *shall be* upon his head, and we *will be* guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head, if *any* hand be upon him.

20 And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.

21 And she said, According unto your words, so *be* it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

22. And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought *them* throughout all the way, but found *them* not.

23 ¶ So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to

Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all *things* that befell them:

24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

CHAPTER 3

AND Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.

2 And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host;

3 And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it.

4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed *this* way heretofore.

5 And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

6 And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

7 ¶ And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.

8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.

9 ¶ And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God.

10 And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God *is* among you, and *that* he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.

12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man.

13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, *that* the waters of Jordan shall be cut off *from* the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

14 ¶ And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;

15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

16 That the waters which came down from above stood *and* rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that *is* beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, *even* the salt sea, failed, *and* were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD

stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry

ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

God had chosen Joshua to be Moses' successor as far back as the battle with Amalek. In the Book of Numbers God had instructed Moses to ordain Joshua, and in the final chapters of Deuteronomy Moses gave a final word of blessing and encouragement to him. Joshua must have been greatly encouraged to know that he was called of God, for he had a tremendous task before him.

In chapter 2 the two spies are sent out by Joshua, and thus begins the covenant with Rahab. The "line of scarlet thread" mentioned in verse 18 is very significant. It speaks of the precious blood of Calvary, for scarlet is the color of Calvary. Nothing can hurt the soul that has put the precious blood of Christ between it and alarm or danger.

The scarlet thread was the means of salvation to the spies. By it they were let down to the ground and saved from death. The thread (or cord) must have been strong. So the blood of Christ avails, not only for us, but for all who shelter with us in the household of faith; and for others who find it the means of life as they receive it from our hands. Each of us should do as Rahab did. Gather father and mother, brethren and friends to share with us the shelter and safeguard of the precious blood.

It was not the scarlet thread alone that saved Rahab and her family. Behind it was God's oath spoken through the spies, as well as Rahab's faith. The true safety of that house on the wall stood in the moral attitude of one woman in it. Rahab believed God, who had dried up the water of the Red Sea, and who was God in heaven above and in earth beneath. This faith raised her afterwards from her life of shame to become the ancestress of Christ (see Matthew 1:5).

It is interesting to note that of the thousands of people who lived in Jericho, we are told the name of only one of them—Rahab.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 9: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 8.

HYMN FOR TODAY

WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE Words and Music by Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

One of the basic precepts of the Sunday school movement has always been that God's word must be carefully and systematically studied by believers of all ages.

One of the earnest concerns of many present leaders is the biblical ignorance of so many church people. Often precious Sunday school time is spent in teaching everything but the Bible itself. Yet the churches that do teach the Scriptures diligently and apply their teachings to modern living are the churches that are experiencing the greatest growth. We never outgrow our need for the Bible; it becomes more helpful to us with the years.

We must realize that God's truth revealed to us is never contrary or apart from the Bible. Often there have been those who have claimed to have extra revelations through visions which supercede the Scriptures. God's word clearly warns against this false assertion (Jeremiah 23:16).

Philip P. Bliss was one of the most important names in the development of early gospel music. Before his tragic death at age 38, he wrote many favorites still enjoyed by congregations. "Wonderful Words of Life" was written by Bliss in 1874, for the first issue of a Sunday school paper, *Words of Life*. These words still speak to both young and old of the importance of God's word in our daily lives:

*Sing them over again to me—wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see—wonderful words of life.*

Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty:

*Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call—wonderful words of life.
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven:*

*Sweetly echo the gospel call—wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all—wonderful words of life.
Jesus, only Saviour, sanctify forever:*

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words of life.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1861

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS INAUGURATED.

As we have done so many times during the year, we pause today to pray for the office of President of the United States. We thank God for Abraham Lincoln, his life, his testimony, his leadership. Then we must pray for God to bless our President today. Our lives, our children's lives, the lives of our children's children and their children will be affected by decisions he is making. He needs our prayers.

1791

VERMONT WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.

It has been my privilege to visit the far eastern part of our United States, and I sincerely believe that the East is in dire need of a Jonathan Edwards or a Charles G. Finney. Let us pray for spiritual conditions in this section of our nation and for God's people who serve there.

1789

THE FIRST UNITED STATES CONGRESS MET.

Pray for your congressman. Pray for your senator. Thank God for our nation and the system of free enterprise we have enjoyed through many years. Ask God to give wisdom to those who lead us.

1913

THE FOUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Pray for these strategic departments today.

1888

THE BIRTHDAY OF KNUTE ROCKNE, THE FAMOUS FOOTBALL COACH.

IN A FEW DAYS SPRING WILL BEGIN.

It will not be long until in some areas the flowers will begin to bloom. We are reminded of the resurrection. Let us ask God to help us live a resurrected life that will remind others of a living resurrected Christ.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1770

CRISPUS ATTUCKS DIED. He was born in 1723.

1837

WEEKLY ADVOCATE CHANGED ITS NAME to the *Colored American*, the second major black newspaper. Some forty black newspapers were published before the Civil War.

1869

FORTY-SECOND CONGRESS CONVENE (1871-73) with five black congressmen: Joseph H. Rainey, Robert Carlos Delarge and Robert Brown Elliott, South Carolina; Benjamin S. Turner, Alabama; Josiah T. Walls, Florida. Walls was elected in an at-large election and was the first black congressman to represent an entire state.

1889

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS CONVENE. Three black congressmen: Henry P. Cheatham, North Carolina; Thomas E. Miller, South Carolina; John M. Langston, Virginia.

1901

TERM OF GEORGE H. WHITE, LAST OF POST-RECONSTRUCTION CONGRESSMEN, ended at noon.

1922

DEATH OF BERT WILLIAMS (46), New York City.

1954

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER NAMED J. EARNEST WILKINS OF CHICAGO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN IN WASHINGTON. He said he would lead a massive civil disobedience campaign in the capital to pressure the government to provide jobs and income for all Americans. He told a press conference that an army of poor white, poor blacks and Hispanics would converge on Washington on April 20 and would demonstrate until their demands were met.

2008

KAREN BASS NAMED SPEAKER OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

GOD'S GREAT DESIRE

(Assignment 9)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

That none should perish.

() 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

That none be condemned.

() John 3:17 (John 5:24; 8:11)

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

So He calls him.

() Genesis 3:9

And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

He seeks him.

() Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

He loves him.

() 1 John 4:10

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.