THE DEPARTURE FROM MOUNT SINAI

BIBLE TEXT : Numbers 9:15-23; 10:11-13, 29-36

LESSON 91 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel" (Numbers 10:29).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Numbers 9:15-23 (KJV)

15 And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, *namely*, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.
16 So it was alway: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night.
17 And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents.
18 At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents.
19 And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not.
20 And *so* it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed.
21 And *so* it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and *that* the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether *it was* by day

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Sign of the Cloud

1 The cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night lead the way, Numbers 9:15-23; 10:11;

Exodus 13:21-22 (KJV)
21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:
22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from* before the people.

Exodus 14:19-20 (KJV)
19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:
20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness *to them*, but it gave light by night *to these*: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Exodus 14:24-25 (KJV)
24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,
25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

Exodus 40:34-38 (KJV)
34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
36 And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:
37 But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.
38 For the cloud of the LORD *was* upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Psalm 78:14 (KJV)
14 In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

Psalm 105:39 (KJV)
39 He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.

Isaiah 4:5-6 (KJV)
5 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory *shall be* a defence.
6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

2 The cloud lifts and Israel marches from Sinai, Numbers 10:12, 33, 34;

Deuteronomy 32:11-12 (KJV)
11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:
12 *So* the LORD alone did lead him, and *there was* no strange god with him.

3 The cloud rests and Israel camps at Paran, Numbers 10:12, 13, 33, 34

II The Invitation of Moses to His Brother-in-Law

I "Come thou with us," Numbers 10:29;

Isaiah 55:1-3 (KJV)
1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he

or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed.
22 Or *whether it were* two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed.
23 At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 10:11-13 (KJV)
11 And it came to pass on the twentieth *day* of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony.
12 And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran.
13 And they first took their journey according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 10:29-36 (KJV)
29 And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel.
30 And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred.
31 And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes.
32 And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto

that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
2 Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.
3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.

John 7:37 (KJV)
37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Revelation 22:17 (KJV)
17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

2 Worldly ties draw Hobab, Numbers 10:30;

Matthew 19:21-22 (KJV)
21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.
22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

3 There is a place for Hobab to fill. Numbers 10:31;

1 Corinthians 12:8-27 (KJV)
8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.
13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
14 For the body is not one member, but many.
15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
17 If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling?
18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.
19 And if they were all one member, where *were* the body?
20 But now *are they* many members, yet but one body.
21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:
23 And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness.
24 For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked:
25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.
26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.
27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

4 A reward awaits Hobab, Numbers 10:32;

1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV)
9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

III The Morning and Evening Prayer

1 "Let thine enemies be scattered," Numbers 10:35
2 "Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel," Numbers 10:36

us, the same will we do unto thee.
33 And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.
34 And the cloud of the LORD *was* upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.
35 And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.
36 And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.

NOTES:

A Schooling Period

For almost a year Israel had been camped at Mt. Sinai. During this time the people received the laws from God by which they were to be governed in the Promised Land. It was time well spent while they were all together and could be schooled in the way of the Lord. It was here that the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle were constructed, the priesthood inaugurated, and the people informed concerning the way in which God would have them worship.

The Cloud

The presence of God rested over the Tabernacle in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When God wanted Israel to move, the cloud lifted and went before them. So long as the cloud remained on the Tabernacle Israel stayed in camp, whether it was two days, a month, or a year (**Numbers 9:15-23 (KJV)** 15 And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, *namely*, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. 16 So it was alway: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night. 17 And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. 18 At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. 19 And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not. 20 And *so* it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed. 21 And *so* it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and *that* the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether *it was* by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. 22 Or *whether it were* two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. 23 At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses). No doubt at times the marching grew tiresome, while at other times Israel may have grown restless in camp, but God was their Leader. Not always does a Christian know why God leads as He does, but those who follow Him are richly rewarded. Many times God blocks a path even though His own people cannot see the dangers ahead. Other times God urges people on when they see no reason for moving. Philip the evangelist was called from a revival in Samaria to go out into the desert, but God had His purpose: a hungry soul wanted God (**Acts 8:26-40 (KJV)** 26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine

heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. [38] And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. [39] And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. [40] But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea).

The March

Now the time for the march has come. God gives the signal. The cloud lifts from off the Tabernacle. There is a movement in the east side of the camp as the standard (a banner which could be seen from afar) of Judah is raised and their host begins the march. Falling in behind are Issachar and Zebulun who are included under Judah's standard to form a division. While this is going on the Levites are taking down the Tabernacle and preparing for the march. The families of Gershon and Merari (Levites) follow behind the division of Judah with the external structure of the Tabernacle so that it can be set up as soon as the halting place is reached.

From the south side of the camp comes the division of Reuben, with their standard raised high, and makes a right turn into the spot where Judah was camped. Behind them come the Kohathites bearing the Ark and instruments of the Sanctuary. By the time they arrive at the next camp the Tabernacle will be erected. From the west comes the standard of Ephraim with their division marching straight ahead, while the standard of Dan is raised in the north and their host makes a left turn to bring up the rear.

What an impressive sight it would be to view from the height of Mt. Sinai the grand armies of Israel passing in review — 600,000 men besides women and children! Here again we see that God is the author of order and not of confusion.

A Goal

While the camp of Israel was thus astir. Moses said to Hobab, a relative, "We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you." Moses and Israel had a definite place toward which they were traveling. They had a promise from God that He would give them the land.

We, too, have a promise of a better country. "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:16). Are you wandering aimlessly in life with no definite goal and no assurance of reaching Heaven? How useless is such a career! The child of God has an aim, a promise and a Guide to insure his safe conduct to that City which God has prepared.

"Come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel" We need not hesitate to ask anyone to come with us in this Christian way, for the Lord has "given unto us exceeding great and precious promises" (II Peter 1:4). We are to have "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." If the Pharisees could "compass sea and land to make one proselyte" and make him twofold more the child of hell than themselves, should not we, the children of God be the more earnest to win souls from sin? Are we heirs of God and joint- heirs with Christ, and do we yet hesitate to invite our comrades to come with us?

Earthly Ties

"And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred." Earthly ties are not easily severed. Until one catches the heavenly vision there is much to allure a person to earthly things. How often it is said, "T have too much to give-up." It reminds one of a boy who was offered a

QUESTIONS

1 Look up all the Scriptures regarding the cloud in the wilderness.
2 How long were the Children of Israel at Mt. Sinai?
3 Make a list of the advantages of answering the Gospel call.
4 What is to be gained by refusing the call?
5 What do you find in the Bible about letting family ties interfere with following Jesus?
6 Did Moses want Hobab to find the camping places for Israel?
7 Do you believe in giving personal Gospel invitations to people? If so, what are you doing about it?
8 What "good" had the Lord spoken concerning Israel?
9 What did Moses do morning and evening?
10 How did Israel know when to break up camp?

new bicycle in trade for a tin whistle. The boy wanted the bicycle all right, but was not willing to give up the whistle, and so declined the offer. People today are turning down eternal life for things as valueless to them as tin whistles.

Moses did not take "no" for an answer from Hobab. but pointed out to him the place there was for him to fill. There is plenty of room for laborers in God's kingdom. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2). Moses promised Hobab, "What goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee." Jesus promised, "He that reapeth receiveth wages. and gathereth fruit unto life eternal" (John 4:36).

Leadership Needed

God was to guide Israel by cloud and pillar, yet Moses asked Hobab to be unto them instead of eyes. If God was to lead them, what need had they for Hobab's eyes? Some have thought that this shows a lack of confidence in God on the part of Moses. It need not be considered thus. There was much that an experienced man in the wilderness could point out, such as pasture, water dangers, and fuel, after God had selected the place for Israel to camp. We still have need for leaders and overseers who have knowledge and wisdom, even though we are lead by the Spirit of God.

Who Will Go?

Did Hobab go with Israel? What is your answer to the Gospel call? Can you afford to turn down the invitation, when "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

COME THOU WITH US

Once a man of Midian, wandering,
Came to the hosts of Israel
With whom the Lord would dwell.
"Come with us," said Moses, "and we will do thee good.
God hath spoken good concerning Israel."

Chorus:
Come thou with us and we will do thee good,
Share with us the land of milk and honey.
Come thou with us for we are Canaan-bound,
O, come share our joys without money.

To this land of Promise we are bent,
And our Leader is our Savior.
In His Name we fight,
For it is a good land, a land of springs and hill,
That Jehovah watches over day and night.

So we say to all men everywhere,
"Come with us for God is with us.
***Join* our happy band!"**
To the wayside wanderers, distressed, and weary, too,
"Come, abide with us in this our Beulah land."