
Church in Campbell Weekly News

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FOUR CRUCIAL JOURNEYS

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-14

In this passage of the Scriptures there are four journeys. These include setting out from Gilgal, the journey to Bethel, the journey to Jericho, and the crossing of the Jordan River. Before Elijah was taken into heaven and Elisha received a double portion of the Holy Spirit, they passed through these four places.

I. GILGAL—THE FLESH (VERSE 1)

The interpretation of every name must be based on its first mention in the Bible. If we read Joshua 5:9, we see that Gilgal means "to roll away." Verses 2 through 9 of this chapter tell us that the generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt were circumcised; however, those of the second generation, who were born in the wilderness, were not. At that point, they were about to enter Canaan and to receive the inheritance; they needed to have the old flesh and shame of Egypt rolled away so that they could begin a new living. Therefore, the meaning of circumcision is to put off the body of the flesh (Col. 2:11).

Is there anyone who knows what the flesh is? Is there anyone who knows what dealing with the flesh and judging the flesh are? Many people think that once they overcome sin, they are perfect. Little do they realize that the flesh still exists out from which comes sin! In the Bible the flesh is condemned by God and is very displeasing to God. The flesh is everything we possess from our birth. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). All that we possess from our birth is of the flesh. In the flesh there is not only sin, uncleanness, and

corruption, but also natural kindness, talent, zeal, wisdom, and ability. The most difficult lesson for a believer to learn in his life is recognizing his flesh. God must bring him through every kind of failure and exposure before he will know the flesh.

II. BETHEL—THE WORLD (VERSES 2 TO 3)

We now come to Bethel. What is the meaning of Bethel? We have to read the portion in the Bible which first mentions Bethel to determine its meaning. Please read Genesis 12:8. Bethel is the place where Abram built an altar. The altar is a place of fellowship and communication with God. It is the place where we consecrate ourselves to God, the place where we are totally given to Him.

Genesis 12:9-14 records Abram's going down to Egypt. There was no altar in Egypt! His fellowship with God was discontinued and his heart of consecration to God was lost. This is the difference between Bethel and Egypt. Bethel and Egypt are opposites. What then is the meaning of Bethel? Bethel means the opposite of Egypt.

While Gilgal refers to the victory over the flesh, Bethel refers to the victory over the world, because Egypt signifies the world. Victory over the world is a condition for being raptured and receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. Our living should be such that the world cannot touch our heart. Are we separated from the world? Does our manner of life indicate that we are a people who are separated from the world? Does our attitude and conversation indicate that we no longer belong to this world? What about our intentions? Do we still have a little

secret craving for all the things in the world? Do we secretly delight in men's praise? Do we secretly avoid men's slandering? Whenever we experience some gain or loss, does it touch our feelings? How much difference is there between our feeling toward the world and the feelings that others have toward the world?

III. JERICHO—SATAN (VERSE 4)

Joshua 6:26 says, "And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho." Thus, the name of this city means cursed. This portion of history speaks of the Israelites' first victory over the enemies in Canaan. The Canaanites signify evil spirits, which are of the devil. They are the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies mentioned in Ephesians 6:12. We struggle against them.

It is not by power that Jericho fell, but by the Israelites' relying on God's Word and standing firm in their position. In order to overcome the attack of evil spirits, we first must disregard every situation and feeling and believe in God's Word of promise. This will defeat the enemy. Second, we must stand in the position that Christ has given us, which is in the heavens, and must put down Satan and his evil spirits to their inferior position. Without God's Word and without exercising our faith to choose the position God has given, we cannot overcome the enemy.

IV. THE RIVER JORDAN—DEATH (VERSES 7 THROUGH 14)

The Jordan signifies the power of death. Crossing the Jordan is overcoming death. This is to be raptured.

This is especially related to the Lord. The Lord was baptized in the river Jordan. The Lord's baptism signifies death, and coming out of the water signifies resurrection.

By the power of resurrection, the Lord overcomes death. The greatest power of Satan is death. The Lord seems to have said to the enemy, "Try your best to do what you can to Me." Satan exhausted what he could do; but God resurrected Him. Satan wanted the Lord to die, but the Lord has a life which death cannot touch or hold down. The Lord passed through it on dry land!

If we want to receive the rapture of Elijah and the outer garment of Elisha (the Holy Spirit), we must start from Gilgal and continue until we cross the river Jordan. The Holy Spirit can only descend upon those who are full of the resurrection life. We must not think that since we are born again, we will surely be raptured. God cannot rapture those who are not prepared. We must pass through Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and the river Jordan. We must pass through all these places before we can be raptured, just as Elijah did in that day. God has told us that we will be raptured. Now we need to follow our course. We should start from Gilgal and go on until we cross the Jordan. God is waiting for us there!

Testimony of the Gospel

Praise the Lord for His blessing at West Valley College this year! We really enjoyed tract-passing and contacting students during the welcome week and club days this semester (spring, 2011). We had a table set up with Bibles for America (BFA) free study Bible offer (online), invitations to our Bible study on campus, and a short survey for them to fill out. Usually after we showed them about the features of the Bible and encouraged them to request it online for free, they were willing to fill out the short survey form. We had received total of 71 survey forms this year.

Some saints from the churches in Campbell and Santa Clara were there to serve together. One young lady after receiving a tract and being told, "Jesus loves you!" came back later to a serving sister and asked her to pray for her. Apparently she was in a very depressing situation and prayed with the sister with tears.

Another young man told another serving one that he was not sure if he was saved. He asked a serving one to help him to be saved and the serving one led him to pray to receive the Lord right at the side of the table.

One lady approached us and asked us to pray for her regarding a specific issue she was facing—she needed to get a textbook in time to finish her homework which would be due the following day. The serving ones gave her some suggestions including checking the library and prayed with her. The next day she returned to our table and told us the Lord had answered the prayer that she was able to find the textbook in a library. She was thankful and excited and then she requested for more prayers regarding how the Lord has been touching her concerning certain important matters in her life. The serving ones prayed with her again and this time she also prayed to give these matters to the Lord with praises! We were very encouraged that people would come to us when they feel like they need prayers and fellowship. Truly we are the continuation and representation of the Lord Jesus on earth.

Praise the Lord that the Holy Spirit has been operating in some of the seeking ones on this campus. Many students were willing to stop at the table to talk to us. May the Lord gain all the glory on this campus. May He gain many young people for the building of His body, for the increase and spread of His testimony! Amen!

Burdens for Church Prayers

- For GTCA burden, especially for saints' participation in the move in Stockton and San Luis Obispo.
- For daily exercises in God's ordained way training: Personal contact with the Lord, Pursuing the truth, Participating in the study group, Praying with companions and in the church prayer meeting, Prophesying on the Lord's day and Going to the meetings on time.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.
- For young people that they would have morning revival, pursue the truth and become gospel seeds on campus.

Announcement

- Morning Revival: the Crystallization-Study of Isaiah (2), Week 2.
- Prayer meeting on Tuesday (2/22) 7:30 pm at Tien's home 19070 Dagmar Dr. Saratoga, CA95070
- GOW training, extra material purchase, please register with brother Mark, \$12.5 per copy.
- Spring Young People Conference (3/18-20) Please register via brother Ezra Tai before 3/5, \$95 per person
- College Spring Retreat will be held in Berkeley on 3/5-6 (Sat and Lord's day). Please register via brother Ezra and sister Meiling before next Lord's day (2/27), \$ 35 per person.