

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tloke822@gmail.com

The Spiritual Lessons on Service at Kadesh-Barnea (Deuteronomy 1)

**There is a spiritual
significance of geographical
localities in the Bible such
as the interesting and
insightful place called**

Kadesh-Barnea – Kodesh
(See Deut 1:2) meaning ‘holy’,
and Barnea meaning ‘desert of wandering’.



This place is first mentioned in Genesis 14:7, thrice in Deuteronomy, and 30 times in the entire Old Testament. Kadesh-Barnea is a large, flat plain located west of the Wilderness of Zin, south of Canaan and south-west of the Dead Sea. In the 1980s, archaeologist Rudolph Cohen excavated ancient fortresses and artefacts with Hebrew inscriptions around the region north of Sinai, generally thought to be remains of the Israeli occupation of Kadesh-Barnea during the time of the Exodus. Many important events in the history of Israel are recorded to have occurred here – such as the death of Miriam, the rebellion of Israel and the place from which Moses sent out his 12 spies.

The book of Deuteronomy began in the 38th year of Israel's 40-year journey through the wilderness and is often taken to be the 'second giving of the law' through Moses (after Exodus 20). In the 11th month (of Rosh Hashanah, their new year) of the 40th year, Moses gathered all the Israelites and delivered his first of five sermons recounting the past 38 years of Israel's journey out of Egypt (which could have taken 11 days). The following are 4 important lessons to be gleaned from the land of Kadesh-Barnea.

1. A Place to Reflect and Contemplate the Faithfulness of God and His Sovereignty in our lives (v5-11)

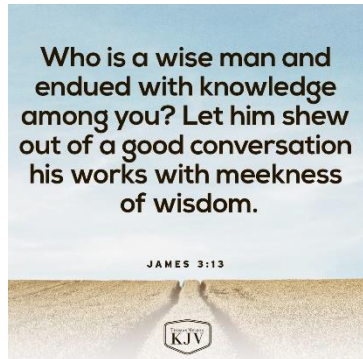
In these few verses, we have Moses reminiscing how God had been faithful in protecting and preserving His people from harm. In verse 8, he recalled the Lord's challenge for Israel to 'go in and possess the land' – the Promised Land that he never set foot upon, but was allowed to view from the summit of Mount Nebo. Kadesh-Barnea was a place where the Israelites were reminded of how merciful the Lord had been to multiply them (v11-12) such that the population swelled to almost 2 million people by the 38th year of their journey towards Canaan. **We need to remind ourselves of the faithfulness of God to our church all these years and let us be faithful to Him in our lives too in the days ahead.**

2. A Place to Remember the Commitment of Godly Men appointed to His Service (v12-19)

In verse 13, we read of the recruitment of men to join in the stewardship of the children of Israel – faithful, trustworthy men who were tasked to co-labour with Moses in his government of the people. No matter how gifted a man he was, Moses was still limited in terms of time, energy and ability, so it made good sense for him to appoint dependable men to aid him. **We need Elders, Deacons and co-labourers who are prudent, God-centred and called to serve the Lord together effectively in the kingdom of God. Verses 15 to 17 record for us the 3 important characteristics these men possessed that were instrumental in their election to become captains over their brethren:**

- *Wise and understanding*

Not necessarily highly qualified intellectual men, but faithful people who feared, loved and knew God, and people who are prudent and who understood the Word and Will, Law and Plan of God as stewards of the Most High God (see also Exo 18:21-25).



- *Righteous and impartial*

Men of integrity who could be trusted to judge fairly with no respect of persons and is true and men of fortitude and probity in the service of the Lord.

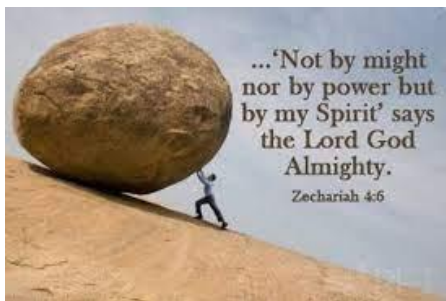
- Of good standing

Men who were known among the tribes and recognized to be of sound character and in doctrine and practice who dared to trust God and are not covetous.

It was at Kadesh-Barnea where Moses remembered God's faithfulness in providing labourers to hold the fort when he could not cope on his own. Even with Moses' passing, God provided Joshua to continue leading His people into the Promised Land. Here we learn that in every generation God will raise up a faithful remnant to carry out His sovereign good plan for His children. We need such men and women in our churches today who will selflessly and fervently serve God without fear and favour of man. They are people who fear God and love his people too.

3. A Place where we Recount the memory of Challenges and a time of Deep Reflection (v21-38)

Moses retold the story of how Israel had previously disobeyed and distrusted the LORD. Out of the 12 spies sent to search out the



Promised Land, Joshua and Caleb came back bearing the fruits of Canaan and an encouraging report of the country. (This incident was also recounted in Joshua 14:7 by Caleb.) However, the people took the side of the majority report of 10 spies and

refused to enter therein, discouraged and disheartened by the tales told of towering walls and mighty men (v28).

They rebelled and murmured against God in their tents (v27), causing His wrath to descend upon them. Sometimes the task ahead may seem daunting and frightening, such as the establishment of our church and we witness how the Lord led and guided us when we follow His direction. **Thank God for those who reflected and regained confidence in God and remained steadfast in obedience to God's will (like Joshua and Caleb), who did not join with the evil generation in their murmurings (v35) but would eventually lead Israel to inherit the Promised Land (v36, 38). Beware of a discontented and murmuring spirit and let us learn to be thankful to God with a heart of gratitude and not murmur against God and His will and His Word.**

4. A Place where we are to Renew and Humble ourselves in Contrite Faith and Prayer before the Lord. (v39-46)

There is also a sad story of Israel at Kadesh-Barnea when Israel went up the hill to fight against the Amorites (v43-45). They did not believe the Lord and were attacked by their enemies severely and they had to retreat and came again unto Kadesh-Barnea, depressed and often with discouragement (v45). **What a lesson that if we are to be victorious, we need to trust and depend on God alone and let Him be our Guide.**



Conclusion

Following their stay in Kadesh-Barnea, there were still challenges faced by the Israelites, but Kadesh-Barnea was considered as the turning-point after which Israel celebrated many great victories against their enemies. They were so near to the Promised Land, and it was a time to ponder soberly. **It is also a seasonable time for us to solemnly reflect on where we were before, where we are now, where we should be and to whom we belong before the Lord as we serve the Lord as a covenant people of God in His church as we install the newly elected Session and renew our devotion to God today as a church.**

Kadesh-Barnea is a special physical and allegorical place that we must revisit from time to time, to ensure that we do not forget our God's goodness and faithfulness towards us through each of them. We must not forget the lessons learnt as Kadesh-Barnea represents an opportune time to review, recount, revive and reinvigorate our hearts with greater zeal for the Lord. **Time for a spiritual audit and reality check and be revived by the Spirit of God as a church. Seek the Lord first in regular sabbath worship Bible reading and fellowship and service of our Saviour and Guide, and be right with God and let Him lead you to the Promised Land one day.**

Jack Sin

***Nasi Lemak Lunch Fellowship after
ACM on 27 Aug 2023***



LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023
DISCOVERING AND APPLYING THE JOHANNINE EPISTLES
- STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES OF 1, 2 AND 3 JOHN

AUGUST

- 6/8 Warning to Falsehood & Deception (1 John 4:1-6)
- 13/8* The Supreme Love of God & Our Response (1 John 4:7-21)
- 20/8 The Victory of Faith over the World (1 John 5:1-9)
- 27/8 Knowing God & the Practice of Prayer (1 John 5:10-21)

SEPTEMBER

- 3/9 Walking in Love & Truth (2 John 1-6)
- 10/9* The Doctrine of Christ & Biblical Separation (2 John 7-13)
- 17/9 A Case Study of 3 Characters (3 John 1-12)
- 24/9 **GOSPEL SUNDAY:**
In Search of Peace with God (Rom 5:1-8)

Testimony of Willing Service in Weakness

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” ~ 1 Corinthians 15:58

It was end-August 2019, after Sovereign Hope BPC was officially registered with the Registrar of Society (ROS) in June 2019, that I was elected as a Deacon at our first members’ meeting. Following that in the month of September, I was admitted to hospital for my 2nd leg bypass after my 1st bypass which was done 3 years



ago (2016) was blocked again. Even with my 2nd bypass done, I was told that there were some complicated issues during the surgery and needed to undergo further follow up in due time if it failed. And once again, the 2nd bypass failed after one month later (in October 2019).

I committed my medical condition and situation to the Lord and asked for His grace and mercy in seeing me through this challenging time. Although I did not go for another surgery to repair the failed 2nd bypass, the Lord is gracious and merciful to me in seeing me through these 4 years (2019 to 2023), strengthening me through His sustaining grace and power both in my faith journey, my work & family commitment and the ministry in Sovereign Hope BP Church.

Such as the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:10 ~ *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”*

Looking back, I strongly believed that the Lord gave me this medical condition to humble myself before Him and fully dependent upon His grace and mercy.

Such as the Apostle Paul, there was given to him a thorn in the flesh and he sought the Lord thrice that it might depart from him. And Jesus said unto him in 2 Corinthians 12:9 & 10 ~ *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*

The above was God's answer to the Apostle Paul. But how was this an answer to his prayer? God did not remove Paul's painful burden. In fact, God told Paul that he would not remove it at all. But God's answer to Paul's prayer was even better: My grace is sufficient for thee. Notice God did not say "My grace is sufficient for this difficulty." God said "My grace is sufficient for you, Paul." Paul asked for deliverance from one ordeal, but God guaranteed him grace for every trial, throughout his life and his ministry which he received from the Lord.

And, although Apostle Paul would still experience much suffering, God reminded him that this simply gave him an even greater opportunity to exalt the name of Christ. My strength, God declared, is even more evident when you are helpless. Therefore, this struggle is an opportunity for you to fulfil your purpose as a Christian to serve and glorify Him, more than you ever could in a pain-free life.

Beloved, rest assured that God's grace is still sufficient and that His power is still being manifested through the difficulties you face in your life today and let us dare to trust God and honour him in our weakness.

Our lives are built on a foundation of the grace of God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.")

True faith in the Lord, be it strong or weak, unites us to Christ who is God Almighty incarnate. Therefore, what He commands, for the presence of even a little faith draws on the infinite power of God. Whatever the Lord has called us to do this day, we can continue to serve God, and do it as we rely by faith on the power of His Holy Spirit that dwelled in us and not in ourselves.



Dn Yue Kay

27 Aug 2023

NB: The newly elected Session – Pastor Jack Sin, Dn Tan Yue Kay & Dn Paul Tan will be installed today after last Sunday's ACM cum Elections. Do uphold them in prayer and co-labour together with them in the work of the Lord.

Memory Verse

2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! A special welcome to Eld and Mrs Gary Tay. If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. The **Church Session for 2023-2025** elected at the Annual Congregation Meeting on 27 Aug 2023 comprising **Rev Jack Sin, Dn Tan Yue Kay and Dn Paul Tan** will be installed this morning at the worship service.
3. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "**Walking in Love & Truth (2John 1-6)**", continuing the quarterly series on "Discovering and Applying the Johannine Epistles – Studies in the Book of 1, 2 and 3 John".
4. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "**The Doctrine of Christ & Biblical Separation (2John 7-13)**".
5. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in 2 Chronicles – Dr Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Basic Theology, and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551]
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178]
8. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.
