

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: tiloke822@gmail.com

Lessons from the Crossing of River Jordan

(A message shared at the Chinese Evening Service on 26 June 2022)

While Moses led the people of Israel to leave Egypt and to cross the Red Sea victoriously with a memorable miracle that is remembered by many Israelites, there is an equally important historic crossing that we must not forget too. There are rich lessons to be learnt from the mazing crossing of River Jordan led by Joshua as we did with the Red Sea crossing.



Background:

- The Jordan River is 251 kilometres long. It serves as the eastern border of Israel and that of the Palestinian-occupied West Bank. The river also demarcates Israel from the country, Jordan.
- The river starts up north and links the Sea of Galilee and end up in the Dead Sea in the south.
- It is the final crossing for the Israelites before entering the Promised Land after having been freed from slavery in Egypt and 40 years of wandering in the desert.

Consider Four spiritual insights from the crossing of river Jordan:

1. Spiritual Sanctifying of the Soul as We Consecrate Ourselves

The Israelites were called to sanctify themselves before they crossed river Jordan. We are living in a depraved society and are bombarded with sinfulness, wickedness, untruths and worldliness from the mas and social media, the internet, various magazine, billboards, etc. We need the cleansing of our hearts and minds for we are to be set apart and be holy unto the Lord.

The biblical perspective is that the outer man must die to sin and our inner man renewed and set apart to be conformed to Christ. The born again Christian need to strive to grow in the fear of God and holiness and spiritual sanctification and its combat against the corruption of sin in his or her lives.

The shorter catechism Q35 defines “sanctification” as God’s free grace and something that we receive after we have accepted Him as our Saviour. Q35: *What is sanctification? A: Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*

2. Acknowledge the Presence of God and Stand in Awe.

The Israelites were soberly reminded of the presence of God in the Ark of the covenant. In everyday living, we acknowledge the sovereign power and the omnipresence of God, and that we are to submit and listen to God's voice speaking to us.

Let us remember 1 Kings 19: 11-12, where God spoke to Elijah in the quiet whisper of a voice, and not through the fire or the earthquake, which are dramatic manifestations, but God wants us to be still and know that he is God.

We need to always recognize the power provision and the constant presence of God with us. Let us seek God through simple things like daily devotion, praying to God and the constant reading his word are practical ways to obey His holy will.

3. Vital Requirement to Have Faith in God as We Walk with Him

The Israelites led by the priests have to trust God and stepped their feet into the water before the river would subside and they can cross safely Hebrews 11: 6 – Without faith, it is impossible to please God. We need to keep our faith in God and to abide by His will, to make it through life's treacherous journeys. The priests carrying the ark on their shoulders would go first which is symbolic the leading presence of God. We have to do things in God's way as guided by the holy Spirit in obedience and faith.

Every Christian need to cross our own "River Jordan" by faith (obstacles in front of us) trusting that God will part the waters for us in due time.

4. Trust in God for His power and a memorial for the next generation.

God made the Israelites pick up 12 stones from each of 12 tribes of Israel as a remembrance for the future generation of Israel. When the children asked us about the past, this will serve as a sober reminder of God's goodness to the succeeding generations. Do we help ourselves too to remember God's past and present faithfulness in our lives, our families and our church? A physical memorial is sometimes useful for this. It is like the John Sung Memorial Library of Chin Lien Bible Seminary to remember the 1935 revival here or the plaque that we laid at Covenant BP Church, Bangalore India at its official inauguration with a prayer of dedication in 2008 (and is still there today) are good testimonies of this.

Conclusion

As believers we need to trust God and press on despite danger and obstacles in our lives but guided by the Lord and according to his will. Let us remember how the covenant people of God crossed river Jordan and learn rich and practical lessons from it. We thank to God for what God has done for us our families, our church and helping us to cross our river Jordans too and to humbly put Christ first and move forward to possess the possessions that God has for us with faith and diligence in the days ahead.

Jack Sin

Snapshots of Cambodia Mission Team at Angkrang Faith Church, Phnom Penh

Children arriving in a Tuk Tuk for Sunday School.



Thank God for 24 children from the neighbourhood who came to learn Bible Songs and the Parable of the Wise & Foolish Builders.



Thank God for 60 Pastors, Preachers and church leaders who attended the Seminar on 22 Jul (Fri) morning and lunch fellowship.

Ministering the Word of God to the Youth Fellowship on 23 Jul (Sat) night.



24 Jul Sunday Worship Service interpreted by Pastor Paul Sokha and included a personal testimony of salvation by Amber.



Memory Verse

1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Gospel Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on “**Guide for the Believer’s Domestic Life (1 Pet 3:1-9)**”, the start of a new quarterly series on **Godly Counsel for Pilgrims and Strangers (studies in 1Peter)**.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**Christian Apologetics in Practice (1 Pet 3:10-15)**”.
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Christian Ethics - Joseph
5. Thank God for the safe return of the Mission Team to Cambodia (Jul 18 – 28) comprising Pastor, Angie, Amber and Esther and for the fruitful ministry to churches and a Christian University in Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Kampot and Siem Reap.
6. **Church Family Day** will be held on **9 Aug (Tues)** for a morning walk at the newly opened **Rail Corridor**. Meet at **King Albert Park MRT Exit A at 8.30 am**. All, including your families are invited to attend. Kindly contact Paul Tan (hp: 9731-4733) to register.
7. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
8. 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.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 5 Aug 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. 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**
