

LIFE – GOD’S PERSPECTIVE 1

Background:

The Journey of Life - God’s perspective

Another year, another season, but what is the purpose of life?

- Euphoria of Christmas ended - festivities, family, fun...
- Now back to reality!
- For some 2019 was a year of fulfilment... a dream fulfilled.... marriage, children born and dedicated in Church, God’s healing. We praise God for this.
- Now, back to your job, the reality of life, its challenges.... the “business” and “busyness” of life...
- For some, maybe back to the burdens you may have come through with from 2018.
- Life not making sense.
- Spent too long facing some challenges, nothing changing.

I recently read a book - A Christian pastor which he wrote towards the end of his life – “why I am a Christian”. The journey of his life.....1925-2015.

- Lawyer,
- Successful businessman,
- Community leader,
- Spoke in one of his sermons about striving, working 80 hours a week as a business man and lawyer and he strove and strove and strove in order to succeed.
- Eventually got saved, after resisting the call to give his life to Christ.... together with some of his business partners,
- They transformed their business into a Christian based business, successful property business, gave their clients a bible as they bought a house from the company, the company supported their ministry.
- Eventually he became a Pastor.

That was a life’s story.....his story... As we begin 2019, God by his grace has given us a chance to continue with the journey of life and as we reflect on life ...not the way we see it...but the way God sees it, hopefully this will give us the courage and motivation to move on in the knowledge that God’s purposes for us are indeed for good and if we play our part, God surely will bring his plans for your life to come to fulfilment.

Why are we on earth? Why was I created?

We were created by God – See Colossians 1:16.

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

We were created for his pleasure – Rev 4:11

Rev 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, **and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

A life well lived in accordance with God's will gives him pleasure.

As a young student as my studies came to an end after a long struggle, I took time to pray and fast on Friday's and read the Bible. God took me through the story of Israel on its way to the promised land and it was a message that seemed to me to be a story of life and what I should learn from the experience of Israel – What to expect, God's promises, what to do , what to avoid....

DEUTERONOMY 8: 1-20

Deu 8:1 All **the commandments** which I command thee this day **shall ye observe to do**, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

Deu 8:2 And thou **shalt remember** all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble thee, and to prove thee**, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deu 8:3 And **he humbled thee**, and **suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee** with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that **he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Deu 8:4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Deu 8:5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

Deu 8:6 Therefore thou shalt **keep the commandments** of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Deu 8:7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;

Deu 8:8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

Deu 8:9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any *thing* in it; a land whose stones *are* iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

Deu 8:10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

Deu 8:11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

Deu 8:12 Lest *when* thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt *therein*;

Deu 8:13 And *when* thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

Deu 8:14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Deu 8:15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, *wherein were* fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where *there was* no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Deu 8:16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

Deu 8:17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth.

Deu 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

Deu 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

Deu 8:20 As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy the book – a second reading of the law or a second law, as earlier books (exodus, Leviticus, numbers) had given the law but this was needed to prepare them for a settled life.

A 40-year journey had ended and they were being prepared for the life ahead.....

ISRAEL'S JOURNEY WITH GOD HAD VARIOUS PHASES PLANNED UP TO THIS POINT

- THE PROMISE – TO ABRAM

- THE BONDAGE – IN EGYPT
- THE RELEASE – FROM EGYPT
- THE WILDERNESS – 40 YEAR WANDERING
- THE PROMISED BLESSING – YET TO COME

These phases may play out as Gods plan for our lives...

There was a need to look back in order to move forward.

Deu 8:1 All **the commandments** which I command thee this day **shall ye observe to do**, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

Lessons:

1. God's dealings with man are in many instances conditional

- If then....., maths, logic
- Adam in the Garden....
- 2 chronicles 7:14...if my people
- Not just an Old Testament principle! John 3:3 No man will see the kingdom of God unless.... Christ's message to the Churches....
- Same here.

2. God gives us a set of regulations ...for our own good.

- Learn commandments.... a lifelong process
- Give the more earnest heed to the words that you have heard
- **Heb 2:1** Therefore we ought to give the more **earnest** heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip.
- Genesis 17:1...Abram 99, walk thou before me and be thou perfect,
- When we learn, we live, we multiply and go in to possess our inheritance.
- Same as the Genesis command, be fruitful Genesis 1:22, 9:1, 9:7

Deu 8:2 And thou **shalt remember** all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble thee, and to prove thee**, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deu 8:3 And **he humbled thee**, and **suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee** with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that **he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Deu 8:4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

- “Thou shall remember” ...remembrance – builds faith and trust,
- Humility- required for life.... Israel was out of danger; the miracles of Egypt were a distant memory.... When man is out of danger, pride can rise up.
- “To prove thee” - Proving ...for man’s sake & others around...God already knew what was in their hearts!

PROVING PROCESS – TESTING US FOR FAITHFULNESS AS STEWARDS

IN LIFE WE ARE STEWARDS OF

- THE GIFT OF LIFE ITSELF
- THE TRUTH – THE GOSPEL, WHICH MUST BE PREACHED TO ALL NATIONS BEFORE THE END
- VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES – PARENTHOOD, EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY LIFE AS A MEMBER OF A FAMILY – REPONSIBILITIES TO PARENTS AND SOCIETY
- RESOURCES – WE WILL ALL HAVE RESOURCES THAT WE MUST MANAGE FAITHFULLY
- TALENTS AND SKILLS – GOD HAS GIVEN ALL HIS CHILDREN GIFTS AND TALENTS THAT THEY SHOULD MAXIMISE ACCORDING TO HIS WILL. NOTE: THE PROMISED LAND WAS TO BE BUILT FROMSCRATCH – IT WOULD NEED FAITHFUL ARTISANS AND PEOPLE OF ALL OCCUPATIONS!
- Not to live by bead alone.....Our fallen nature tends to cause us to lean on the arm of the flesh, what you have, who you know, who you are.... but God wants to take this away from us some times - for our good.
- Jesus uses this scripture with powerful effect during his temptation.
- The narrative of the world, the news, the mind-set, all can sway us to believing we must put our trust in the physical and the things of the world.... Who we know (“connections”), what qualifications we have, which family we come from...
- We need to remember that we are primarily spirit not physical...
- “But by every word...” the word (bible) should become part of you, young people.... read a Chapter a day. This is a good habit.

3. God sustains, transforms & signals

1. To preserve Israel – in a difficult environment.... wilderness

- Numbers of the nation – 600,000 males above 20years, 3 million at exodus...God directs a census Numbers 1 after they had come out of Egypt

- God provided manna and quails.
- God provided water.
- Their shoes waxed not old.

2. To change their thinking from sight to faith

- Though they had seen the miracles of Egypt, this knowledge soon faded away.
- In times of hardship, it may be hard to re-collect past victories and launch from past experiences.
- Egypt was a stronghold of idolatry.

3. For the surrounding nations –

- the Canaanites.... for them to understand that what God was doing - assigning their land to Israel was an act of God and,
- It was God they would have to deal with... **The God of Israel.**
- Up to today...nations know Israel and the God of Israel...

KEY LESSONS FOR YOU – GOD WILL SUSTAIN YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY, TRANSFORM YOU, HIS HAND ON YOU WILL BE EVIDENT...IF YOU OBEY.

- **As a Christian, you will have special rules that guide your life according to God's plan for it, not according to man's rules – for example, you may get a job you do not qualify for according to man's standards...because God's hand is on your life...this will be evident to the world.**