

NEW YEARS SUNDAY 2023 DEUTERONOMY 31:1-8 HE WILL GO BEFORE US.

INTRO:

- Let us look back at 2022 we will see the faithfulness of our God.
- In His supply, His grace. (Rom 8:32)
- Have I grown in Christ? Has the image of Christ grown in me, has His image become clearer to both my inner man and my outer man? Do those who know me see Christ clearer, more in focus in my life than a year ago?
- Looking forward we realize our sight is so limited, we can't even see to the end of one day with any certainty. At best we see through a glass dimly.
- My prayer request for you, the church, as we look into 2023 is three fold.
- Tough times are coming for our souls for sure and perhaps the body as well. The Christian is in the cross hairs of the spirit of this age.
- The true Christian and the Christian life is on the rack... he is on trial by the god of this age and his culture.
- 1) That we would grow in Christlikeness as and by applying the word spoken. To ponder in the heart like Mary did and take time, make time early in the week to contemplate and pray about what God has spoken and challenged me about, then commit to applying it to my life... be intentional.
 - Col. 1:28.
 - Col. 3:16, Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
 - Jn. 15:7, If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
- 2) Follow through on your calling in serving the church and one another. To be faithful in all that God has placed me into and given to me to serve Him.
- Whether I am called to be a shepherd, a deacon, a teacher, music team member, a janitor, or one of the support staff.
 - **2 Tim. 2:3-5, 15**
- 3) To deepen and build up your relationship with Christ. Devotional time which includes prayer, reading and contemplation.
- To know Jesus more and more. Being quiet with Him in my secret place.
 - **Phil. 3:8, 10**, Jer. 9:23, 24, Jn. 17:3

THE OVERVIEW:

- After challenging Israel with obedience and life, or disobedience and death, Moses makes his final arrangements with Israel and Joshua before his departure.
- He repeats the promised help of the Lord regarding the conquest of the new land promised to them. VS 3-5, Dt. 7:2, 20:4
- He speaks these things to the nation as a whole in Vs. 1, and particularly to Joshua their new leader personally. (VS. 7)
- Moses having already spoken these things to the nation, now before the nation he addresses Joshua with the same message personally.
- That Joshua would know that the whole nation was instructed and that public announcement and endorsement would greatly encourage him.

- The Lord lets Moses know he could not cross over with the children of Israel. VS. 2 (Numbers 20:12)
- Moses here exhorts Joshua to be strong, courageous thus encouraging him to lead well, even as Paul encouraged Timothy in both first and second Timothy.

THE PROMISE:

- VS. 3; The Lord "thy God" will go over before you, He will destroy, and you will dispossess them. (take it away from them)
- VS. 3; The Lord will go before, (see vs. 6,8)
- He will be with you. (Josh 1:5, 9) (1 Chron. 28:20 David promises the same to his son Solomon.)
- VS. 3, the Lord God, the triune God will go before you this year and He will destroy.
- VS. 5) What has God commanded of you? Unto this the Lord shall give you the victory. (VS. 4, 5)

THE CHALLENGE:

- VS. 6; Be strong, of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid, "for the Lord Thy God He it is that goes with thee. (see vs. 3)
 - Dt. 20:3, 4, And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; ⁴ for the LORD your God *is* He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'
- VS. 6, be strong in Him as it is the Lord who will go before us and with us.
- He will not fail nor forsake us. (Heb. 13:5)

THE TYPE: (parallelism)

- Here we see in type our redemption and victory in Jesus.
- Our Joshua/Jesus shall go over ahead of us, day by day week by week as we travel 2023.
- VS. 7; This Joshua, a type of Christ the Savior shall cause the people to inherit their inheritance.
- Joshua in the sight of the hosts of God's people is set apart for this mission.
- The Father tells the Son, be strong and of good courage for you must go with this people into the land... that is our humiliation, this life of humanity. (Heb. 2:14-18)
- Jesus must take part of flesh and blood that He might win and secure for us the inheritance promised Him and through Him, we share in His inheritance.
- All that the Father has promised to us, we must through Christ inherit. Jesus will cause us to inherit all that was promised. He is Faithful...

- **VS. 7;** so the Lord says to Jesus, Son be strong and of good courage for you must go with this people, both during the days of His flesh and now by the Spirit.
- Jesus by the Holy Spirit leads us into the land, the path that providence leads us, into the will of God.
- The land/life that the Lord has sworn unto us to inherit, be victorious in it and cause us to inherit the land.
- The life path laid out for us, the road God has ordained for us to walk and know that "every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, have victory over, shall be yours. The word becoming flesh.
- In Vs. 3, it first says the Lord Himself crosses over before you, then ant the end is says Joshua himself crosses over before you..They are linked together in type.
- As the Lord fought for Israel, He will fight for us. (Dt. 3:21, 22)
- The Lord delivered the enemy into their hand and so He will do for us.

CONCLUSION:

- Trust Him, lean on Him, cast all your care upon Him, overcome by Him, for He is the one who goes before us.
- He it is Who is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Author and Captain of our salvation.
- But please take notice there was a part for them to do as well.
 - Dt. 20:4 And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; ⁴ for the LORD your God *is* He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'
- He will be with you, He will not leave you or forsake you.
- What shall this year bring? What will come our way? Only God knows
- But remember our God also has ordained our way, and strength for the journey has already been given abundantly through His grace.
 - Ps.37: 23, the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.
 - 2 Cor. 2:14, Rom 8:28
 - Hold on to the faithfulness of God. Mk. 11:22

Love Him, obey Him, cling to Him for He is our life and length of days..

DT. 30:19, 20; I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."