

“Focus on the Finish Line”**Deuteronomy 32.48-52, 34**

Been 2 Mt. Nebo - Moses' finish line. Most people, unless they commit suicide, don't have detailed knowledge of Time & Place of their death.

We Know IS Finish Line in front of us. How press on Hope and Joy?

1. Yearning while Serving

Following Life-Changing Moments Moses: 10 Plagues/ Bush/ Mt Sinai

Template/Eternity “I am that I am” Not Hope to Be, Will Be, Forever IS

Exodus 24:9 Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. 11 And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank...15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 24.11 “they saw God, and they ate and drank”

Ex 33.20 “no one may see me & live” What does it mean to SEE GOD??

Rabbis: ‘they saw the GLORY of God’

Translators: ‘they saw the PLACE where God was’

Medieval school Moses Maimonides “intellectual perception, in no way a real perceiving with the eye”

PROBLEM > Text is Perfectly CLEAR > ‘they SAW God’

Actually Hebrew word STRONG > BEHELD God

“they fixed their intense gaze on God”

Jesus: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” Matthew 5.8

Bible NOT say Details of God – No Description of Sight

24.10 “under his feet something like a pavement made of sapphire”

PERHAPS they were Too Overwhelmed to Lift their Heads

Fell on their Faces in Worship > SAW the Pavement Only

OR Perhaps they were UNDER the Pavement, looking UP

HE was High and Lifted Up far BEYOND Them

Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. Ezekiel 1.22

Whatever they saw, the Lord smiled upon them! 24.11 “God did not raise his hand against them”

Other Ancient Peoples OFTEN tried DEPICT their gods: Pictures, Statues, Carvings, Images

2nd Commandment – No IMAGE: “God is UNCONTAINABLE”

No IMAGE, No IMAGINATION could Adequately Capture God

People: “If I could SEE God, then I would Believe”

God: “WHEN you Believe, THEN you will See!”

God does NOT Flaunt Himself for Looky Loos to Speculate

Apologize in Advance > Sound like SNOB > “Seen beaches in Hawaii, nothing else compares” – CA, FL, Goa, Mombasa, Thailand, VN, Crete

ALL Good Beauty Everywhere – Hawaii set the BAR Too High for Me!

Once meet God face to face on Mtn – Life thru Wilderness falls short

Yearning – Knowing we are heading to Eternal Perfection while we live in this Temporal Mess

Face shines along Journey > People angry to See our Glow > “Cover it!”

Kid played Bball on street w friends CA > Waiting for Mom to yell “Dinner time!”

40 yrs Leading Million disrespectful Chumps: Ready see God face to face

Promised Land held little fascination compared to Throne Room of God

“Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope” Hebrews 3.5,6

Once meet God face to face on Mtn – Life thru Wilderness falls short

MLK Jr. Memphis, TN on April 3, 1968 — Night before Died: the day before he was assassinated “Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

2 Resting in Grace

4th Comm. Sabbath > Rest – 1) Nothing we can do to please God

Hebrews 4: Ultimate Sabbath REST Finished Work of Jesus our Savior

2) Worship: Weekly Rhythm, Inspire Yearning, Strengthens our Serving

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest Hebrews 4.1-3

Sabbath weekly FORETASTE of Full, Forever REST in God

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends...for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15.13,14a,15b

Friend of God ‘everything I learned from my Father I’ve made known 2 U

Friendship Secured by Sacrifice / 1 Day we will worship ‘face to face’

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13.12

Moses spent forty years in Pharaoh’s court thinking he was somebody, forty years in the desert learning that he was nobody, and forty years showing what God can do with a somebody who found out he was a nobody.” D.L. Moody

Hawaii to Promised Land > Not First Time > Mission Link btwn HI & PL

Early 1800’s 2 Mission Teams sent from Park Street Church in Boston

1816 500 worshippers sent Levi Parsons team > Turkish/Jerusalem

DREAM > Conversion of ISRAEL would hasten the 2nd Coming of Jesus

Sereno Dwight, pastor Park Street, wrote: “It is an interesting fact that the first mission to Jerusalem and Palestine should have been established by the American Church. America is the only Christian nation which has never persecuted the descendants of Israel. It was proper, therefore, that she should have the honor of leading the way in their ultimate restoration to the land of their fathers. That land is associated with all that is dear to our feelings, or animating to our hopes.”

1819 Levi’s classmate Middlebury College VT – Hiram Bingham + 20

Departed from Park Street in opposite direction > Reach Ends of the Earth

Levi & Hiram also shared Sybil Moseley – devout Xtian, called Missions

Engaged to LEVI > told by M Org no wives could be taken to Jerusalem

Met Hiram > 1 Night Decide Marry > Go to Sandwich Islands FOREVER

1821 Levi Parsons – with Diplomatic Passport signed Prez James Monroe

Joined pilgrims into Jerusalem “Without a moments delay I hastened thither, to unite with professed followers of Christ upon Mount Calvary, and to render thanks to God for the happy termination of my voyage to the holy city”

Levi worked hard preaching Gospel, distributing Scriptures, eating unfamiliar food, drinking foul water, exposed to strange diseases > Died Feb 1822 Alexandria

Dec 31, 1822 Hiram & Sybil 2nd yr Oahu/ 1st Child: Levi Parsons Bingham

Letter to family in New England announced Birth & Death “The little Levi Parsons Bingham, at the age of 16 days, passed away suddenly, as did the dear missionary in Alexandria whose name he was expected to bear”

After 2 yrs of trying figure out M’s > Death of Baby Levi opened Hearts

Broken hearts beneath black waist coats, long necked bonnets, stiff ways

Hawaiians touched by Tears AND Hope of the Missionaries

Week later half-sister of King & Queen died > Hiram wrote: “they asked us to conduct funeral services for their child in the same manner as Levi ‘that the soul of the child might go up to heaven’ ...as strangers and sojourners with the people, we felt the affecting necessity of asking the rulers of the land the possession of a burying place with them, that we might bury our dead...a burying place near the church was granted and marked out, and the first grave was opened for our tender infant. How affecting to look upon this spot...as the receptacle of the mission family. Here probably, many of us, and our children, will slumber till the resurrection morning.”

3 Dying in Hope

Deuteronomy 32.48 That very day the Lord spoke to Moses, 49 “Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel for a possession. 50 And die on the mountain which you go up, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died in Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, 51 because you broke faith with me in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel. 52 For you shall see the land before you, but you shall not go there, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel.”

Deuteronomy 32.48-52

my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Numbers 12.7,8

Toured BERLIN > Told by Guide > Hitler buried in Secret Place

So SKIN-HEADS never make SHRINE out of GRAVESITE

Not know where MOSES buried > Bones Not Needed to Meet Face to Face with the Living God in Jesus Christ

Deuteronomy 34. 4 And the Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” 5 So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, 6 and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. 7 Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated...9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. 10 And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, 11 none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, 12 and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

32.50 IMPERATIVE Command //“Go up to your room and die”

34.7 Moses NOT Die Old Age: “eye undimmed & his vigor unabated”

Top of Mtn > God rehearses His faithfulness > Promised Land

Look Backward > v. 4 Abe, Isaac, Jacob PROMISE 400 years

International Famine / Slavery / Power of Pharaoh / Attacks / Plagues

40 yrs in Wilderness / Battles w/ Neighbor Nations / Desert Heat

NOTHING would keep God from FULFILLING His PROMISE

“Do not let your happiness depend on something you may lose!” C. S. Lewis

Look Forward > God shows He’s Promise Keeper for Covenant People

SYMBOL: Law is “holy, righteous, good” Romans 7.12

Cannot LEAD into Promised Land: Joshua: Yeshua = “Yahweh saves!”

Same NAME in NEW Testament GREEK is JESUS > God is SAVIOR!

Old QB retiring but New Kid has hopeful name “I will lead us to victory in Superbowl!”

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Hebrews 4.8-10

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
2 Corinthians 1.20

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1.17

40 yrs Yearning: Now, you'll see MY Face, Behold GOD in Face of X

Hope of all Godly Israel "God lift up His face upon you" - The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Numbers 6

Death becomes Doorway: Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
John 5.24

Moses up Mt Nebo like Isaac laid down on Father Abraham's altar

Moses NOT dying on Mt. Nebo is like telling a kid with their Learner's Permit they will never get their Driver's License.

Actor who attended all pre-play rehearsals but never allowed to shine under bright lights of the big stage.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4.6

it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"
1 Corinthians 2.9

Big Meet-Up – Jesus, Peter, James, John, Elijah, Moses: God Father gave Final Benediction: As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" 36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. Luke 9.34-36

Prayer inspired by memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero, killed while leading worship in San Salvador... "It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work...this enables us to do something, and do it very well. It may be incomplete but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest..."

Scriptures for Communion:

Isaiah 63.7 I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. 8 For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. 9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. 10 But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. 11 Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, 12 who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, 13 who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. 14 Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Isaiah 63.7-14

Hebrews 8:5 For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” 6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. 8 For he finds fault with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel ... 13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 8.5-13

Hebrews 10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.... 11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10.1-4,11-14