

Lessons Learned on the Journey
God's Abiding Presence
The Pillar of Cloud and Fire
Exodus 13: 17-22; Numbers 9:15-23

Introduction

We have been studying Israel's journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. Today we'll look at Exodus chapter 13 and learn about God's abiding presence pictured for us in the pillar of cloud and fire.

Israel's deliverance from the bondage of Egypt represents our own deliverance from the bondage of _____.

The Bible pictures _____ as sin.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread symbolizes a life without sin lived in sincerity and _____.

The Christian life is a call to a life of _____.

Not only are we to get rid of the leaven in our lives, we are also to do no _____ work. We are saved by grace through faith. And then we continue to live our Christian lives by grace through faith.

I. God's Abiding Presence Guides Us.

Who was Israel's guide? _____! He appeared to them as the Pillar of Cloud and Fire.

Succoth means _____, it was reached at the close of the first day's march.

God chose not to take the most direct route to the Promised Land because he didn't want the people to have to deal with the fear of facing a war with the Philistines and the panic that might make them want to return to Egypt. Israel was simply a large people group that had just been freed from 400 years of

bondage to the Egyptians. They were very well acquainted with slavery and knew what happened to people who were conquered in warfare. So the Lord wisely takes them to the Promised Land a different way.

The children of Israel needed _____ that God was with them on their journey to the Promised Land.

The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night was the symbol of God's abiding presence and the promise of his divine _____.

One of the first lessons we learn from this passage is that the _____ way is not always the surest way.

Sometimes God has us take a detour for our own learning and instruction.

It was also an opportunity for them to learn some things about _____. We all need to learn the difference between our natural responses vs a proper faith response.

II. God's Abiding Presence Protects Us.

The next encounter with this pillar of cloud is when God instructs Moses to raise his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea and _____ the waters of the Red Sea for the Israelites to escape Pharaoh and his army as they pursued the Israelites.

During the last watch or what was often called the "_____ watch of the night", sometime between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into _____.

The pillar of cloud and fire gave the Israelites a feeling of _____ that God was watching over them.

As long as Israel trusted in the Lord, God _____ them.

In Isaiah 52 the prophet told Israel, "For the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rear _____." Isaiah 52: 12.

According to the Apostle Paul, as the people of God, we have the protection of the "_____ of God" (Ephesians 6: 10-18).

This passage for our theme for 2018 is, "Strong in the Lord". In Ephesians 6: 10 Paul writes, "Finally, my brethren, be _____ in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

As long as Israel put their trust in God, the Lord was their _____.

Any person, family, or nation that puts their faith in God will live under His divine _____.

III. God's Abiding Presence Covers Us

When you are committed to following the Lord, God's got you _____! Isaiah 4:5-6.

God's wisdom will not lead us where his _____ cannot keep us." Faith can firmly trust in God, come what may!

The pillar represented the _____ presence of God. It guided Israel all the way to the Promised Land.

What is our pillar of cloud and fire? _____

Every believer has the Holy Spirit _____ them.

The usual resting place of the cloud was over the Most Holy Place in Israel's tabernacle. The tabernacle of the New Testament is our _____.

God's abiding presence now dwells within us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

We must learn to _____ when God tells us to move.

The direction of their lives was determined by God. It was divine direction.

Lesson number two is, _____ when God tells you to stay. They tarried when the cloud tarried.

The third lesson is even deeper. They _____ as long as the cloud tarried. Their advice, "Don't move unless God tells you to move.

Followers need _____. They can't follow without it! We are the modern day followers of God.

Their plan was to follow God's _____.

Our responsibility is to follow the guidance of the _____ and receive the promise of the Father.

When we start making plans of our own, we begin to rely upon our human reasoning instead of divine _____.

When Israel grew impatient, they came up with plans of their own which were always _____.

To be led of the Spirit means you have chosen to _____ the Spirit because the Holy Spirit's ministry is a ministry of leadership.

The Holy Spirit resides over the tabernacle of our heart. He is here to guides us into all truth.