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The Most Exciting Verse in the Bible

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by H.L. Willmington

The Most Exciting Verse in the Bible

BIBLE STUDY

There are 31,173 verses in the Word of God. Sometime back I prepared a list of what I referred to as the MOST verses. For example, in my mind the MOST proper verse in the Bible is Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," while the MOST important verse would be John 1:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Continuing, the MOST comforting verse is Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." The MOST tragic verse is Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" and, last on my list, the MOST frightening verse is Revelation 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

But taken in its proper context, I chose Joshua 1:11 as the MOST exciting verse in all the Bible! Here is what it says: "Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it."

These are the words of Joshua to the nation Israel as they stood on the eastern bank of the Jordan River, overlooking the Promised Land. In order to paint the proper background, it is necessary to relate a few historical facts. It all started around 1525 B.C. in the land of Egypt. A young Jewish mother from the tribe of Levi had just delivered her third and final child, a boy. At his birth, however, there had gone out a decree from the ruling Pharaoh that all male Hebrew babies were to be drowned. For a while the desperate parents hid the tiny babe. Then, after three months they realized

their secret could no longer be concealed. So with breaking hearts, the parents set the infant afloat in a little ark on the Nile River. In the marvelous providence of God the babe was found by Pharaoh's daughter. After deciding to raise him, she personally called him by a name which would forever remind her of those circumstances involved in their first meeting. The name selected was "he who has been drawn out of the water," or Moses.

Moses spent 40 years in Egypt. Then, following a manslaughter charge, Moses left Egypt and took refuge in the Sinai Desert. There he lived the next 40 years of his life and doubtless would have eventually died there had it not been for a traumatic event that occurred on his 80th birthday. At that time God spoke from a burning bush and ordered him back to Egypt to free Israel from slavery. A reluctant Moses, accompanied by his older brother, Aaron, finally departed for Egypt. But their demand for Israel's release was met with scorn and refusal by Pharaoh. After 10 divine plagues upon Egypt, the wicked king reversed his policy and allowed the people of God to leave. They departed for a trip that, under normal circumstances, should have taken but two months. However, because of their sin and rebellion against God, that historical journey from Egypt to Canaan lasted 40 long years!

Finally, in 1405 B.C. a new Israeli generation found itself on the east bank of the river Jordan. Moses had just died. It was at this time that Joshua, Moses' successor, spoke the words that comprise the MOST exciting verse in the Bible. Think of it: In just three short days Israel would experience under Joshua the event that Moses had been unable to accomplish during 40 weary years—they would enter Canaan. But with the excitement a ma-

ior problem soon became apparent. The Jordan River, swollen and angrily overflowing its banks, had to be crossed. Here were some two million people with no boats or bridges in sight. But no matter!

Following God's command, the priests stepped out on the fast-moving river as if onto solid ground. When the soles of their feet hit the water, the miracle occurred—the Jordan River was parted, allowing Israel to move across on dry ground!

This then, is the story of Scripture's MOST exciting verse. What can we learn from it? Paul tells us that these details, along with all other Old Testament occurrences, were "written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Cor. 10:11). The following are but two of the many practical lessons we may rightfully apply to our own lives in the twentieth century.

First, it is often God's will in bringing His people out of Egypt (a type of the unsaved world) into Canaan (a type of the overcoming life) to lead them at times through wilderness experiences. These can include financial problems, job pressures, family heartaches, physical sufferings, and so forth. But it is *never* God's will for His child to wander aimlessly in these wilderness areas. In other words, the wilderness experiences of Israel were a part of God's perfect will for that nation, but *not the wanderings!*

So it is with our lives. He desires not to keep us from, but to lead us through, our wilderness times.

Second, if we but obey Him, God will get us where He wants us to be, even if He has to work miracles! He rolled the waters of the Red Sea back to bring His people out of Egypt, and parted the waters of the Jordan to lead His people into Canaan!

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