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The Most Exciting Verse in the Bible

Harold Willmington Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

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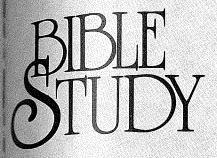
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here are 31,173 verses in the Word of God. Sometime back I prepared a list of what I Keane's statement eferred to as the MOST verses. For ex-rt the process. I think mple, in my mind the MOST proher body." The service 1 and verse in the Bible is Genesis 1:1, vice and falls into the in the beginning God created the waven and the earth," while the ering is a reality today MOST important verse would be John with time. It is quiet, Fig. "For God so loved the world, that such as did the sexual se gave his only begotten Son, that infronted with having hosoever believeth in him should not r consider this method letish, but have everlasting life."

ust be made to see the Continuing, the MOST comforting ore it is too late. The verse is Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my ugh surrogate mother [hepherd; I shall not want." The MOST tragic verse is Romans 3:23, CI For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" and, last on my list, he MOST frightening verse is Revelation 20:15, "And whosoever was not ound written in the book of life was ast into the lake of fire."

But taken in its proper context, I hose Joshua 1:11 as the MOST exting verse in all the Bible! Here is what it says: "Pass through the host, and command the people, saving, repare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to no in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess

These are the words of Joshua to the ^{sation} Israel as they stood on the ^{castern} bank of the Jordan River, ^{verlooking} the Promised Land. In ^{itder} to paint the proper background, ¹¹⁵ necessary to relate a few historical ^{acts.} It all started around 1525 B.C. in ^{the land} of Egypt. A young Jewish ^{nother} from the tribe of Levi had just ^{relivered} her third and final child, a ¹⁰Y. At his birth, however, there had ^{20ne} out a decree from the ruling ^{tharaoh} that all male Hebrew babies ^{sere} to be drowned. For a while the ^{desper}ate parents hid the tiny babe. ^{then}, after three months they realized



cealed. 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-



jor 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 exberiences 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! 6.00