

NUM. 10:35-36 “WHENEVER THE ARK WENT OUT.....AND WHEN IT RESTED....”

Num. 10:35 So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: "Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You."

Num. 10:36 And when it rested, he said: "Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel."

The Biblical Setting:

- The nation of Israel have just completed their stay of about a year at Mt. Sinai.
- They have just celebrated their second Passover since leaving Egypt.
- They have been given instructions to make two silver trumpets to sound for commands to go and to gather.
- They have been given the instructions to move from this place. The order of march has also been given. The tribe of Judah (praise) was to lead with the tribe of Dan as the rear guard.
- The reliance upon God's leading and guiding them was well known by the ever present cloud of smoke by day and fire by night. When the cloud moved, they moved. When it stopped, they stopped and stayed until the cloud moved again.
- Now as the advance is being given, we have an interesting account between Moses and Hobab, probably Moses' brother-in-law. (vs. 29-32)
- Moses kindly invites Hobab to go with them, tempting him with the promise that they would be kind to him and Moses puts God's work in for security.
- Typically, as for many unbelievers, Hobab initially refuses, indicating he would rather stay in his world of familiarity than to venture out.
- Moses then asked him to go just to help them in the travels through the wilderness, of which Hobab is so familiar.
- **What an application for us! Have you ever done that with an unbeliever? Come with us because we need you!!!**
- Hobab apparently did go as his name is mentioned again in Judges, chapter 4.
- So they departed, with the ark in their midst! For by it, God did direct their paths.
- We then are given this great prayer of Moses:

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- God wanted Moses to represent Him correctly before His people! **Numbers 10:35**
- *So it was, whenever the ark set out,....* Carried by the Kohathites, Num 10:21,
- *that Moses said*; in prayer (both the Targums of Jonathan and Jerusalem express it). It was a prayer of faith, and prophetic of what would be done, and might serve greatly to encourage and animate the children of Israel in their journeys; for the following prayer was put up not only at this time, but at all times when the ark set forward. So were are told that this was the custom of Moses, at whatsoever time the ark was moved, to pray as follows:
- ***“Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered*** (break; dash to pieces)”**;** Here is his prayer whenever the ark set forward. They were now in a desolate country, but they were marching towards an enemy's country, and their dependence was upon God for success and victory in their wars, as well as for direction and supply in the wilderness. David used this prayer long after (Psa 68:1), ***“Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.”*** ...for David also fought the Lords' battles.

- There are those in the world that are enemies to God, and haters of Him: secret and open enemies; enemies to His truths, His laws, His ordinances, His people.
- The **scattering and defeating of God's enemies is a thing to be earnestly desired**, and believingly expected, by all the Lord's people. This prayer is a prophecy. Those that persist in rebellion against God are hastening towards their own ruin.
- For the scattering and defeating of God's enemies, there needs no more but God's arising. *When God arose to judgment*, the work was soon done, Psa 76:8, Psa 76:9. Christ's rising from the dead scattered His enemies, Psa 68:18.

Num 10:36 And when it rested, he said: "Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel."

- Moses' prayer when the ark rested,
- That God would cause his people to rest. So some read it, "*Return, O Lord, the many thousands of Israel*, return them to their rest again after this fatigue." Thus it is said (Isa 63:14), *The Spirit of the Lord caused him to rest*. Thus he prays that God would give Israel success and victory abroad, and **peace and tranquility at home**.

That God himself would take up His rest among them. So we read it: ***"Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel."***

- "many" – a myriad, ten thousand - so the word is **ten thousand thousands!** Bless the myriad and multiply the thousands of the children of Israel.
- "Perhaps Moses, under a spirit of prophecy, might have a further view, even to the conversion of the Jews in the latter day, when they shall return and seek the true Messiah, and be turned to Him, and when all Israel shall be saved.
- *First*, The **church of God is a great body**; there are many thousands belonging to God's Israel.
- *Secondly*, We **ought in our prayers to concern ourselves for this body**.
- *Thirdly*, The **welfare and happiness of the Israel of God consist in the continual presence of God among them**. Their safety consists not in their numbers, though they are thousands, many thousands, but **in the favor of God, and His gracious return to them and residence with them**.

SUMMARY:

- As Moses, we need to begin every day in prayer -- "*Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.*"
- At the end of every day, we need to pray--Cause us to rest! Take up Your rest within my heart!
- "*Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel.*" (Rev. 22:20b) – "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

- We want to invite the unbelieving “Hobabs” to be saved; to join us in the body of believers. We need them!!! Go over the “Roman Road” with them.
- (Rom. 3:23; 5:6; 6:23; 8:1; 10:8b-10)
- Rom 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
- Rom 5:6 *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*
- Rom 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Rom 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*
- Rom 10:8b **"THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"** (that is, the word of faith which we preach):
- Rom 10:9 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- Rom 10:10 *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**Grace – Michael W. Smith, Martin Smith
(Ephesians 2:4-9)**

I was lost when You found me here/ You pulled me close and held me near/ And I'm a fool but still You love/ I'll be a fool for the King of love/ you gave me wings so I could fly/ Gave me a song to color the sky/ And all I have is all from You/ And all I want is all of You

It's grace, Your grace, I'm nothing without You/ Your grace, Your grace shines on me

And there've been days when I've walked away/ Too much to carry, nothing left to say/ Forgive me, Lord, when I'm weak and lost/ For you traded Heaven for a wooden cross/ And all these years You've carried me/ You've been my eyes when I could not see/ And beauty grows in the driving rain/ Your oil of gladness in the times of pain/ Shines on me, shines on me/ Your grace, it shines on me/ Shines on me, shines on me/ It's Your grace

"At Your Name (Yahweh, Yahweh)"-Phil Wickham

*At Your name The mountains shake and crumble
At Your name The oceans roar and tumble
At Your name Angels will bow
The earth will rejoice/ Your people cry out*

[Chorus:]

*Lord of all the earth/ We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh, Yahweh/ We love to shout Your name, oh Lord*

*At Your name The morning breaks in Glory
At Your name Creation sings Your story
At Your name Angels will bow
The earth will rejoice/ Your people cry out
[Chorus]*

*There is no one like our God/ We will praise you, praise you
There is no one like our God We will sing, we will sing [x3]
[Chorus x2]*