

"PROVISIONS FOR YOUR JOURNEY"
NUMBERS 9:15-23

NU 9:15 ON THE DAY THE TABERNACLE, THE TENT OF THE TESTIMONY, WAS SET UP, THE CLOUD COVERED IT. FROM EVENING TILL MORNING THE CLOUD ABOVE THE TABERNACLE LOOKED LIKE FIRE.

NU 9:16 THAT IS HOW IT CONTINUED TO BE; THE CLOUD COVERED IT, AND AT NIGHT IT LOOKED LIKE FIRE.

NU 9:17 WHENEVER THE CLOUD LIFTED FROM ABOVE THE TENT, THE ISRAELITES SET OUT; WHEREVER THE CLOUD SETTLED, THE ISRAELITES ENCAMPED.

NU 9:18 AT THE LORD'S COMMAND THE ISRAELITES SET OUT, AND AT HIS COMMAND THEY ENCAMPED. AS LONG AS THE CLOUD STAYED OVER THE TABERNACLE, THEY REMAINED IN CAMP.

NU 9:19 WHEN THE CLOUD REMAINED OVER THE TABERNACLE A LONG TIME, THE ISRAELITES OBEYED THE LORD'S ORDER AND DID NOT SET OUT.

NU 9:20 SOMETIMES THE CLOUD WAS OVER THE TABERNACLE ONLY A FEW DAYS; AT THE LORD'S COMMAND THEY WOULD ENCAMP, AND THEN AT HIS COMMAND THEY WOULD SET OUT.

NU 9:21 SOMETIMES THE CLOUD STAYED ONLY FROM EVENING TILL MORNING, AND WHEN IT LIFTED IN THE MORNING, THEY SET OUT. WHETHER BY DAY OR BY NIGHT, WHENEVER THE CLOUD LIFTED, THEY SET OUT.

NU 9:22 WHETHER THE CLOUD STAYED OVER THE TABERNACLE FOR TWO DAYS OR A MONTH OR A YEAR, THE ISRAELITES WOULD REMAIN IN CAMP AND NOT SET OUT; BUT WHEN IT LIFTED, THEY WOULD SET OUT.

NU 9:23 AT THE LORD'S COMMAND THEY ENCAMPED, AND AT THE LORD'S COMMAND THEY SET OUT. THEY OBEYED THE LORD'S ORDER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS COMMAND THROUGH MOSES

A LITTLE BOY AND HIS FATHER ATTENDED CHURCH ONE MORNING. THAT NIGHT THE LITTLE BOY PRAYED, "DEAR GOD, WE HAD A GOOD TIME AT CHURCH THIS MORNING. I SURE WISH YOU HAD BEEN THERE."

IF YOU WERE TO TAKE A LONG TRIP, WHAT WOULD THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS YOU WOULD TAKE WITH YOU?

FROM THE RED SEA GOD'S PEOPLE WERE 40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS BEFORE THEY ENTERED CANAAN.

THAT WOULD BE LIKE HAVING LEFT EGYPT IN 1970, AND JUST NOW ARRIVING AT THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY.

NORMALLY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN 11 DAY JOURNEY. DT

DT 1:2 (IT TAKES ELEVEN DAYS TO GO FROM HOREB TO KADESH BARNEA BY THE MOUNT SEIR ROAD.)

EVEN YET TODAY SOMETIMES DISOBEDIENCE DELAYS GOD'S BLESSINGS AND WE WAIT TOO LONG FOR WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR US. WHAT BLESSINGS ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON BECAUSE OF SIN OR DISOBEDIENCE IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT PROVISIONS DID GOD GIVE THEM

1. FIRST, HE GAVE THEM MANNA - FOOD

EX 16:35 "THE ISRAELITES ATE MANNA FORTY YEARS, UNTIL THEY CAME TO A LAND THAT WAS SETTLED;" (EXCEPT THE SABBATH)

MY DOG MAGGIE EATS THE SAME FOOD EVERY DAY. I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT IT MUST BE VERY BORING.

WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST? MANNA LUNCH? MANNA. WHAT'S FOR SUPPER? MANNA – WHAT'S FOR A SNACK? MANNA.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR EACH MEAL? GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH MANY VARIETIES OF FOOD. WE ARE SO BLESSED. BUT, NEVERTHELESS, GOD DID FAITHFULLY FEED THEM MANNA FOR 40 LONG YEARS.

2. SECOND, GOD PROVIDED THE TABERNACLE – BASICALLY IT WAS A \$10 MILLION TENT,

EX 25:1 THE LORD SAID TO MOSES,

EX 25:2 "TELL THE PEOPLE TO BRING ME AN OFFERING.

EX 25:4 BLUE, PURPLE AND SCARLET YARN AND FINE LINEN; GOATS HAIR;

EX 25:5 RAM SKINS DYED RED AND HIDES OF SEA COWS; ACACIA WOOD;

6 OLIVE OIL; SPICES; ONYX STONES AND OTHER GEMS -.

EX 25:8 "MAKE A SANCTUARY FOR ME, I WILL DWELL AMONG THEM.

EX 25:9 MAKE THIS EXACTLY LIKE - I WILL SHOW YOU

EX 40:17 SO THE TABERNACLE WAS SET UP ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH IN THE SECOND YEAR. ((1 YEAR FROM WHEN THEY LEFT EGYPT)

EX 25:8 "THEN HAVE THEM MAKE A SANCTUARY FOR ME, AND I WILL DWELL AMONG THEM.

THIS (TENT) THE TABERNACLE AND EVERYTHING IN IT WAS GOD'S PRESENCE WITH THEM.

THIS TABERNACLE SERVED AS GOD'S PRESENCE FOR 300 YEARS UNTIL SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

3. THIRD GOD PROVIDED A CLOUD

NU 9:15 ON THE DAY THE TABERNACLE, THE TENT OF THE TESTIMONY, WAS SET UP, THE CLOUD COVERED IT. FROM EVENING TILL MORNING THE CLOUD ABOVE THE TABERNACLE LOOKED LIKE FIRE.

IT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME GOD USED A CLOUD. REMEMBER THE FIRST RAINBOW?

GOD HAD SAID IN *GENESIS 9:13 I HAVE SET MY RAINBOW IN THE CLOUDS.*

DO YOU ALSO REMEMBER WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE FLED EGYPT?

EX 13:21 TELLS US, *"BY DAY THE LORD WENT AHEAD OF THEM IN A PILLAR OF CLOUD"*

THE LORD OFTEN SPOKE TO MOSES IN A CLOUD

EX 40:35 MOSES COULD NOT ENTER THE TENT OF MEETING BECAUSE THE CLOUD HAD SETTLED UPON IT, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD FILLED THE TABERNACLE.

THIS CLOUD WAS EVER PRESENT AT THE TABERNACLE.

NU 9:20 SOMETIMES THE CLOUD WAS OVER THE TABERNACLE ONLY A FEW DAYS;

NU 9:21 SOMETIMES THE CLOUD STAYED ONLY FROM EVENING TILL MORNING

A- * THE CLOUD WAS UNPREDICTABLE.

SOMETIMES, GOD IS UNPREDICTABLE. WE NEVER KNOW WHAT HE WILL DO NEXT, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT WHATEVER HE DOES IS ALWAYS FOR OUR OWN GOOD

B- THE CLOUD WAS GOD'S WAY OF LEADING THEM

NU 9:21 "- WHEN IT LIFTED IN THE MORNING, THEY SET OUT. WHETHER BY DAY OR BY NIGHT, WHENEVER THE CLOUD LIFTED, THEY SET OUT."

C- THE CLOUD WAS A FIRE AT NIGHT

NU 9:15 ON THE DAY THE TABERNACLE - WAS SET UP, THE CLOUD COVERED IT. FROM EVENING TILL MORNING THE CLOUD ABOVE THE TABERNACLE LOOKED LIKE FIRE.

AS FIRE, IT WOULD LIGHT THE WAY AND PROTECT THEM.

REMEMBER PHARAOH? *EX 14:20 "COMING BETWEEN THE ARMIES OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT THE CLOUD BROUGHT DARKNESS TO THE ONE SIDE AND LIGHT TO THE OTHER SIDE; SO NEITHER WENT NEAR THE OTHER ALL NIGHT LONG."*

GOD SAID CONCERNING HIS CHURCH AS A VINEYARD IN *ISAIAH 27:3 "I, "THE LORD, WATCH OVER IT; I WATER IT CONTINUALLY. I GUARD IT DAY AND NIGHT SO THAT NO ONE MAY HARM IT."*

EX 40:38 SO THE CLOUD OF THE LORD WAS OVER THE TABERNACLE BY DAY, AND FIRE WAS IN THE CLOUD BY NIGHT - DURING ALL THEIR TRAVELS."

WE ARE ON A JOURNEY IN OUR LIVES AND GOD HAS PROMISED,

JN 14:16 AND I WILL ASK THE FATHER, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COUNSELOR TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER—

JN 16:13 BUT WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, COMES, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH.

AS GOD WAS WITH THE HIS PEOPLE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, SO HE HAS PROMISED OVER AND OVER THAT HE WOULD BE WITH US, HE WILL GUIDE US AND HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE US ALONE.

IN ALL YOUR LIFE, IN ALL YOUR DIFFICULTIES HE IS THERE. HE WILL GUIDE YOU IF YOU COMMIT YOURSELF TO HIM. TRUST HIM AND SEEK HIS WISDOM FOR YOUR DECISIONS FOR EACH DAY.

MAY HE RICHLY BLESS YOU TODAY AND EACH DAY.