

LWML *Texas* District

February 2024

Bible Study

Where Are We Going?

The cold of February has many of us dreaming of warmer weather and summer trips. Spring break is often a time when people are excited to head south to a beach somewhere to escape the cold, snow, or dreary days at home. Yet, the plans for those spring and summer trips are often made ahead of time during the gray days of early February. Many years ago, a group of students from Concordia University in Austin, headed north to St. Louis to visit friends at Concordia Seminary. Much to the shock of the young coeds, it was cold and snowed in Missouri that week. The snow was not the thing postcards show or is sung about in songs. It only made things wet and more drab. It made complete sense to those young coeds why people fled to warmer climates in mid-March.

There are quite a few journeys taken throughout the Bible, some of which have very hopeful conclusions, others not so much. One of the first journeys recorded in the Bible is that of Cain. Read Genesis 4:1–16.

Why does Cain go on a journey? Was he excited about the prospect of traveling to a new place? Where did he think his journey would lead him? Eventually, he settles in the land of Nod, marries and has children. There is an end to his journey. Sadly, what do verses 23–24 tell us about his descendants?

Genesis 6:9–22 is about a different kind of journey. How is Noah described in verse 9? How is the earth described? God gives instructions to Noah. What is Noah's response? How is his response to God different than Cain's in Genesis 4? How are their journeys similar? How are they dramatically different?

Genesis 12:1–5 describes the call and beginning of yet another journey. Who does this journey pertain to? Where will they be going? How would you react if you were called in this way?

There are blessings included in verses 2 and 3. They are quite significant. We count this as the beginning of God's chosen people. The founding of the Jewish religion.

Abram's call is clear, however, the location of destination is unclear. As we continue throughout the Old Testament, we see on more than one occasion the final destination is not completely clear. Moses leads his people out of Egypt toward the promised land, but the journey is forty years long and quite serpentine in route. The Israelites learn quite a bit along the way. In fact, they receive the remainder of the Torah while on the journey.

In Joshua 1:1–8, Joshua has been given charge of the Israelites as they enter the promised land. His journey is very different from his predecessor, Moses. What are the promises given to Joshua? What does God command of him and the Israelite people? How can we apply these same commands and promises to our own lives?

Jesus' life is a stark contrast to that of the other sojourners we have discussed. He knew what His journey would look like. He knew exactly where it would end and how difficult it would be along the way. A minimum of three times Jesus predicts His own death in the book of Mark alone. His disciples failed to understand. The three predictions in Mark are 8:31, 9:30–31, and 10:33–34. Why do you think they couldn't understand what Jesus was saying? How do these passages relate to one another? What are the differences?

John 14:28 makes it quite clear that Jesus knew His ultimate destination. Where was He going? Another great verse which describes His destination is John 14:2–4.

The Christian life is a unique journey for each believer with a shared destination. What has your journey been about? Where has God called you to go? Where has He led you before? If you were to write down your experiences to teach future generations, what would be some sage advice you could give?

We seem to blend the Old and New Testament experiences when we consider our journey. Jesus has given us some great insights into what our eternal home in God's new creation will be like. Even if we do not know every location along the way on this journey, we can be certain our faith in Christ Jesus will ultimately lead us home with Him.

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