

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

NOW, THEREFORE, ARISE

Text: "Moses my servant is dead; Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel." Josh. 1:2.

The man who lives with God face to face can be certain his life will have future value. "Moses my servant is dead," said God. His stalwart form would never be at the head of his people again, his voice never ring through the tents and echo from the precipitous stone of the mountains. "Moses my servant is dead." His power of prophecy would go on in the hearts of the people, his influence go out to the ends of the earth, but his physical life, his day-to-day leadership, was no more.



Rev. D.M. Clark

How true it is that the only time we possess is "now"!

We think of God as belonging to the past. His unfolding revelation belongs to history. We can rest our weary minds on the way God has guided us, never so firmly as when we least expected it. We look forward to greater blessings from the hand of God. Our vision is an incentive, our dream a provocation.

Looking back and looking forward! Both have great truths in them, but "now" is the essential truth. The Bible from cover to cover is a "now" book. As it unfolds, we feel the power and might of God in every situation. God is the great contemporary of man.

It is out of the "now" that feelings of compulsion and a sense of authority come. When we seek to do the will of God in our present situation there is always a "therefore" after the "now".

"Therefore" means that there is a purpose in all events: cause, effect, and end are in beginning, growing, learning, and maturing.

Far too many people today have lost sight of "therefore". They see life only as a gamble with luck as the cheeky goddess. They fight shy of the discipline of the well-regulated pattern. What they do not like they call drudgery, and what they like they call pleasure. They deny themselves the whole realm of joy, the fruits of the spirit.

If we choose to accept God's "therefore" we should do it with our eyes wide open. There are the broad fields and the wide roads of looking after yourself. But Jesus calls us to something more worthwhile, and more restrictive: A way of life with truth shining in it. He warns us it will be difficult, and cautions us against expecting too much, but bids us "enter the narrow gate" because it is the way of life.

When God was speaking to Joshua he told him to arise and cross the river Jordan, to take the people with him into the land which God was marking out for them. This needed some courage; it was no small thing for this young man to take the place of Moses.

Joshua was prepared, but even then he needed courage to face the people. They were not a very obedient crowd; they had a rebellious spirit, and they relied upon this leader to keep them in touch with God. So after the "therefore", the logic of events, there comes an imperative -- Arise!

No more argument, no more reflection; the time has come for action. Strike the tents, gather the people together; here in front of the Jordan, beyond is the new country and the new life, "Arise, let us go!"

We all have our Jordans, and oftentimes we make the mistake of thinking we can cross them by talking. There is a time for speech, for debate, but now comes the time for action. How easy it is to argue when the great need is for decisive movement!

We who are the Joshuas of the present day cannot ever have the genius of leadership and prophetic gifts of Moses, but God promises to be with us, to guide and encourage us.

This is good news for the present generation,

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AT OUR CHURCHES

DEADline for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560.

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Rev. C.L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. M. Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
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1209 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

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Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
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101 N. "A" St., Las Vegas

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Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas

WORLD FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Lily Grey
429 Van Buren St., Las Vegas

for the people who feel some of the romance has gone out of life; for those whose level of ability will always be "not so good as". Here is a challenge and a promise. There is a job of leadership to be done, a battle to be fought, a kingdom won.

To Joshua, the battle which awaited him was a savage warfare, and the kingdom one which could be achieved only by the dispossession of people. To us the conflict is with the powers of the world, but we also have our orders and our promises.

In Christ's name we go forward to establish the Realm of God, that Kingdom for which we pray after we have hallowed the Name; the Kingdom of the Heavenly Will.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
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1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
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PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

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Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - *Young People
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - YPW
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship

*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

Rev. Simmons at Conclave

REV. J.L. SIMMONS, pastor of St. James Baptist Church, and Mrs. Alexander are enjoying a well-earned vacation in the mid-west. Rev. Simmons, who is Grand Master of the AFAM in Nevada, is representing the state at the general conclave of the Masonic order at Cleveland, Ohio.

THEOLOGIAN RAPS BARRY

NEW YORK -- Churchmen of all faiths have been urged by an influential Protestant publication to reject the presidential ambition of Sen. Barry Goldwater, the Republican nominee.

"Sen. Goldwater's oft expressed views are diametrically opposed not only to everything for which we have stood editorially but to everything for which America's three faiths stand in respect to international relations, civil rights and economic policy," the bi-weekly Christianity and Crisis said in an editorial.

The publication, "A Christian journal of opinion," is edited by Reinhold Niebuhr, the theologian, and John C. Bennett, president of Union Theological Seminary. The editorial noted that this was the first time Christianity and Crisis had taken an official stand in a U.S. Presidential election. It has a small circulation but considerable influence among U.S. Protestants.

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