

Majority Rule and the Crossing of the Jordan

By
David Fawkes, January 10, 2014



The opening of Parliament – February, 1967 (courtesy of The Tribune)

And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho. ^{4:20} And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. ^{4:21} And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? ^{4:22} Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. ^{4:23} For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: ^{4:24} That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever." (Joshua 4:19-24 KJV)

Do you remember the story of the Israelites who were travelling in the wilderness? Do you remember that it took them forty years to reach the Promised Land? But before they could reach the Promised Land, they had to cross The River Jordan.

How were they going to cross the River Jordan whose banks during the harvest season were overflowing? Well they had to have faith to attempt such a move. God told them that he would stop the river and hold it in place as though there were an invisible wall. And that is exactly what he did. When the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water, it piled up to one side and the priests and the people were able to pass by.

There are a number of spiritual and numerical parallels that can be drawn between Majority Rule and the Israelites crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promise Land.

Did you know:

1. That the Israelites crossed over into Jordan on the tenth day of the first month which is also our Majority Rule Day?
2. That there were eleven ministers appointed and when we include the Prime Minister this gives us a total number of twelve persons in the first Majority Rule Cabinet – twelve being the same number as in the twelve tribes of Israel.
3. Israel was instructed to memorialize the passing into The Promise Land with the gathering of stones. We as a Bahamian people have also commemorated Majority Rule with a national holiday.

Once freedom from tyranny and oppression has been attained though, we as citizens must realize that with this new dispensation comes responsibility and discipline. Without these, we will lose the freedoms that were given to us and once again we will become enslaved.

Joshua warned the Israelites to be *“sure that you carefully obey everything written in The Book of the Law of Moses and do exactly what it says. Don’t have anything to do with the nations that live around you. Don’t worship their gods or pray to their idols or make promises in the names of their gods. Be as faithful to the LORD as you have always been.”* Joshua 23:6-8

When our founding fathers fought against the tyranny of injustice and oppression in the fifties and sixties, they sought a better way of life for their children and for generations yet unborn. With the attaining of Majority Rule, there was the hope of a dawning of a new day. A day when everyone would be on equal footing before the bar of justice and the wretched barriers of hatred and prejudice along with the indignities of pitifully low wages would be eradicated.

There are consequences though when we take the miraculous crossing of Jordan lightly and think lightly of what it is that God did for us. Remember how Jericho fell when people worshipped God with a clean heart. But in turn we must also remember how Joshua's men fell at Ai when Achan stole the possessions of Ai.

Responsibilities of Majority Rule and the Attainment of The Promise Land

If we as a people fail to appreciate the true meaning of the miraculous journey from Egypt to Canaan Land, then we will be plagued with crime, foreign domination, lost generations, illiteracy, higher taxation, illegal gambling, family disintegration, unhappiness and most importantly the loss of hope for generations to come.

In the end the Promise Land will grow dim, and over generations, the land which was promised to our Fathers by God will be taken from us and we will find ourselves enslaved yet again, albeit to new masters. These masters, who maybe unrecognized, are amongst us even as we celebrate this glorious day.

In the run up to the 1956 elections, Sir Randol in his election campaign discussed the possibility of the loss of the Promise Land in his speech "Wanted: 29 MEN". The entire speech is found in Chapter 6 of the Faith that Moved the Mountain.

Sir Randol warned the people about the twin evils of compromise and corruption. He stated, "We need men who dare to shout, 'No!' to the dictator's demand for his vote. Tell him that you don't want his five pounds or sack of flour. Tell him that you are fed up with the lecherous activities of the corrupt syndicate.

"If you accept the five pounds or sack of flour in exchange for your vote, soon the trumpet will blow and you will shout, 'Which way is the Promised Land?'

"And the mocking voice of tyranny will reply, 'You've had it brother. You've had it.' Then you will realize the extent of your folly.

Accompanying Majority Rule must be a recommitment to upholding godly principles. At the end of chapter eleven, Sir Randol referred to the Ten Commandments as the greatest Declaration of Human Rights, Natural Justice and Fundamental Freedoms.

May this national holiday give us cause to reflect on the true and honest status of the nation.



David Fawkes and Sheleta Collie read an original copy of a 1958 edition of "The Workers' Voice".