



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22
- John 20:21-21:14
- Matthew 28:18-20

ANTI-DISCOMBOBULATED

- It's Go-time: Old Testament
- It's Go-time: New Testament
- It's Go-time: Now Testament

It's the elephant in the room, so let's first stop pretending and settle the issue. "I didn't know" is not the reason. It's not a viable excuse. Okay, now that we have that out of the way, we can get down to business. His voice is loud and clear, no interpretation necessary. And His instructions are straightforward and unambiguous; nothing to clarify. Now, the only question remaining is, "Will you go?"

There is probably no more challenging directive in the Bible than the one that instructs the hearer to "Go!" That type of command can be very destabilizing. Comfort zones are comfortable for a reason. It's like a mother's warm and confined womb. A child floats in utter bliss with every provision on automatic. But, birth changes things; birth disrupts things. It's time to leave the comfort zone through the canal of transition. Your mission is to enter a

whole new world, an exciting world, but an uncomfortable one. It's time to go!

Abraham was told to go. Isaac was told to go. Jacob was told to go. Jacob's ten sons were told to go. Moses was told to go. Israel was told to go. David was told to go. Elijah was told to go. The disciples were told to go. Paul was told to go. You also were told to go. Go therefore! What simply remains is your response. Israel went, but opted for the forty year plan. Even after all the proof that Yahweh would provide every step of the way, they chose the round about route. The disciples went at first and saw miraculous things; after witnessing the crucifixion they scattered like cockroaches in the light.

After the resurrection, the disciples were again told to go; then they went back to fishing. You also were told to go. It's the elephant in the room, so let's first stop pretending and settle the issue. "You didn't know" is not the reason. You have no viable excuse. And now that we have that out of the way, all you have to do is make a choice. His voice is loud and clear, no interpretation necessary. His instructions are straightforward and unambiguous; nothing to clarify. Go or don't go. But, let's not fool ourselves, "You didn't know" is not the reason.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“**It is eleven days’** journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea. Now it came to pass **in the fortieth year**, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him as commandments to them,” Deuteronomy 1:2-3 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**”” John 20:21 NKJV

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe **all things that I have commanded** you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. Deuteronomy is both the title for the last book of the Torah and the first Torah portion therein. One ancient name for the book of Deuteronomy is Mishnah HaTorah, which means “repetition of the Torah.” This is similar to the Greek Septuagint name

Deuteronomos, which means “second law.” The English name Deuteronomy is obviously derived from Deuteronomos.

2. It is dominated by Moses’ farewell address to the children of Israel as they are assembled on the plains of Moab across the Jordan from Jericho. He urges them to remain faithful to the covenant and prepares them for entering Canaan. During the course of the book, Moses reviews the story of the giving of the Torah at Sinai and the wilderness journey to the Promised Land. He reiterates many of God’s laws and introduces some laws for the first time.
3. Keep in mind that the events being described took place starting shortly after the exodus and throughout their wilderness journey. Now, almost 40 years later, the people are being reminded of their recent history. How often do we need to be reminded of our history with Yahweh!?

Deuteronomy 1

4. **The Previous Command to Enter the Land:** we see that the whole journey from Egypt to the edge of the promised land could have been measured in months not years. We know they left Goshen on Passover and they were to go a three-day’s journey and have a “feast for Yahweh.” We also know they arrived at Mt. Sinai in the third month (with all that happened in between). From Horeb (at Mount Sinai), it was only an eleven

day journey to Kadesh and then onto where they stood in Moab across from the Promised Land, separated only by the Jordan River. This is all had they taken the straight path and not the 40 year route! It's now the first day of the eleventh month 40 years later and Moses begins to remind them of all the major events on their journey and retell the commands given at Mt. Sinai.

5. Back at Sinai, Yahweh told them to take the commands they received and go. *“See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.”* Deuteronomy 1:8 NKJV
6. Yet there is another curious perspective on how Moses words his opening remarks and they are worthy to consider. In verse 1:5 it says *“On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying...”* We know that Deuteronomy is a second telling of the laws (plural) given to Yahweh's chosen people, but also we should consider the law (singular) that verse five points to.
7. *“See, I have set the land before you; **go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.**”* (Deuteronomy 1:8 NKJV) “Go in and take the land” is not a suggestion, but a command, and the purpose of it and the way

it will happen was so important for them as God's people back then, as well as for us as His people right now.

8. **Triable Leaders Appointed:** Moses recounts how Yahweh has multiplied them as "the stars of heaven" (clearly a reference to the promise to Abraham and his obedience!)

(a) *"Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and **count the stars** if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."*

Genesis 15:5 NKJV

(b) *"And I will make your descendants multiply **as the stars of heaven**; I will **give to your descendants all these lands**; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham **obeyed My voice** and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."* Genesis 26:4-5

NKJV

9. Then Moses reminds them of the explosive prophetic declaration he made back then: *"May the LORD God of your fathers make you **a thousand times more** numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you!"* (Deuteronomy 1:11 NKJV) The estimated number of Israelites at that moment was approximately **2.5 to 3 million**. That means he was prophesying that there would be **2.5 to 3 billion** children of God! Presently, how close might we be to that number? How

many Christians have there been if we estimate all those who have become believers throughout history?

10. Moses recalls that because of the massive population he was advised to approve judges (wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men) to help with disputes.
 - (a) Leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers were appointed to impartially handle all cases, except the most difficult ones. Moses will still handle those.
11. **Israel's First Refusal to Enter the Land:** When Israel had its first opportunity to enter, they asked if they could do some reconnaissance of the land beforehand. Moses agreed and they sent 12 men ahead. Of course two of the men (Joshua and Caleb) brought back a good report, and the other ten brought back words that frightened the people, inciting a rebellion. Moses assured them and reminded them all that Yahweh had done thus far, a history of going before them and fighting their battles, even leading them in the exact path they should go by fire and cloud. But it was fruitless. *"Yet, for all that, you did not believe the LORD your God,"* (Deuteronomy 1:32 NKJV)
12. **The Penalty for Israel's Rebellion:** None of you grown-up rebels will see the good land except the two men (Joshua and Caleb) who brought the good word, plus the young (20 and under at

the time) who are innocent. So for now, take a turn and head back into the wilderness (for another 39 years).

13. **The penalty inspires a fear-based repentance:** The people say, “we are sorry, we are ready to fight, we will go fight right now.” Yahweh tells them “**Don’t do it!**” But, in rebellious fashion they presumptuously do it anyway, and get a good old-fashioned whooping!

Deuteronomy 2

14. **The Desert Years:** Yahweh tells the people, as they launched back into the wilderness, to not meddle with the descendants of Esau, that not one footprint’s-worth of their land will be for Israel. You should buy water and food from them and keep going. And remember that I will provide for you every step of the way, while you trudge through this great wilderness. Moses reminds them that indeed they have lacked nothing over these past 40 years. (Remember, this sermon by Moses we call Deuteronomy is taking place as they stand at the edge of the Promised Land 40 years after the exodus.)
15. **Wilderness of Moab:** Again, looking back to when they were told they’d be staying in the wilderness, they were told to not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for Yahweh will not give them any of Moabite land as a possession. They were told that they’d keep wandering the wilderness until all the

adult men, those who would not cross over into the Promised Land when they had their first chance, were dead.

16. Looking back again, they were given intricate details about when they would come upon the people of Ammon. They were ordered to not harass them or meddle with them, for Yahweh would not give them any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because He had given it to the descendants of Lot.
17. In contrast to Moab and Ammon, they were ordered to go to war against Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. They would possess that land and their victory would put the dread and fear of Israel upon the nations. When the nations hear the reports of Israel, they shall tremble and be in anguish.
18. **King Sihon Defeated:** at first, Israel is told to approach Sihon peacefully, asking if they can buy food and water and use his roads. But Yahweh's plan was to harden the king's spirit and make his heart obstinate (like Pharaoh), so that He might deliver him into the hands of Israel. Sihon's ultimate defeat was decisive and Israel moved on with many spoils of war.

Deuteronomy 3

19. **King Og Defeated:** The same happens with Og as he comes out against Israel. The defeat is total and complete. They were utterly destroyed (cities and people). But, Israel took all the livestock and the spoils of the cities as booty.

(a) They took the land from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were on the east side of the Jordan.

20. **The Land East of the Jordan:** Moses recounts the request of the Reubenites, Gadites and half the tribe of Manasseh. They wanted some good land on the east side in which to settle (as they had many livestock and needed an abundance of fertile land). Moses had ruled that as long as they prep with their brothers for the war in the Promised Land, go before them in battle, and fight with them until they had complete victory, then their request is acceptable.

21. **This is how the Reubenites, Gadites and half the tribe of Manasseh were to go about fulfilling their obligations:** All you men of valor shall cross over armed before your brethren, the children of Israel. "Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock (I know that you have much livestock) shall stay in your cities which have been given to you, until the LORD has given rest to your brethren as to you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them beyond the Jordan. Then each of you may return to his possession which I have given you."

22. **The ultimate reminder of how every battle from this time forward will be won!** *"And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has*

done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass. You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.’” Deuteronomy 3:21-22 NKJV

23. The last two year’s teaching on this portion: [Two Swords are Enough, Because You Won’t Even Need One!](#) & [Enough Already!](#)

IT’S GO-TIME: THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. A Faithful God Deserves Faithful People

A. You can trust Yahweh...

- (1) Discombobulated: Confused or Disconnected; Chaos.
 - (a) This is the exact opposite of the condition offered to the Israelites, a state of certainty. Think about the ten plagues (see Exodus 7-12) and every obvious sign that Yahweh was on their side and could be trusted to provide! There was no confusion about that. Let’s say they should have been in an anti-discombobulated state of mind. Then, think about what God did to Pharaoh’s army. First He placed a wall of smoke and fire in their path to halt their advances. Then, He confused them and caused turmoil. They moved in circles while in the

midst of the sea (they were discombobulated). Then, he destroyed them completely!

1. “And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the **pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels,** so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”” Exodus 14:23-25 NKJV
2. “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that **the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.**” And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea **returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians** in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, **and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so**

much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had **walked on dry land** in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Exodus 14:26-29 NKJV

(2) The Original Twist

(a) Go that way not this way...God purposely sent Israel the long way, so they would get backed up against the sea. Then he purposely inspired Pharaoh to send his army after them so He could purposely destroy them! While doing so, He used it all to test the faith of Israel. They failed!

1. “Then it came to pass, **when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;** for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” **So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea.** And the children of Israel **went up** in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.” Exodus 13:17-18 NKJV

2. See: [The Sin that Lead to Death](#)

B. Choices: go or don't go...

(1) Faith or Faithfulness in Action

(a) It is like the moment Israel stood at the shore of the Red Sea and they could not see a way out. It is precisely in these moments, when you cannot see, that your faith comes alive. And that is precisely in those moments that you are most pleasing to God (or not!).

1. “Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen**. ...But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:1, 6
NKJV

(b) The length of time it takes to make the direct trip from Goshen to Canaan, by foot, and with 2.5 to 3 million people in toe, can be argued. You can include the time moving southeast from Goshen to the edge of the Red Sea; you can include that God intended them to arrive at Mt. Sinai (further south) in the third month (50 days) after the Exodus, which took place on the eve between the 14th and 15th day of the first month (Passover). You can include the trek back northeast toward Moab as they approached the east side of the Jordan, opposite the Promised Land (and as you can see that half that journey from Sinai to Kadesh Barnea is only eleven

days). In the end, this first trip took one year to arrive at the shore of the Jordan (see Number 13 & 14)!

1. **“It is eleven days’** journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea.” Deuteronomy 1:2 NKJV

(c) Okay, so they had arrived at the shore the the Jordan the first time one year after the exodus, and we might argue that if they went directly it would have taken 2-3 weeks. But here we are 39 years after that. Israel had taken the very long road in response to the “go command!”

1. “Now it came to pass **in the fortieth year**, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him as commandments to them,” Deuteronomy 1:3 NKJV

(d) Why? What caused them to delay their calling? What causes you to do the same! The simple answer: rebellion and disobedience. The more specific answer: a lack of faith! (*“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”*) What did Yahweh think about it? He was angry. What was the outcome? A lot of people died.

1. “For **who, having heard, rebelled?** Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with

whom was He **angry forty years**? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but **to those who did not obey**? So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief.**" Hebrews 3:16-19 NKJV

(e) Deuteronomy is the "second law" or the second telling of the law. As the people camp on the east side of the Jordan, Moses begins to recount their journey and the commands of Yahweh.

1. "On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, **Moses began to explain this law, saying,**"
Deuteronomy 1:5 NKJV

(f) Don't make the same mistake again. God's got you. He will provide for you and protect you just like He has done in the past. In other words, "Don't lose faith again!"

1. ""Then I said to you, '**Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt** before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your **God carried you**, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until

you came to this place.' **Yet, for all that, you did not believe the Lord your God**, who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, **to show you the way you should go**, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day." Deuteronomy 1:29-33 NKJV

(g) Subsequently, Yahweh has again proven Himself to you (not that He had to). He has provided everything you've needed for the past 40 years. He has a perfect track record!

1. ""For the Lord your God **has blessed you** in all the work of your hand. **He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years** the Lord your God **has been with you**; you have **lacked nothing.**" "" Deuteronomy 2:7 NKJV

(h) Now go! It took eleven days to go from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh Barnea, and it's taken another 38 years to travel the same distance to where we stand today. I'd say that was not quite a direct path of obedience!

1. "" **'Now rise and cross over** the Valley of the Zered.' So we crossed over the Valley of the Zered. And the time we took to come **from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was thirty-eight**

years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the Lord had sworn to them. **For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them** from the midst of the camp until they were consumed.”

Deuteronomy 2:13-15 NKJV

- (i) All along the way, every time, God defeated our enemies, as long as we stayed within His plan!
 - 1. ““Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan; and Og king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. And the Lord said to me, **‘Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand;** you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.” Deuteronomy 3:1-2 NKJV
- (j) So go!
 - 1. ““Then I commanded you at that time, saying: **‘The Lord your God has given you this land to possess.** All you men of valor **shall cross over** armed before your brethren, the children of Israel.” Deuteronomy 3:18 NKJV
- (k) Final words of our portion...You have witnessed God’s provision and protection on this side of the Jordan, and

that is precisely what He will do on the other side as well. His job is to fight for you; your job is to go without fear.

1. ““And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, **‘Your eyes have seen all that the Lord your God has done** to these two kings; so will **the Lord do to all the kingdoms through which you pass.** You must **not fear them,** for the Lord your **God Himself fights for you.’”**

Deuteronomy 3:21-22 NKJV

(2) The Original Choice: go or don't go?

- (a) Israel's Comfort Zone—let's go back to Egypt. They just could not step out in faith. They complained; they perceived it was so bad that they would have been better off dying in Egypt or the wilderness.

1. “So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. **And all the children of Israel complained** against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, **“If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!** Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? **Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”** So they said

to one another, **“Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”**” Numbers 14:1-4 NKJV

C. Ready, Set, Go!

(1) Abraham was told to go!

(a) Abraham, “Get out.”

1. **“Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country,** From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.” Genesis 12:1-2 NKJV

(2) Isaac was told to go!

(a) Isaac, “Go away.”

1. “And Abimelech said to Isaac, **“Go away** from us, for you are much mightier than we.” Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.” Genesis 26:16-17 NKJV

(3) Jacob was told to go!

(a) Jacob, “Return to.”

1. “Then the Lord said to Jacob, **“Return to** the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.”” Genesis 31:3 NKJV

(b) Jacob, “Arise, go.”

1. "Then God said to Jacob, "**Arise, go** up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."" Genesis 35:1 NKJV
- (4) Jacob's ten sons were told to go! (During the famine)
- (a) Sons, "Go down."
 1. "When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; **go down** to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."" Genesis 42:1-2 NKJV
- (5) Moses was told to go! (At the burning bush...)
- (a) Moses, "I send."
 1. "Come now, therefore, and **I will send** you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."" Exodus 3:10 NKJV
- (6) Israel was told to go! (Into the wilderness...)
- (a) Israel, "Rise, go."
 1. "Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "**Rise, go** out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds,

as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.””

Exodus 12:31-32 NKJV

(b) Israel, “Go in and possess.”

1. “See, I have set the land before you; **go in and possess the land** which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.”

Deuteronomy 1:8 NKJV

- a) Back at Sinai, Yahweh told them to take the commands they received and go. “Go in and take the land” is not a suggestion, but a command, and the purpose of it, and the way, it will happen was so important for them as God’s people back then, as well as for us as His people right now.

(c) God, “We will NOT go.”

1. “So all the congregation **lifted up their voices** and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “**If only we had died in the land of Egypt!** Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? **Would it**

not be better for us to return to Egypt?” So they said to one another, **“Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”**” Numbers 14:1-4 NKJV

a) As Israel was poised to enter the the Promised Land for the first time, they lost faith and decided it would have better off had they died in the wilderness rather than die in Canaan. They opt to NOT go in, but instead get rid of Moses, select a new leader, and head back to Egypt.

(d) Joshua, “Arise, go over.”

1. **“After the death of Moses** the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the **Lord spoke to Joshua** the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, **arise, go** over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.**” Joshua 1:1-3 NKJV

a) Thirty-nine years later, Moses is dead and Joshua has taken the mantle. He is instructed to finish what Moses started. Take the people into the land of promise.

(7) David was told to go!

(a) David is anointed king above all his brothers.

1. "And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "**Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!**" **Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers;** and **the Spirit of the Lord came upon David** from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah." I Samuel 16:11-13 NKJV

(b) David, "Run to."

1. "Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and **run to** your brothers at the camp." I Samuel 17:17 NKJV

- a) This is at the time when Goliath was tormenting Israel and no one seemed to be able to do anything about it.

(c) David, "Escape to."

1. "Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, **"If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."** So Michal **let David down through** a window. And he went and fled and escaped." I Samuel 19:11-12 NKJV
 - a) Saul is seeking to kill David because of his immense jealousy. David's wife implores him to escape overnight. Sometimes hearing and obeying saves your life!

(8) Elijah was told to go!

(a) Elijah, "Get away."

1. "Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, **"Get away** from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. **And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."** So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. **The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.** And it happened after a while that the brook dried up,

because there had been no rain in the land." I Kings
17:2-7 NKJV

a) After the drought was proclaimed, Elijah is instructed where he can find water and how his food will be provided.

(b) Elijah, "Arise, go."

1. "Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "**Arise, go** to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, **I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.**" So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.'" I Kings 17:8-10 NKJV

a) You must always be intently listening to the Lord for His instructions. First the Lord told Elijah to "Get away" to a place where he would be sustained during the drought, but then a new directive came in as the first place of provision was ending. "Arise, go to the next place I have provided for you." We must always be attentive to the voice of the Lord and willing to obey. Lives may depend on it, even your own!

Summary: IT'S GO-TIME: THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. A Faithful God Deserves Faithful People

A. You can trust Yahweh...

(1) Discombobulated: Confused or Disconnected; Chaos.

(a) This is the exact opposite of the condition offered to the Israelites, a state of certainty. Think about the ten plagues (see Exodus 7-12) and every obvious sign that Yahweh was on their side and could be trusted to provide! There was no confusion about that. Let's say they should have been in an anti-discombobulated state of mind. Then, think about what God did to Pharaoh's army. First He placed a wall of smoke and fire in their path to halt their advances. Then, He confused them and caused turmoil so they basically moved in circles while in the midst of the sea (they were discombobulated). Then, he destroyed them completely!

(2) The Original Twist

(a) Go that way not this way...God purposely sent Israel the long way, so they would get backed up against the sea. Then he purposely inspired Pharaoh to send his army after them so He could purposely destroy them! While

doing so, He used it all to test the faith of Israel. They failed!

B. Choices: go or don't go...

(1) Faith or Faithfulness in Action

- (a) It is like the moment Israel stood at the shore of the Red Sea and they could not see a way out. It is precisely in these moments, when you cannot see, that your faith comes alive. And that is precisely in those moments that you are most pleasing to God (or not!).
- (b) The length of time it takes to make the direct trip from Goshen to Canaan, by foot, and with 2.5 to 3 million people in toe, can be argued. You can include the time moving southeast from Goshen to the edge of the Red Sea; you can include that God intended them to arrive at Mt. Sinai (further south) in the third month (50 days) after the Exodus, which took place on the eve between the 14th and 15th day of the first month (Passover). You can include the trek back northeast toward Moab as they approached the east side of the Jordan, opposite the Promised Land (and as you can see that half that journey from Sinai to Kadesh Barnea is only eleven days). In the end, this first trip took one year to arrive at the shore of the Jordan (see Number 13 & 14)!

- (c) Okay, so they had arrived at the shore the the Jordan the first time one year after the exodus, and we might argue that if they went directly it would have taken 2-3 weeks. But here we are 39 years after that. Israel had taken the very long road in response to the “go command!”
- (d) Why? What caused them to delay their calling? What causes you to do the same! The simple answer: rebellion and disobedience. The more specific answer: a lack of faith! (*“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”*) What did Yahweh think about it? He was angry. What was the outcome? A lot of people died.
- (e) Deuteronomy is the “second law” or the second telling of the law. As the people camp on the east side of the Jordan, Moses begins to recount their journey and the commands of Yahweh.
- (f) Don’t make the same mistake again. God’s got you. He will provide for you and protect you just like He has done in the past. In other words, “Don’t lose faith again!”
- (g) Subsequently, Yahweh has again proven Himself to you (not that He had to). He has provided everything you’ve needed for the past 40 years. He has a perfect track record!

- (h) Now go! It took eleven days to go from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh Barnea, and it's taken another 38 years to travel the same distance to where we stand today. I'd say that was not quite a direct path of obedience!
 - (i) All along the way, every time, God defeated our enemies, as long as we stayed within His plan!
 - (j) So go!
 - (k) Final words of our portion...You have witnessed God's provision and protection on this side of the Jordan, and that is precisely what He will do on the other side as well. His job is to fight for you; your job is to go without fear.
- (2) The Original Choice: go or don't go?
- (a) Israel's Comfort Zone—let's go back to Egypt. They just could not step out in faith. They complained; they perceived it was so bad that they would have been better off dying in Egypt or the wilderness.

C. Ready, Set, Go!

- (1) Abraham was told to go! Abraham, "Get out."
- (2) Isaac was told to go! Isaac, "Go away."
- (3) Jacob was told to go! Jacob, "Return to." Jacob, "Arise, go."
- (4) Jacob's ten sons were told to go! (During the famine) Sons, "Go down."

- (5) Moses was told to go! (At the burning bush...) Moses, "I send."
- (6) Israel was told to go! (Into the wilderness...) Israel, "Rise, go." Israel, "Go in and possess."
- (a) Back at Sinai, Yahweh told them to take the commands they received and go. "Go in and take the land" is not a suggestion, but a command, and the purpose of it, and the way, it will happen was so important for them as God's people back then, as well as for us as His people right now.
- (b) God, "We will NOT go."
1. As Israel was poised to enter the the Promised Land for the first time, they lost faith and decided it would have better off had they died in the wilderness rather than die in Canaan. They opt to NOT go in, but instead get rid of Moses, select a new leader, and head back to Egypt.
- (c) Joshua, "Arise, go over."
1. Thirty-nine years later, Moses is dead and Joshua has taken the mantle. He is instructed to finish what Moses started. Take the people into the land of promise.
- (7) David was told to go!

- (a) David is anointed king above all his brothers.
 - (b) David, "Run to." This is at the time when Goliath was tormenting Israel and no one seemed to be able to do anything about it.
 - (c) David, "Escape to." Saul is seeking to kill David because of his immense jealousy. David's wife implores him to escape overnight. Sometimes hearing and obeying saves your life!
- (8) Elijah was told to go!
- (a) Elijah, "Get away." After the drought was proclaimed, Elijah is instructed where he can find water and how his food will be provided.
 - (b) Elijah, "Arise, go." You must always be intently listening to the Lord for His instructions. First the Lord told Elijah to "Get away" to a place where he would be sustained during the drought, but then a new directive came in as the first place of provision was ending. "Arise, go to the next place I have provided for you." We must always be attentive to the voice of the Lord and willing to obey. Lives may depend on it, even your own!

IT'S GO-TIME: THE NEW TESTAMENT

2. A Faithful Savior Deserves Faithful Disciples

A. You can trust Y'shua...

(1) What He says "Goes!" As long as we are on His side, we are good to "Go!"

(a) Why are you afraid to do anything or go anywhere God instructs of you? We are talking about a savior who commands the winds and the sea!

1. "But He said to them, **"Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?"** Then He arose and **rebuked the winds and the sea**, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, **"Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"**" Matthew 8:26-27 NKJV

(b) Even the demons are subject to Y'shua. **"Go."**

1. "When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, **"What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"** Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many

swine feeding. **So the demons begged Him**, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.” **And He said to them, “Go.”** So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including **what had happened to the demon-possessed men.** And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.” Matthew 8:28-34 NKJV

(2) The Original Twist

(a) Yes you should go anywhere at anytime God requires. And yes, there will be times when you will be challenged, even persecuted. Even then, do not worry. God’s provision will be with you, even down to the words that come out of your mouth.

1. “Behold, **I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.** Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, **for they will deliver you up** to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be **brought before** governors

and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they **deliver you up, do not worry** about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour **what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit** of your Father who speaks in you.” Matthew 10:16-20 NKJV

B. Ready, Set, Go!

- (1) During Y’shua’s life (before the crucifixion): The disciples were told to go!
 - (a) Don’t go that way, go this way!
 1. “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “**Do not go into the way of the Gentiles**, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. **But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel**. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘**The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**’ **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons**. Freely you have received, freely give.” Matthew 10:5-8 NKJV
 - a) Just as Israel when she exited Egypt, the disciples were not only directed where to go, but where NOT to go. Then they were commissioned to

preach the kingdom, perform miracles, and engage in spiritual warfare.

(b) Don't worry about provision, nor about how the people respond to you!

1. **“Provide neither** gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food. **“Now whatever city or town you enter,** inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. And when you go into a household, greet it. **If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.** And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, **shake off the dust from your feet.** Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!” Matthew 10:9-15 NKJV

a) As we can see in so many instances in the Old Testament, as with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his sons, Moses, Israel, David, Elijah, and Paul, you need not fret over your assignment. Just go where God tells you to go all else will be provided. You

are not even responsible for the outcome, just for your own obedience.

(c) Don't worry about provision, just "Go!"

1. **"How then shall they call on Him** in whom they have not believed? **And how shall they believe** in Him of whom they have not heard? **And how shall they hear** without a preacher? **And how shall they preach unless they are sent?** As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:14-15 NKJV

2. ""Therefore do not worry, saying, **'What shall we eat?'** or **'What shall we drink?'** or **'What shall we wear?'** **For after all these things the Gentiles seek.** For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first the kingdom** of God and His righteousness, and **all these things shall be added to you.** Therefore **do not worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." Matthew 6:31-34 NKJV

a) The patterns is well established. God says, "Go!" And you say, "Yes!" God says, "Don't worry just

preach the kingdom; I will do everything else.”

And you say, “I trust You!”

(2) Go Preach the Kingdom: Luke 9:1–10:20 has the same commission as in Matthew’s Gospel with a additional very important requirements and promises!

(a) Requirements: Deny yourself, take up your cross, don’t worry about your own life! If you try to preserve your own life, you will lose it. If you give up your own life, you will gain more than you could ever imagine.

1. “Then He said to them all, **“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.** For **what profit** is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For **whoever is ashamed** of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God.”” Luke 9:23-27 NKJV

(b) Promises: you have amazing authority. Even demons will be subject to you. Nothing will stop (harm) you!

1. “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, **“Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”**
And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, **I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.** Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”” Luke 10:17-20
NKJV

(3) Later in Matthew we see yet other requirements for power...

- (a) Y’shua was always prayed up and empty of Himself.
And sometimes the way to do that is to simply stop stuffing your face!

1. “And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is **an epileptic and suffers severely;** for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.” Then Jesus answered and said, **“O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long**

shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” And Jesus **rebuked the demon**, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “**Why could we not cast it out?**” So Jesus said to them, “**Because of your unbelief**; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and **nothing will be impossible** for you. **However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.**”” Matthew 17:14-21 NKJV

(4) Another Commission

(a) After the crucifixion the disciples panicked and scattered. After the resurrection they were recommissioned to, “Go therefore!”

1. “Then **the eleven disciples** went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.” Matthew 28:16-17 NKJV

(b) Go therefore! You have My authority; make disciples not just converts; baptize them into the faith and then disciple them into the same obedience that made you disciples! Follow Me, take up your cross, etc.

1. “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV
- (c) John, the prophetic Gospel writer always seems to add a supernatural exclamation point to things. John’s version of the great commission... “Be like Jesus!”
1. “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”” John 20:21-23 NKJV
- (d) And Jesus showed them all sorts of supernatural things that they were to emulate... “Be like Jesus!”
1. “**And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples,** which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that

believing you may have life in His name.” John
20:30-31 NKJV

(5) The Disciple’s Comfort Zone

(a) Closed: Gone Fishing. Even after everything they witnessed, all the ministry Christ had done while He was alive; all the ministry they had done with him while He was alive; the miracle of the resurrection; and the commission to do what He did (exemplify the gospel of the kingdom); the disciples retreated to their comfort zone and went fishing. Can you imagine the absurdity of it all: These fisherman, had given up their fishing to follow Christ, and after everything they witnessed and experienced, they went back to fishing!

1. **“After these things Jesus showed Himself again** to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, **the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.”** They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.” John
21:1-3 NKJV

(b) The patience of Christ is indescribable. Maybe this is from where we derive our modern day euphemism, "The third time is the charm." Why do I say euphemism? Because it is a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. It would me more accurate to call them stubborn clueless boneheads. *"Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"* It's beyond words at this point!

1. **"But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.** Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. **Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"** Now when Simon **Peter** heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and **plunged into the sea.** But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two

hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” **Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord.** Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. **This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.**” John 21:4-14 NKJV

Summary: IT’S GO-TIME: THE NEW TESTAMENT

2. A Faithful Savior Deserves Faithful Disciples

A. You can trust Y’shua...

- (1) What He says “Goes!” As long as we are on His side, we are good to “Go!”
 - (a) Why are you afraid to do anything or go anywhere God instructs of you? We are talking about a savior who commands the winds and the sea!

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- (2) The Original Twist
 - (a) Yes you should go anywhere at anytime God requires. And yes, there will be times when you will be challenged, even persecuted. Even then, do not worry. God's provision will be with you, even down to the words that come out of your mouth.

B. Ready, Set, Go!

- (1) During Y'shua's life (before the crucifixion): The disciples were told to go!
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 1. Just as Israel when they exited Egypt, the disciples were not only directed where to go, but where NOT to go. Then they were commissioned to preach the kingdom, perform miracles, and engage in spiritual warfare.
 - (b) Don't worry about provision, nor about how the people respond to you!
 1. As we can see in so many instances in the Old Testament, as with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his sons, Moses, Israel, David, Elijah, and Paul, you need not fret over your assignment. Just go where God tells you to go all else will be provided. You are not even

responsible for the outcome, just for your own obedience.

- (c) Don't worry about provision, just "Go!"
 - 1. The patterns is well established. God says, "Go!" And you say, "Yes!" God says, "Don't worry just preach the kingdom; I will do everything else." And you say, "I trust You!"
- (2) Go Preach the Kingdom: Luke 9:1–10:20 has the same commission as in Matthew's Gospel with a additional very important requirements and promises!
 - (a) Requirements: Deny yourself, take up your cross, don't worry about your own life! If you try to preserve your own life, you will lose it. If you give up your own life, you will gain more than you could ever imagine.
 - (b) Promises: you have amazing authority. Even demons will be subject to you. Nothing will stop (harm) you!
- (3) Later in Matthew we see yet other requirements for power...
 - (a) Y'shua was always prayed up and empty of Himself. And sometimes the way to do that is to simply stop stuffing your face!
- (4) Another Commission

- (a) After the crucifixion the disciples panicked and scattered. After the resurrection they were recommissioned to, "Go therefore!"
 - (b) Go therefore! You have My authority; make disciples not just converts; baptize them into the faith and then disciple them into the same obedience that made you disciples! Follow Me, take up your cross, etc.
 - (c) John, the prophetic Gospel writer always seems to add a supernatural exclamation point to things. John's version of the great commission... "Be like Jesus!"
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- (a) Closed: Gone Fishing. Even after everything they witnessed, all the ministry Christ had done while He was alive; all the ministry they had done with him while He was alive; the miracle of the resurrection; and the commission to do what He did (exemplify the gospel of the kingdom); the disciples retreated to their comfort zone and went fishing. Can you imagine the absurdity of it all: These fisherman, had given up their fishing to follow Christ, and after everything they witnessed and experienced, they went back to fishing!

- (b) The patience of Christ is indescribable. Maybe this is from where we derive our modern day euphemism, “The third time is the charm.” Why do I say euphemism? Because it is a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. It would me more accurate to call them stubborn clueless boneheads. *“Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”* It’s beyond words at this point!

IT’S GO-TIME: THE NOW TESTAMENT

3. Old, New, NOW!

A. Go therefore—what are you waiting for?

(1) The NOW commission...

- (a) It’s still the “great commission” but you must see it as the NOW commission. It is for you! It is for now! What are you waiting for? You have a calling from God! Go!

(b) Review...

1. “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**”” John 20:21
NKJV

2. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe **all things that I have commanded** you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV
3. "**How then shall they call on Him** in whom they have not believed? **And how shall they believe** in Him of whom they have not heard? **And how shall they hear** without a preacher? **And how shall they preach unless they are sent?** As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:14-15 NKJV
4. ""Therefore do not worry, saying, '**What shall we eat?**' or '**What shall we drink?**' or '**What shall we wear?**' **For after all these things the Gentiles seek.** For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first the kingdom** of God and His righteousness, and **all these things shall be added to you.** Therefore **do not worry** about tomorrow, for

tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." Matthew 6:31-34
NKJV

- a) Point of clarification: please do not confuse the mandate of the Lord to, "Go!" as limited to saying you must be "in ministry." Of course we are all called to spread the good news, and to exemplify the kingdom on earth. However, your specific calling from Yahweh can be in any field or endeavor. He wants to invade everything with His grace and with His kingdom. We are commissioned to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth in all facets of life.

(2) Paul was told to go!

(a) Paul, "Arise and go!"

1. "So he, trembling and astonished, said, "**Lord, what do You want me to do?**" Then the Lord said to him, into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'" Acts 9:6 NKJV

- a) Even after a season of intense persecution of Christians, Paul had a radical encounter with Christ. His immediate response was, "What now?" And God said, "Go!" And Paul went, immediately!

(3) He is faithful!

(a) You can trust Him! I told you you could trust Me! He is faithful to do what He promises. He will establish you and guard you. Even your temptations will not overtake you!

1. “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**” I Thessalonians 5:23-24 NKJV
2. “**God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” I Corinthians 1:9 NKJV
3. “**But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.** And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.” II Thessalonians 3:3-5 NKJV
4. “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful**, who

will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." I

Corinthians 10:12-13 NKJV

(b) He will finish what He started!

1. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, **the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

(c) He fights your battles like He promised...vengeance is Mine says the Lord!

1. "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance is Mine**, I will repay," says the Lord." Romans 12:19 NKJV

B. Get out of your Comfort Zone!

(1) Get Uncomfortable

- (a) When you feel weak you are in the best spot. When you have nothing to say on your own, you are in the best spot.
1. “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**” II Corinthians 12:10 NKJV
 2. “Likewise **the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.** For **we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:26-27 NKJV
- (2) Get comfortable with being uncomfortable.
- (a) Don’t worry about what you will say when you have nothing to say. That is when God will speak through you!
1. “**But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;** for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.” Matthew 10:19-20 NKJV

2. **“Now when they bring you to the synagogues** and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:11-12 NKJV
3. **“But when they arrest you and deliver you up,** do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” Mark 13:11 NKJV

C. **Bonus: Traits of a True Disciple**

(1) What is a disciple?

(a) A person being disciplined to make disciples who can make disciples is a disciple!

1. “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**” II Timothy 2:2 NKJV

(b) A person who will carry the cross and forsake his own life is a disciple!

1. “Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross** daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his

life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"

Luke 9:23-25 NKJV

(c) A person who will forsake everything in his own life is a disciple! When comparing anything to the all-surprising knowledge of Christ, nothing compares! This life provides a peace that transcends understanding.

1. "“If anyone comes to Me and **does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ...So likewise, whoever of you does not **forsake all** that he has cannot be My disciple.” Luke 14:26-27, 33 NKJV
2. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,** will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

(d) A person who expresses God’s love is a disciple!

1. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35 NKJV
2. Note: God's love is expressed in all 16 attributes of love simultaneously, continuously, and without condition! Love is the single greatest expression of God!
 - a) "**Love suffers long** and is **kind**; love **does not envy**; love **does not parade itself**, is **not puffed up**; **does not behave rudely**, **does not seek its own**, is **not provoked**, **thinks no evil**; **does not rejoice in iniquity**, but **rejoices in the truth**; **bears all things**, **believes all things**, **hopes all things**, **endures all things**. **Love never fails...** ...And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but **the greatest of these is love.**" I Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 NKJV

D. Go or don't go

(1) Don't do this!

(a) Don't draw someone into the faith and then become a rancid example of a Christian!

1. ""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For **you travel land and sea to win one proselyte**, and when he is won, you **make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**" Matthew 23:15 NKJV

(2) Don't do this!

(a) Don't run in the opposite direction when you are told to, "Go!"

1. "Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, **"Arise, go** to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." **But Jonah arose to flee** to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord." Jonah 1:1-3 NKJV

2. See: [How Not to Become the Warning](#)

(3) Do this!

(a) Emulate Christ and do what He did on a greater scale! That is what brings glory to God!

1. ""Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son**. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:12-14 NKJV

(b) Obey God's every command! That is the true sign of love.

1. **“If you love Me, keep My commandments.** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—” John 14:15-16 NKJV

(4) Do this!

(a) Be like Y'shua!

1. **“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.””** John 20:21 NKJV

(b) Go, make disciples (not just converts!)

1. **“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe **all things that I have commanded** you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

Summary: IT'S GO-TIME: THE NOW TESTAMENT

3. Old, New, NOW!

A. Go therefore—what are you waiting for?

(1) The NOW commission...

(a) It's still the "great commission" but you must see it as the NOW commission. It is for you! It is for now! What are you waiting for? You have a calling from God! Go!

(b) Point of clarification: please do not confuse the mandate of the Lord to, "Go!" as limited to saying you must be "in ministry." Of course we are all called to spread the good news, and to exemplify the kingdom on earth. However, your specific calling from Yahweh can be in any field or endeavor. He wants to invade everything with His grace and with His kingdom. We are commissioned to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth in all facets of life.

(2) Paul was told to go!

(a) Paul, "Arise and go!"

1. Even after a season of intense persecution of Christians, Paul had a radical encounter with Christ. His immediate response was, "What now?" And God said, "Go!" And Paul went, immediately!

(3) He is faithful!

- (a) You can trust Him! I told you you could trust Me! He is faithful to do what He promises. He will establish you and guard you. Even your temptations will not overtake you!
- (b) He will finish what He started!
- (c) He fights your battles like He promised...vengeance is Mine says the Lord!

B. Get out of your Comfort Zone!

(1) Get Uncomfortable

- (a) When you feel weak you are in the best spot. When you have nothing to say on your own, you are in the best spot.

(2) Get comfortable with being uncomfortable.

- (a) Don't worry about what you will say when you have nothing to say. That is when God will speak through you!

C. Bonus: Traits of a True Disciple

(1) What is a disciple?

- (a) A person being disciplined to make disciples who can make disciples is a disciple!
- (b) A person who will carry the cross and forsake his own life is a disciple!

- (c) A person who will forsake everything in his own life is a disciple! When comparing anything to the all-surprising knowledge of Christ, nothing compares! This life provides a peace that transcends understanding.
- (d) A person who expresses God's love is a disciple!
 - 1. Note: God's love is expressed in all 16 attributes of love simultaneously, continuously, and without condition! Love is the single greatest expression of God!

D. Go or don't go

- (1) Don't do this! Don't draw someone into the faith and then become a rancid example of a Christian!
- (2) Don't do this! Don't run in the opposite direction when you are told to, "Go!"
- (3) Do this! Emulate Christ and do what He did on a greater scale! That is what brings glory to God! Obey God's every command! That is the true sign of love.
- (4) Do this! Be like Y'shua! Go, make disciples (not just converts!)

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. You can trust Yahweh...

A. Use Exodus 14:23-29 to demonstrate God's trustworthiness at times of great trials.

2. Discombobulated mean confused, disconnected or living in chaos.

A. In Exodus 13:17-18, God directed Israel in such a way that caused them to become trapped against the Sea. Why should they have remained anti-discombobulated?

B. How was the Egyptian army discombobulated? (See Exodus 14:23-25)

3. In Deuteronomy 1:2-3 we see a curious timeline...

A. What is striking about the timing?

B. What do we know caused the delay? (See Deuteronomy 1:29-33)

C. What did Israel want to do at their original opportunity to cross into the Promised Land? (See Numbers 14:1-4)

D. How does the writer of Hebrews explain it? (See: Hebrews 3:16-19; 11:1-6)

4. Forty years after the exodus, Israel has a second chance to enter the Promised Land...

A. Why should they know it is safe to do so? (See Deuteronomy 2:7-15; 3:1-2; 3:18-22)

5. There are many examples in the Bible where we see men of God being told to “Go!”

A. Describe each scenario in your own words using the following verses. (See: Genesis 12:1-2; 26:16-17; 31:3; 35:1; 42:1-2; Exodus 3:10; 12:31-32; Deuteronomy 1:8; Joshua 1:1-3; I Samuel 16:11-13; 17:17; 19:11-12; I Kings 17:2-10)

6. What had the disciples witnessed that should have made them confident no matter what they faced? (See: Matthew 8:26-34)

- A. What warning and surety were they given? (See: Matthew 10:16-20)
- B. What were they called to do prior to the death of Christ? (See Matthew 10:5-15)
- C. How is Matthew 10:5-15 in total alignment with Romans 10:14-15 and Matthew 6:31-34?
- D. Luke 9:1–10:20 has the same commission as in Matthew’s Gospel with additional very important requirements and promises! Use Luke 9:23-27 and 10:17-20 to elaborate.
- E. Matthew also adds some nuances in Matthew 17:14-21. Please describe.

7. After the resurrection the disciples received another commission!

- A. Please use both Matthew 28:18-20 and John 20:21-31 to describe what that looked like.
- B. What absurd thing did the disciples first do after they received their second commission? (See John 21:1-14).
- C. Why might we say, "The third time is the charm?"

8. Obviously we have the Old Testament and the New Testament...

- A. But what might be considered the Now Testament? Use the following Scriptures and this time replace the disciples with yourself. (John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-15; Matthew 6:31-34)
- B. Point of clarification: please do not confuse the mandate of the Lord to, "Go!" as limited to saying you must be "in ministry." Of course we are all called to spread the good news, and to exemplify the kingdom on earth. However, your specific calling from Yahweh can be in any field or endeavor. He wants to invade everything with His grace and with His kingdom. We are commissioned to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth in all facets of life.

9. What did the Apostle Paul do when he was called to go! (See: Acts 9:6)

- A. Use the following Scriptures to show that God is always faithful? (See: I Thessalonians 5:23-24; I Corinthians 1:9;

10:12-13; II Thessalonians 3:3-5; Hebrews 12:1-2; Romans 12:19)

- B. Why should we get comfortable with being uncomfortable? (See: II Corinthians 12:10; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 10:19-20; Luke 12:11-12; Mark 13:11)

10. Bonus: Traits of a True Disciple

- A. Use the following Scriptures to describe the attributes of a true disciple of Christ. (See: II Timothy 2:2; Luke 9:23-25; 14:26-33; Philippians 4:6-7)
- B. As a disciple, don't do this. Please describe. (Matthew 23:15; Jonah 1:1-3)
- C. As a disciple, do this. Please describe. (John 14:12-14; John 14:15-16; John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20)