



RELIGION

Scripture of the Week:
John Chapter 10



The Gospel Message From The Pulpit Of Dr. T.L. Lewis, Pastor of Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

"Give Me This Mountain"
May 13, 1990

First of all, we want to set the scene by sharing with you the setting within the context of the text. The time is approximately some 45 years following the mass exodus of the children of Israel from the bondage of Egyptian slavery.

Moses, the law-giver and the servant of God, is now dead. The mantle of leadership has been placed on the shoulders of his assistant, Joshua.

Through a multiplicity of events and diversity of mishaps, the people of Yahweh have finally arrived at the promised land. Through many trials and tribulations, they have finally arrived in the promised land. After the passing of a generation, they have made their way to the land flowing with milk and honey.

Now, it came time to distribute and divide the land among the tribes. In Chapter 14, Verse 1, we find that this responsibility was given to Joshua, the head of state and Eleazar, the head of the church. Joshua, God's man in the

political arena; Eleazar, they divided the land by casting lots, and wherever the lot fell this was the land that they would receive. That way it would be no argument over who got this part or that part. (You know how we tend to fuss and fight when it comes to giving out shares of something).

Some folk can't enjoy what they have because they are so busy worrying over what others might get.

The second reason why the casting of lots was chosen that no one could accuse Joshua or Eleazar of being unfair or partial. We, sometimes, like to call it playing favorites or picking and choosing.

However, when it came to Caleb, he said "There will be no lot for me, I have the right to choose the land that I want; therefore, give me this mountain."

Now Caleb was not being disagreeable. He wasn't trying to cause any trouble. He had a right to his mountain. God, through Moses, had promised him

that mountain 45 years earlier.

Caleb had been faithful, and for his faithfulness God had promised to reward him with the very land he had been sent to spy out. So--there he stood waiting to claim that which had been promised him.

Some of you have labored faithfully in the vineyard. You have been faithful to your calling. You have been a faithful steward. You have rolled up your sleeves and given your best for the cause of the Kingdom. And now, you are ready to stand alongside Caleb and lay claim to your mountain.

If you have been faithful, then, like Caleb, you have a right to this mountain. Mountains belong to the faithful. Mountains belong to those who walk in the will and word of God.

Before we continue any further, let us get a working definition of what mountains really are. Before you lay claim to something, it's best to know what it is. Before you request some-

thing, you ought to know something about it.

First of all: mountains are high and lifted up. Yet, they did not lift themselves up. They have been lifted up by the maker of mountains.

Secondly: mountains are usually stable and hard to be removed out of their place. As long as they are rooted and grounded, in the word of truth, they shall not be moved. Mountains don't run from church to church, they are not carried away by every whim of doctrine.

Thirdly: mountains are considered to be places of refuge, places of defense. A mountain is difficult to overtake. Your enemies can't run roughshod over you when you have a mountain for a stronghold. Mountains can also protect you from the floods of life; for when the waters of adversity began to rage, mountains will protect.

To Be Continued

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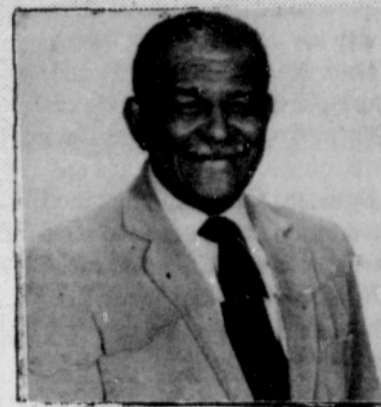
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9:00 A.M.

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Friday, May 25 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. DISCO
(Music by Nate "The Great" Griffin)
Saturday, May 26 10:00 a.m. PARADE
(Kick-off at Memorial Coliseum, The Hon. Mayor Bud Clark, Grand Marshall)
Saturday, May 26 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. GALA DAY BALL
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