

The Jaredites Travel in Barges

THE SCRIPTURE STORY:

- Read this story in ([Ether 6](#))
- For Young Children...
 - [Video](#)
 - [Story](#)

HYMNS THAT GO WITH THIS SCRIPTURE STORY:

- Now Thank We All Our God [#95](#)
- All Creatures of Our God and King [#62](#)
- There is Sunshine in My Soul Today [#227](#)
- For the Beauty of the Earth [#92](#)
- Thank You ([Song by Marika Lee](#))

LESSON(S) FOUND IN THIS SCRIPTURE STORY:

It is interesting to think about all the hardships/problems they would have had. Here are some to think about for starters:

- Food preparation for themselves and all the animals for nearly a year
- Living in confined space
- Not being able to see/hear/talk to people who were good friends and family as they were in different barges (lack of communication between barges)
- Caring for animals inside of the barges.
- Smells
- Disposal of waste
- Furious winds
- Oxygen issues when buried in the depths
- Not being able to go outside
- Possible motion sickness
- Great and terrible tempests (Were they thrown to and fro? Could they prepare food? How did they sleep?)
- Frightening things lurking about (“sea monsters” & “whales”)
- Privacy issues

I am sure there were a lot more things that I didn't list. So, you can imagine that the Jaredites might be kind of miserable. However, here is what really happened:

- “9 And they did sing praises unto the Lord; yea, the brother of Jared did sing praises unto the Lord, and he did thank and praise the Lord all the day long; and when the night came, they did not cease to praise the Lord.”

And when they FINALLY got to get out of the barges:

- “12...And when they had set their feet upon the shores of the promised land they bowed themselves down upon the face of the land, and did humble themselves before the Lord, and did shed tears of joy before the Lord, because of the multitude of his tender mercies over them.”

All that overflowing thankfulness to the Lord, even though they endured circumstances that were far less than ideal. They were able to focus on their faith in the Lord which gave them power to be happy.

A MODERN DAY STORY:

Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie were sent to a Nazi concentration camp when they were caught hiding Jews in their home. In the book “The Hiding Place”, Corrie tells about a terrible experience that turned into one of thankfulness.

Corrie talks about trying to sleep on very smelly straw and suddenly a pain pinched her leg and she sat up quickly, hitting her head on the bunk above. She discovered that there were fleas and that is what had bit her leg. She told her sister that the whole place was swarming with them. “Betsie, how can we live in such a place!” she said to her sister.

Betsie was a woman of faith and she started praying to God to show her how they could. Betsie was very excited when she realized the answer. They checked to see there was no guard in sight and pulled out their Bible to go read once more in First Thessalonians where it says, “Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances.”

“That’s it, Corrie! That’s His answer. “Give thanks in all circumstances! That’s what we can do. We can start right now to thank God for every single thing about this new barracks!”

Corrie couldn’t believe what her sister was saying and wondered what they could possibly be thankful for. Her sister started things off by saying they could be thankful they were assigned there together and that they were able to smuggle in a Bible. Corrie could definitely agree with those things.

Corrie proclaimed her thankfulness that there had been no inspection so they could keep their Bible and for all the women they shared the room with that they could share the Bible with.

Bessie continued their thanks by being grateful the room was so crowded so that many more would be able to hear. She also thanked for the fleas.

At this point Corrie interrupted, "The fleas! This was too much! 'Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea.'"

But, Betsie just quote the scripture again, "'Give thanks in all circumstances,' she quoted. 'It doesn't say, 'in pleasant circumstances.'" Fleas are part of this place where God has put us.'"

So the sisters gave thanks for the fleas although Corrie was sure that Betsie was wrong this time.

They began holding Bible services in Barracks 28. "...as night after night went by and no guard ever came near us, we grew bolder. So many now wanted to join us that we held a second service after evening roll call."

They couldn't understand why they were allowed such freedoms because everywhere else they went, the guards or camp police were always present yet in their sleeping quarters, there was almost no supervision.

One night, Corrie came back to their barracks and Betsie was looking rather pleased.

"You know, we've never understood why we had so much freedom in the big room,' she said. 'Well—I've found out.'

When Betsie had been in her knitting group, the group became confused about what size to make the socks and asked the supervisor to come settle things. The supervisor refused. Neither she nor any of the guards would come through the door because, they said, "That place is crawling with fleas!"

It was then that Corrie remembered Betsie thanking God for fleas and her own unwillingness to be thankful and she knew that God had shown her a use for the little creatures that she could see no value in.

LIKEN IT TO US:

- In the Past

As I started reading about the Jaredites, I tried to think of a story from my own life that could truly relate to the lesson I learned from the story. I remembered the Corrie ten Boom story and knew it fit perfectly well. I couldn't really think of one off the top of my head, so I decided I would try to manufacture one. I decided to do a [12 hour challenge](#) in which I sang a hymn of praise every hour. I don't think this worked

as well as it should have. To start with, I sort of “cheated”. I chose to begin it on a Sunday, knowing that three of my hours would already be covered with singing at church and choir practice would also provide built in hymn singing. I also was paying more attention to accomplishing my goal than I was to truly praising the Lord through song. Doing the challenge wasn’t a total loss, because it taught me some other things, such as the fact that it really doesn’t take much time to sing a hymn and you can do it while doing other things.

Realizing my manufactured story wasn’t really what I needed, I decided prayer should be my next step. I asked Heavenly Father to help me find a story in my life in which I had a taste of being grateful all the day. Yesterday I realized my prayer was being quickly answered. Heavenly Father provided me with situations in which I could practice praising Him regardless of the situation.

One thing that happened was a glass jar that shattered all over the kitchen counter and shot pieces in a very wide radius. Since I was in the middle of preparing dinner when it occurred, I had some real problems. I couldn’t count on any extra help from my husband and 17 year old son who had just gotten back from a 20 mile hike and were hobbling around, one of them hardly able to move. My first thought was frustration & gloominess. My second thought was to kick that thought out and instead find reasons to be thankful because it really wasn’t going to be at all helpful to hold the negative feelings. Here are some things I found.

- No one was injured even though my two youngest (6&4) were standing right next to me in their bare feet when it happened.
- My 12 year old was near enough that I could grab the four year old and hand him to her to place in a safe location.
- The little boys were willing to go outside to play which kept them safe.
- My 12 year old was a very willing helper. She removed items from the counter and used the tile brush to get the tiny pieces of glass from between every section of the tiled counter. She did a very thorough job. And she volunteered to do extra things as needed. She also loaded up plates of food for her brothers and Dad so they didn’t have to come into the kitchen.
- Thankfully all the dinner food was spared from glass shards.
- I came away with a thoroughly cleaned up kitchen, hall and dining room, and bathroom floor.
- I had a husband and son that showed gratitude for the service the 12 year old and I rendered for them.

The next morning when I woke up, the kitchen and bathroom were completely overrun with ants. Ants have been a problem this year, so I have to admit that my first thoughts were along the lines of “GRRRRRR! Not again!” Then I remembered the fleas. Could there be a way to be thankful for ants? The battle has been raging for several hours and I am not yet conqueror of the ants, however, I have managed to have these thankful thoughts:

- I am thankful the ants are helping me work on my determination to succeed.

- I am thankful that I have learned a few tricks already about how to deal with ants since we have had battles before.
 - I am thankful that we have a no eating upstairs rule which has minimized any ant issues upstairs in the sleeping areas.
 - I am thankful that when the ants invade, we are more likely to have lots of cleaning going on.
 - I am thankful that I have family members willing to help in the ant war.
 - I am thankful the little boys have learned to not be scared of ants and will now simply flick them away or pick them up and move them to another spot.
 - I am thankful I wasn't planning to bake bread until tomorrow when hopefully I won't have ants all over the counter.
 - I am thankful that the glass made it so we had a thorough cleaning yesterday or there would be even more ants!
 - I am thankful for the ability to watch the interesting way the ants go to and fro single file to carry out their goal. It is actually quite amazing if you think about it. It was even interesting to think about why they refuse butter (maybe I should coat the exterior of my house with butter?). Or how they have several separate armies so they can get supplies from not only the garbage can, but the kitchen counter and bathroom floor and kitchen floor at the same time. Why have they never cared for the bread crumbs that always exist in the bottom of my toaster oven? Why don't they content themselves with eating every peach on the tree outside? I suppose in reality, they are just trying to do what Heavenly Father asked the animals to do.
 - I am thankful I have long enough arms to move a little farther away from the kitchen sink so I can do dishes without leaning against the counter.
 - I am thankful that I don't have a baby crawling around where all the ants are.
 - Even though the ants were not gone by the next day, I am so grateful to have a nice big table that was not ant infested that I could make the bread on.
 - When I awakened on the day after bread-making day, I was so thrilled to think about leaning against the counter and not expecting ants to get all over me.
 - I was also grateful to think that this problem was so small in the eternal scheme of things, having lasted only a few days.
 - Even though it is highly likely that we will have ants return again and again, possibly in larger or smaller quantities, I am grateful that I was able to think of ways to be thankful and I know that when a reoccurrence happens, I can remember the things I learned from the last attack.
 - What a simple way this was for me to be taught rather than allowing gloom and frustration to take over. I won't say I welcome ants to take up residence here, but I can say something else. Ants have been relegated to their proper place in my mind—simply a part of life to which I have the ability to choose the way I react.
- In the Future
 - Pray a thank you only prayer for a certain length of time

- Learn to become more aware of things to be grateful for
- Do a 12 hour or 30 day challenge of singing praises
- Sing praises often