

SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2023.

- TRANSITION: PART 2
- **‘YOUR NEXT STEPS’**
- Deuteronomy 2:

• **Part 1**, I shared how Life can be full of change and transitions. Many times, transition exposes cracks in our journey, in our faith and in areas where we're not fully trusting God. But through the difficulty of change, we can still rely on God.

Today we are going to continue looking at the story of Moses and the Israelites from the Bible who experienced seasons of transition and trials of life. These families experienced times of frustration, pain, suffering, and difficult questions.



- We too experience these seasons of transition, and it's vital that we rely on God when life gets tough.
- During these times of transitions, measuring '**our next steps**' is very important.

Transitions are not always easy. In fact, most of the time they are painful. But transition is also necessary. It is a vital and inevitable part of our lives.

Everything is in a constant state of transition.

Paul said in II Corinthians 3:18 that we are transitioning into Christ's image from "glory to glory." Jeremiah told the nation of Moab that unlike Israel they had not transitioned from "vessel to vessel" and, therefore, retained a sinful taste and scent before God (Jeremiah 48:11).



Moses was now 120 years old, and the promised land lay ahead. He had led the Israelites out of captivity from Egypt and through the wilderness for 40 years, this was like his final speech because he knew that he will not see the promised land. **‘The next steps’** after this speech were going to be very crucial for the children of Israel.

Our next steps after COVID for three years and floods last year are going to be very crucial. We cannot stop now and assume that we have arrived. Israel wasted 40 years, we've already wasted three years in lockdowns and isolation, this is the time for us to rise-up.



Every time transition happens in your family, it could be a new baby joining your family, it could be getting married or a marriage separation, **your next steps** are very important. The children of Israel were about to be separated from Moses after many years of his leadership.

## Deuteronomy 2:24-25.

<sup>24</sup> “Set out now and cross the Arnon Gorge. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his country. **Begin to take possession of it and engage him in battle.** <sup>25</sup> This very day I will begin to put the terror and fear of you on all the nations under heaven. They will hear reports of you and will tremble and be in anguish because of you.”



**1) Step out, you cannot get comfortable with where you are now.**

a) God is inviting us into a new season, Your prayer life, your devotion, fellowships etc. are going to be key in measuring your next steps.

b) Where we are now is not our destiny.



Apostle Paul said: “12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (*Philippians 3:12-13 NIV*).

## **2) Embrace Change in your next steps.**

***(Deuteronomy 2:26 – 28)*** “From the Desert of Kedemoth I sent messengers to Sihon king of Heshbon offering peace and saying, 27 “Let us pass through your country. We will stay on the main road; we will not turn aside to the right or to the left. 28 **Sell us food to eat and water to drink for their price in silver. Only let us pass through on foot.**



a) Many people want to see positive changes around their lives, but they don't want to change their way of life.

b) These are the same people that were receiving free manna from heaven in the wilderness, and now they are happy to buy food and water.

c) Change can be an Opportunity for New Experiences. *Isaiah 43:18-19*, tells us not to dwell on the past because God is doing a new thing in each of us every day. With each new experience, we can learn from the past and grow into our full potential.

e) What are some of the new steps you're taking this year.

f) Take for example a new career, it can be overwhelming to leave what is familiar and embrace the unknown. But a new career also provides new opportunities, the opportunity to build new relationships and learn new things.



### **3) Your next steps can be measured in your ‘Obedience to your God.’**

(Deuteronomy 2:31-33,37)

31 The LORD said to me, “See, I have begun to deliver Sihon and his country over to you. Now begin to conquer and possess his land.”

32 When Sihon and all his army came out to meet us in battle at Jahaz,

33 the LORD our God delivered him over to us and we struck him down, together with his sons and his whole army. 37 But in accordance with the command of the LORD our God, you did not encroach on any of the land of the Ammonites, neither the land along the course of the Jabbok nor that around the towns in the hills.



a) God reminded King Saul through Prophet Samuel that, “**Obedience** is better than **sacrifice.**” (*1 Samuel 15:22*)

b) God is looking for people who are led by His spirit. (*Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, 'says the Lord Almighty.*  
(*Zechariah 4:6*)



c) Apostle Paul reminded Corinthians that, ***“Walk by faith, not by sight”*** meaning that, even though we may not see God working right now, we trust and believe that he is preparing us for blessings and relief from what we are facing somewhere down the road. (*2 Corinthians 5:7*).

# **Conclusion:**

Which steps are you taking this year?

God is transitioning us into new space, a new season of life, new careers, but He is watching our steps.