

A lesson from Nehemiah

Neh. 2:4-6

The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, [5] I replied, "If it please Your Majesty and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried." [6] The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?" So the king agreed, and I set a date for my departure.

... The king agreed to let him go so he left as soon as possible travelling along much the same route Eza had taken.

O. T.

Moses - Joshua

Eli - Samuel

Naomi - Ruth

Saul - David - Solomon

N. T.

Jesus - Apostles - Elders ...

Stephen - Saul / Paul

Barnabas - Paul - Antioch ...

Ch. History

George Fox - Quakers

Wesley - Methodists

William / Catherine Booth - Salvation Army

John Wimber - Vineyard?

Succession

Philip. 3:12-15

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection!

But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.

[13] No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, [14] I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.

[15] I hope all of you who are mature Christians will agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

...Leav(ing) trails of heaven

A Daily Occurrence

An inheritance is the product of a life.

Exodus 20:4-6

"Do not make idols of any kind, whether in the shape of birds or animals or fish. [5] You must never worship or bow down to them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not share your affection with any other god! I do not leave unpunished the sins of those who hate me, but I punish the children for the sins of their parents to the third and fourth generations. [6] But I lavish my love on those who love me and obey my commands, even for a thousand generations.

...Leav(ing) trails of heaven

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Reap the blessing of God's love - pass on spiritual benefit:

- Pray blessing on your children ...
- Engage in spiritual battles for your children ...
- Honour your children - by discipline and honesty!
- Develop genuine relationships - share together!
- Be 'real' about your battles - with wisdom!

...Leav(ing) trails of heaven

PREPARE FOR SUCCESSION

“a leader's lasting value is measured by succession”
(John Maxwell)

David - made precise preparations

2 Samuel 7:12-13 For when you die, I will raise up one of your descendants, and I will make his kingdom strong. [13] He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Everything Solomon needed was prepared by David.

...Leav(ing) trails of heaven

1 Chron. 28:11 Then David gave Solomon the plans for the Temple and its surroundings, including the treasuries, the upstairs rooms, the inner rooms, and the inner sanctuary where the Ark's cover—the place of atonement—would be kept. See also(2Chron 5.1; 2Chron 6.4-10)

PREPARE FOR GROWTH

1 Samuel 2:18-19 Now Samuel ... wore a linen tunic just like that of a priest. [19] Each year his mother made a small coat for him and brought it to him when she came with her husband for the sacrifice.

...Leav(ing) trails of heaven

A bigger jacket ...

- Less restricted
- Less comfortable
- More room to develop
- Takes time to adjust
- Eventually 'shrinks to fit'
- Becomes comfortable
- Gets restrictive

Get a bigger jacket ...

What you leave behind with others is more important than what you take away.

Aim to leave a 'trail of heaven ...

- When you leave your workplace
- When people leave your home
- When you visit a friend

Do we leave the smell of Jesus?