

FAR

ABOVE RUBIES



Back to the Future

I'm sure many of you will have seen the film "Back to the Future", in which Doc Brown, an eccentric scientist, invents a time machine. This allows teenager Marty McFly to accidentally travel back through time, from 1985 to 1955, in order to repair history. This of course is total fantasy, as it is impossible to change history, but I'm sure you can recall situations or circumstances in your life that you wish you could go back and change. Perhaps it was the way you treated someone else, or the way they treated you, or perhaps you made a wrong decision which had a detrimental effect on your life. We may not be able to recover what we did in the past, but we should never allow the mistakes of the past to determine our future. In Phil. 3 v 13-14, Paul wrote "*....but one thing I do, forgetting those things that are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal...*"

As I write this article our country has just celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, which marked the day towards the end of World War 2 when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. We saw footage of the jubilant celebrations in 1945, along with images of our brave armed forces as they headed off to fight for our freedom, many of whom did not return. Shocking images were also broadcast of atrocities which took place in concentration camps, images which we should never forget. Wrong decisions were made and lessons needed to be learnt. In a speech in 1948 to the House of Commons, Sir Winston Churchill stated, "*Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. We must always look forward but we have to understand our history in order not to make the mistakes of the past.*"

Sadly as I write this, we have another war on our hands as we battle against the coronavirus, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives world wide. Governments have now assessed their initial response to Covid-19

and have put new measures in place should another wave occur. Nations are currently working on a vaccine which hopefully will be available by the time you read this. Many, however, still remain sick in hospital and many are fearful, not only about catching the virus, but about their future, their families and their jobs. I must confess that there was a day at the beginning of this pandemic when I became quite fearful and had a bit of a meltdown. My spirit soon lifted, however, as I began to declare that *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, therefore we will not fear...”* (Psalm 46 v 1-2) and *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* (2 Tim.1 v 7) We need to remind ourselves that our situation is not hopeless and that God is still in control.

As believers we should never forget to praise the Lord for all that He has done for us. In Joshua 3 we read of the time when God miraculously heaped up the River Jordan so that the children of Israel could cross over on dry ground. A man from each of the 12 tribes was instructed to take up a stone from the river bed upon his shoulder, to build a memorial on the other side. In future days when children would ask their fathers *“What do these stones mean?”* they were to tell them of all the miraculous works that God had done. (Josh. 4 v 21) These stones of memorial were not only set up to commemorate the crossing of the Jordan, but as a testimony to God’s faithfulness and miraculous power. We too should be building up stones of remembrance in our lives as a testimony to God’s faithfulness, which we too can pass on, and which will strengthen us in times of great difficulty.

During the lockdown I have been so blessed as I read about Revivals in Ulster (1859), in Wales (1904) and in the Hebrides (1949) to mention but a few. It was so exciting to read of how God moved in miraculous power and multitudes were saved, healed and delivered, and communities were transformed. These are times that we should never forget, and considering the state of our world today, my prayer is that God will do it again for *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”* (Heb. 13 v 8)

In Jeremiah 29 V 11 we read *“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord ... plans to give you a hope and a future.”* To have a future, however, we need to remember that day over 2,000 years ago, when our Lord Jesus Christ gave his life for us on the cross at Calvary. We need to look back to the day when Jesus rose again from the dead, and rejoice in the promise that because He lives we shall live also. (John 14 v 19)

As you face the future remember the words of Jesus, *“The thief cometh not but for to steal, kill and destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* (John 10 v 10)