

THE O. T. IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

Lecture XVII

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Last Thursday we began the second section of the Book of Numbers. We noted in Num.10:11 the departure from Sinai. We noted again the importance of the stay at Sinai, the great importance of the things they had to learn, the experiences they had to have, and the direct contact with God. This was a very vital stage in their development. The -- When they left Sinai this stage was over, but it did not mean that it was ended. It was necessary that they be given specific laws about particular matters at different times after that. It was necessary from time to time that they take time for renewal of their fellowship with God. Sinai is the great experience rather early in the Christian life, an experience which in the case of Christian workers may take several years. But when we finish ~~it~~ our education is not ended. We must keep up study regularly but there must be times of refreshing, special times both intellectually and spiritually. Some people have a great experience, a great experience of contact with God which they speak of as a second blessing and sometimes it is so very great that it tremendously increases their effectiveness and has a great impression on the whole of their remaining life. And so they tend to think that everyone has to have an experience similar to theirs.

I was much impressed when I used to hear the great Bible teacher, Dr. R. A. Torrey speak. On a number of times hearing him say, People ask me if I have had the second blessing. And I say Yes, and the third and the fourth, and I hope there will be many more of them that the Lord will give me before I die. We must frequently return to the presence of the Lord. You cannot simply go along on a dead level. ^{Nothing} ~~Nothing~~ in life is like that. There are ups and downs. But we must look for their great periods of up, these great drawing close to the Lord, these times of communion with Him. I believe I've mentioned to you last times about a man who graduated from college. He was going as a missionary. He didn't see why he should spend three years in seminary. He went to a Bible school where he got some good Bible training, but the result of his year there was to see before long how much he needed more thorough training, and the result was