

YEAR—Originally began in the autumn after all the crops were gathered in, and the rain was preparing the earth for fresh tillage and a renewal of the cycle; but it was moved to the spring, after the Exodus, or perhaps rather after the Exile, when they were influenced by the Babylonian calendar. At first the Hebrews had no era, but dated from

memorable events in their history, as the Exodus, the building of the temple, the captivity, or some great earthquake. At the Christian era the Jews used the year of the Roman emperors, but, soon after, they began to date from the creation of the world. We need to add 3760 to the year A. D., in order to find their date.

APPLICATION

Took their journey according to the commandment of the Lord, v. 13. Jesus is our Pole-star. By His words we guide our earthly journey; just as the poor negro, **The Pole-Star** in the former times of slavery, when he had learned where the north star was, followed it with unswerving glance, because he knew it led to Canada, where floated a flag that secured to him the rights of a man. What swamps would he not wade, streams would he not ford, broad lands would he not cross, what mountains would he not climb, when cheered by the sight of that kindly star? Like the Israelites from Egypt, like the slave from the land of his bondage, we too are escaping from tyranny,—the terrible tyranny of sin; and we shall only find the way to the land of deliverance and security, as we follow the direction of our Lord, yielding implicit obedience to His commands.

Journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, v. 29. "I hope your master has gone to heaven", said a friend to a bereaved slave in the olden days. "I am afraid not, sir", was the unexpected reply, "for I never heard him speak of that. When he went to the North or to the Springs, he was always getting ready weeks ahead of time; but I never saw him getting ready for going to heaven." Those who are seeking to reach that blissful seat in real earnestness, think frequently about it. They make wise provision for the great journey. Above all things, they make sure that they will have an abundant entrance into it ministered unto them, when they shall arrive there. Sometimes, too, they will stand like the pilgrims on the Delectable Mountains and scan afar off the high towers and shining palaces and broad battlements of the New Jerusalem itself.

But if one has never any vision of the heavenly city, nor any delight in thinking upon it, it is rather a suspicious indication that his feet are not traveling in that direction and that his heart has not been given to God. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6 : 21).

Come thou with us, and we will do thee good, v. 29. There is no safety in solitude. No man ever went into the wilderness, but the devil went after him. On the other hand, there is great support in numbers. Everybody is stirred by the enthusiasm of the crowd. Many and many a time has the devil been chased out of the human heart by the hearty volume of song in the crowded church, and by the soul-stirring word spoken to a responsive audience. Why then should any one go apart, where he will have to fight single-handed against all the forces of evil within and without him? Why should he not join with those whose enthusiasm is so contagious, and whose very presence will do him good?

Be to us instead of eyes, v. 31. "It is pleasant to lie back on the cushions and let another drive", writes Robert Browning; but he adds, "What if you suspect he cannot drive?" It is a great relief to let another see for you and think for you. The passenger lolls contentedly on the luxurious seats of the railway coach, passing the moments in idle amusements, heedless of the motion of the train, because he has confidence in the trained eyes that peer unweariedly from the engine cab, where the bright headlight falls on the gleaming metals. But if those eyes should grow heavy and at last close, what dire disaster would result! Let us see to it that those who are our spiritual guides, whose spiritual eyes we use, are people

**"Never Saw
Him Getting
Ready"**

**Why Fight
Single Handed?**

**Guides with
Eyes**