

## **"Bits and Pieces" for Cadet Sunday sermon**

### **"Amazing" - Joshua 3:5**

**Introduction** for those who plan to use these "Bits and Pieces" for a Cadet Sunday sermon, let me start with the (by now) usual *caveat*:

As in previous "Roadmap" postings, what follows here is not a sermon. It is, instead, a collection of bits and pieces indicating what I think might be some salient points to use in a sermon. Why not present a full sermon? Because it would be my sermon, not yours, written to be preached with my personality, my inflections, my spontaneous insertions and deletions. All that I gladly leave up to you. You know your cadets and will find your own ways of connecting with them. This collection of bits and pieces obviously needs filling in. It is no problem finding images on the internet for the things that are included in this "sermon" if you are so inclined to use them.

One thing, however, I do have in mind: I hope that whatever you preach will be aimed at the Cadets (probably sitting on the front rows), with the congregation being privileged to "listen in."

I humbly submit these bits and pieces praying that they will encourage and bless the Cadets, build up the church of our Lord Jesus Christ, and bring glory to our Triune God -- Rev. Ted S. Bootsma (ret'd); member of Bethel CRC, Waterdown, Ontario.

So here are the suggested **"Bits and Pieces"** for you to play with (consider them kindling to start a fire, perhaps):

Main Text:

Jos 3:5 Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

First amazing thing that happened after this promise: the priests were supposed to carry the ark of God and walk right into a really fast-flowing river, too dangerous to cross at that time of year. What happened? The second the toes of the priests touched the river, it stopped! Heaped up in a pile! The people of Israel could simply walk across without even getting their shoes wet. Imagine that, if you can! Amazing!

Second amazing thing: How would you try to tear down the huge strong walls of a city? Use dynamite? Dig away at the foundations till they crumble? God had a better idea. Just walk around the city seven times, then blow the trumpets and shout. They did. And those huge walls crumbled, fell down, so the Israelite army could just walk right into the city. Imagine that, if you can! Amazing!

Here's an amazing fact: If you stretched the DNA **in one cell** all the way out, it would be **about 2m long** (about 6 1/2 ft) and all the DNA in all your cells put together would be about twice the diameter of the Solar System. And God puts all that together in each cell of your body.

Another one: The DNA in each human cell is around 3 billion digits long and has to be copied every time a cell divides—which occurs **nearly 2 trillion times each day**. If errors occur in DNA replication, cells can become abnormal and give rise to disease. DNA determines your physical characteristics even to such details as eye colour, left/right handed, etc. Amazing again: every time it replicates, it keeps all that intact.

Another amazing fact: If you took all the blood vessels out of an average child and laid them out in one line, the line would stretch over 60,000 miles. True for each one of you Cadets. **An adult's would be closer to 100,000 miles long.** True for each one of you counsellors. What an amazing God we have!

Consider the godwit -- a long-necked long-legged shorebird. It migrates from Alaska to New Zealand in a non-stop flight of 12,000 km (roughly 7,500 miles). They fly (no coasting on air currents) flapping their wings for over 200 hours, up to 55 mph, through storms, rain, etc. How do they know the way? An amazing creature, created by an amazing God.

What was once amazing, is now everyday ordinary. Consider the following article printed in the *Tacoma News Tribune* on April 11, 1953 (I checked its authenticity):

Mark R. Sullivan, San Francisco, president and director of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., said in an address Thursday night: "Just what form the future telephone will take is, of course, pure speculation. Here is my prophecy: 'In its final development, the telephone will be carried about by the individual, perhaps as we carry a watch today. It probably will require no dial or equivalent, and I think the users will be able to see each other, if they want, as they talk. Who knows but what it may actually translate from one language to another?'" At that time it was the stuff of science fiction. Not anymore. How do you amaze Cadets nowadays? And who knows what kinds of futuristic predictions will actually come true? Could be some amazing things.

But one thing is always true: What God says, he will do. God says He will be with you, and He is; He says He loves you, and He does; He says . . . . Amazing!

Want to see some amazing space photos? Maybe you can show them during the service. (I'm not that technically/electronically inclined, but maybe you or your audio/video team is.) Google "Amazing Space Photos" and you will find amazing photos. Reminder: some of those light dots in those photos are not just stars, but galaxies. And note Isa 40:26 "Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one **and calls forth each of them by name.** Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing." What an amazing God. You might be able to show how small earth is in relation to our galaxy, let alone the universe.

Amazing fact: In spite of living on a miniature dot in a huge universe, and being micro-mini dots on that planet, God knows each one of you cadets. He made you, he knows you, he loves you. He sees you and watches over you. Now that's amazing! And he has plans for you, Cadets, and will do amazing things not only among you, but through you. Commit yourself to Jesus, follow him, and who knows how many scientists, doctors, nurses, long-haul truck drivers, caregivers, teachers, artists, musicians, missionaries (and whatever you can add to the list) will come from your cadre. God is in the business of doing amazing things, even in and through you.