

**Deuteronomy 26 (Deut. 14: 22-28) How To Not Suffer From Short-Sightedness 8/20/2023**

**What we will learn today?** It is impossible to live a full life without a long view

**Ex.** "A Beautiful Mind"- ( Life of Nobel prize winner John Nash. He had schizophrenia.)

A friend said to him, "John, there is more to life than work." John says, "What are those things?"

John asked his wife, "What is life about?" She said, " Life is full of activity; the question is, does it have meaning?"

**Life is not a string of random events.** Just starting from yourself; you will never have a full and meaningful life.

**Three ways people look at life: The Treadmill; the saga; the Pilgrimage.**

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**Treadmill:** A dismal feeling toward life. Emphasizing the monotony of living.

**Saga:** It tries to lift the heroism and glamour of life to a poetic level; it rises above the treadmill by exalting the distinctive human qualities shown within the meaningless treadmill. Courage, patience, endurance, self-sacrifice.

**Ex.** Homer's Odyssey **Ex.** Stoic Philosophy **Ex.** Movie "Troy." "I will remember your name!"

**Ex.** In our day, "It is not the destination, but the journey!" **Ex.** Poem "Invictus."

The life of saga is limited to only this life. If there is nothing more it is just a glorified meaninglessness. "If there is more than the sum of temporary things to be sung, the saga cannot sing it."

The reality of the book of Ecclesiastes makes a mockery of the life of saga. No lasting value for all the struggle; if it all ends in death.

**Pilgrimage-** Life lived on two planes

**Text Intro: Deuteronomy 26: 1-19** A passionate pilgrim!

Deuteronomy 14: 22-29 give us the information of an event in Israel's history; Deuteronomy 26 places you there as it happens and helps you feel it!

**READ TEXT:** A way out of the treadmill and the saga!

**26: 5** "wandering" can also mean "perishing"- (Hebrew- " o' bed ") Both terms imply an unsure life in the natural; or by outward appearance. Israel had a slender chance of survival; or so it seemed. But the way it really is, for someone trusting the Lord, is an abundant life.

**Nothing wrong with you; not a lack of faith, because you feel life is a bit sketchy.**

**Ex.) Jet the dog**

**26: 12-19** Wow! Could you sit down with your family tonight any say, "THIS is why we live; THIS is the reason for all our activities!"

We need to restate to God and to ourselves the very reason "we are here" very often. Now, maybe you understand the importance of what is called, "CHURCH." We need constant fellowship with each other!

**SHARE TIME: Where has he taken you from? Where are you now? Are you sure that you have a hope for the future?**