



# What is an adventure?

## Noun

an **unusual** and exciting, typically hazardous, experience or **activity**.

## Verb

engage in hazardous and exciting activity, especially the exploration of **unknown territory**.

# Why 40 Days?

Number “forty” + (time period)  
is mentioned 146 times in Scripture.

It symbolizes trial and testing, probation,  
or the fulfillment of promises.

# On an adventure, you need...

- A starting point      Your spiritual location today
- A destination      Intimacy with God, heaven
- A map      The Bible
- A route      A daily walk with the Savior
- A leader      Messiah Jesus
- A team      First Melissa family
- A role      Follower, disciple, adventurer

# Christopher Columbus



Italian explorer, navigator, and colonist who completed four voyages across the Atlantic Ocean under the auspices of the Catholic Monarchs of Spain. He led the first European expeditions to the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, initiating the permanent European colonization of the Americas. Columbus discovered the viable sailing route to the Americas, a continent which was not then known to the Old World. While what he thought he had discovered was a route to the Far East, he is credited with the opening of the Americas for conquest and settlement by Europeans.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher\\_Columbus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Columbus)

# Christopher Columbus

Son of a wool merchant, he was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451. As a teenager, he got a job on a merchant ship. He remained at sea until 1470, when French privateers attacked his ship as it sailed north along the Portuguese coast. The boat sank, but the young Columbus floated to shore on a scrap of wood and made his way to Lisbon, where he studied mathematics, astronomy, cartography and navigation. He also began to hatch the plan that would change the world forever. He presented his plan to officials in Portugal and England, but it was not until 1491 that he found a sympathetic audience: the Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand of Aragon and Queen Isabella of Castile. Columbus wanted fame and fortune. Ferdinand and Isabella wanted the same, along with the opportunity to export Catholicism to lands across the globe. (Columbus, a devout Catholic, was equally enthusiastic about this possibility.) Columbus' contract with the Spanish rulers promised that he could keep 10 percent of whatever riches he found, along with a noble title and the governorship of any lands he should encounter.

<https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/christopher-columbus>

# Christopher Columbus

Columbus estimated the size of the Atlantic Ocean partially from reading his Bible. He had read in the Second Book of Esdras (in the Apocrypha) that God created the world in seven parts, six of them dry land and the seventh water. He thus calculated that the ocean separating Portugal from Cipangu (Japan) was one-seventh of the earth's circumference, or about 2,400 miles. He figured that by sailing 100 miles per day, he could reach the Indies in 30 days.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-35/columbus-and-christianity-did-you-know.html>

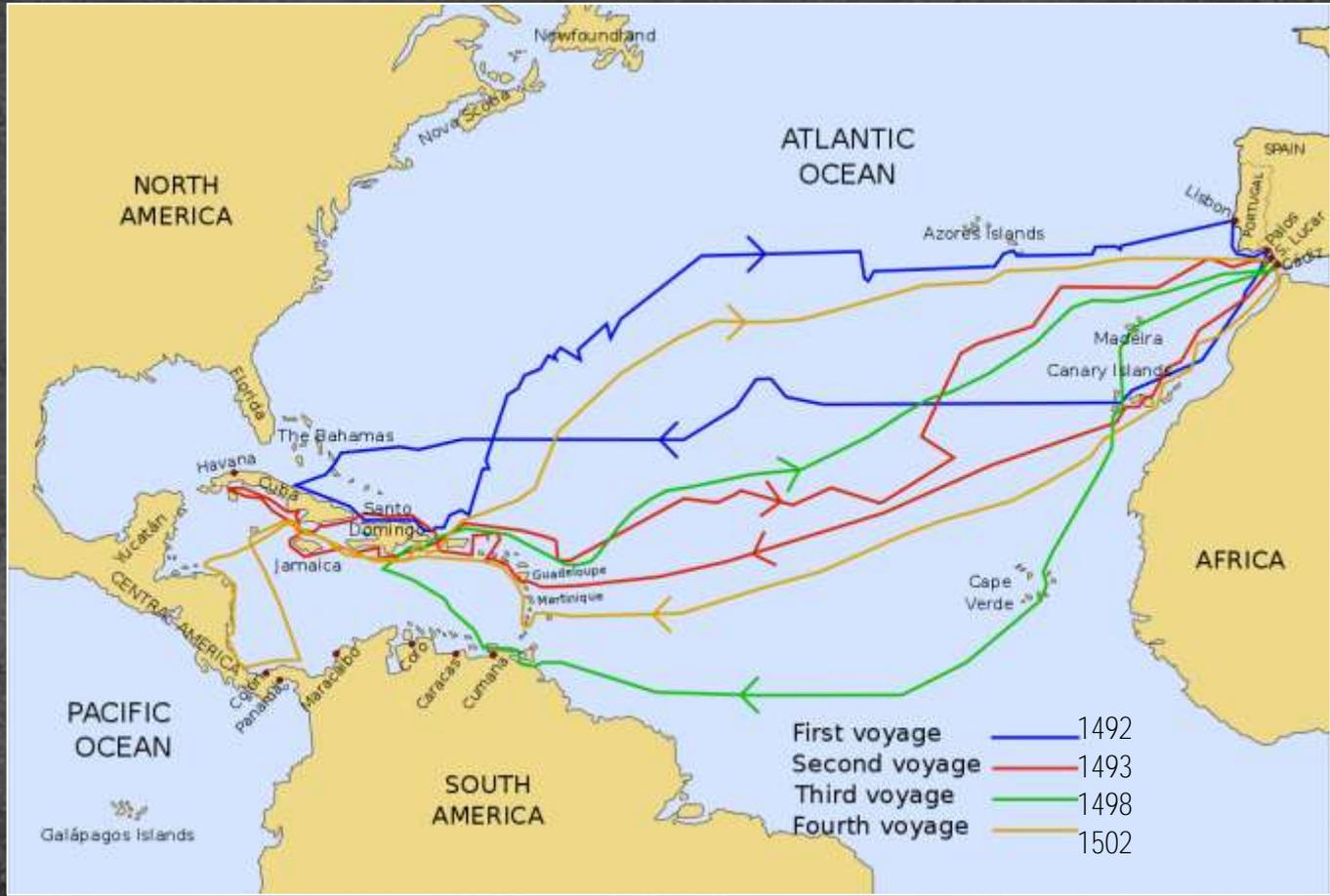
# Travels of Christopher Columbus



## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS' MAIDEN JOURNEY - 1492

On August 3, 1492, Columbus and crew set sail from Spain in three ships: Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. On October 12, the ships made landfall—not in Asia, as Columbus assumed, but on one of the Bahamian islands. For months, Columbus sailed from island to island in what we now call the Caribbean, looking for the “pearls, precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and other objects and merchandise whatsoever” that he had promised to his Spanish patrons, but he did not find much. In March 1493, leaving 40 men behind in a makeshift settlement on Hispaniola (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic), he returned to Spain.

# Travels of Christopher Columbus



# The Path of our Church

First Melissa's passion is to make  
disciples of Jesus who:

- reach intentionally
- connect authentically
- equip continuously
- live passionately

# Equip continuously

Learn and Live God's Word

For on the first of the first month he (Ezra) began to go up from Babylon; and on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, because the good hand of his God was upon him. For **Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it**, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.  
Ezra 7:9-10

# Connect Authentically

Build relationships that encourage real faith in real life

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

# Reach Intentionally

Make the world, near and far, your mission field

Jesus said, “Go (as you are going) therefore and **make** disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

# Live passionately

Steward your passions, live changed

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.’ ”

Revelation 3:14-16

What does a spiritual adventure  
look like?

1 Kings 18



A range of fertile, forested hills (Amos 1:2; Isa. 33:9; Nah. 1:4) 15 miles long on the west border of the land allotted to tribe of Asher (Josh. 19:26). It extends from Samaritan hill country west to Mediterranean and south to Mount Carmel headland. Mount Carmel, entrance of the Jezreel Valley, commands an excellent view of the shoreline and rises 556 feet above the harbor of modern Haifa. Because of its height it provided an important strategic position for the control of the fertile valley land. – Harper's Bible Dictionary

Now it happened after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year (of the famine/drought), saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth.” So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. 1 Kings 18:1-2

\***Elijah** - an Israelite prophet in the times of kings Ahab and Ahaziah, during the first half of the ninth century BC.

\***Ahab** – King of northern kingdom of Israel (869-850 BC), son of Omri

\***Jezebel** – Queen, wife of Ahab, daughter of Ethbaal, king of Tyre, worships Baal

\***Baal** - the principal male god of the Phoenicians, a weather god associated with thunderstorms; associated with female goddess **Asherah**

So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. Ahab called Obadiah who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly; for when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the Lord, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.) Then Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys; perhaps we will find grass and keep the horses and mules alive, and not have to kill some of the cattle." So they divided the land between them to survey it; Ahab went one way by himself and Obadiah went another way by himself.

1 Kings 18:3-6

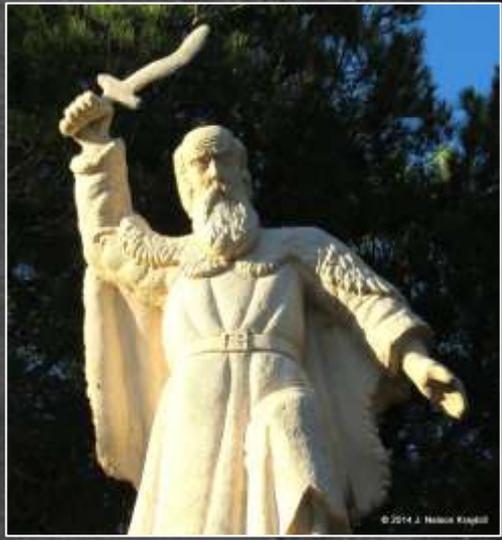
Now as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him, and he recognized him and fell on his face and said, “Is this you, Elijah my master?” He said to him, “It is I. Go, say to your master, ‘Behold, Elijah is here.’ ” He said, “What sin have I committed, that you are giving your servant into the hand of Ahab to put me to death? As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent to search for you; and when they said, ‘He is not here,’ he made the kingdom or nation swear that they could not find you. And now you are saying, ‘Go, say to your master, “Behold, Elijah is here.” ’”

1 Kings 18:7-11

It will come about when I leave you that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you where I do not know; so when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth. Has it not been told to my master what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, that I hid a hundred prophets of the Lord by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water? And now you are saying, 'Go, say to your master, "Behold, Elijah is here" '; he will then kill me.' Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. 1 Kings 18:12-16

When (King) Ahab saw (Prophet) Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, you troubler of Israel?” He said, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and you have followed the Baals. Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

1 Kings 18:17-19



So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men. “Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people said, “That is a good idea.”

1 Kings 18:20-24

Lord is Yahweh יהוה

God is Elohim אֱלֹהִים

So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.” Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made. It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.” So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

1 Kings 18:24-29

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord which had been torn down. Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

1 Kings 18:30-35

At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice (3 pm), Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.” Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God.”

1 Kings 18:36-39

# Christopher Columbus

Columbus was a very devout Catholic who observed all the fasts of the church and prayed regularly. His very name Christopher, which means Christ-bearer, he understood as a title of his destiny to carry the message of the gospel to far-off lands. He is said to have diligently searched the Scriptures and thought he found assurance for a call to sail to the far reaches of the globe with the Christian message.

Zechariah 9:10 states that "he shall speak peace unto the nations: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth." Psalm 107:23-24 promised that "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep."

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/should-christians-honor-the-legacy-of-columbus.html>

# Christopher Columbus

During Columbus's voyages, the ships' crews observed religious rites. Every time they turned the half-hour glass (their primary means of keeping time), they cried: "Blessed be the hour of our Savior's birth / blessed be the Virgin Mary who bore him / and blessed be John who baptized him."

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What about YOUR  
spiritual adventure?

# On your spiritual adventure... lessons from Columbus

- There is the risk of danger
- There is the risk of failure
- There is the risk of making poor decisions
- There is the risk of facing opposition
- There is the risk of falling into sin
- There is the temptation to seek personal glory and wealth
- There is the chance to see a whole new world
- There is the chance to take the gospel to new places
- There is the chance to leave a legacy for the Savior

# Christopher Columbus

Christopher was particularly concerned with the power of the Ottoman Turks who controlled the eastern Mediterranean and were threatening Europe. If a way could be found of reaching India by sailing West, the Turks could be attacked from behind and perhaps the Holy Land itself could be rescued from their hands. Yes, Columbus was interested in trade and riches, but Christian concern also lay behind his plans.

When land was sighted on this day October 12, 1492, in recognition of the divine aid in his voyage, Columbus named the land San Salvador, which means Holy Savior, and prayed, “O Lord, Almighty and everlasting God, by Thy holy Word Thou hast created the heaven, and the earth, and the sea; blessed and glorified be Thy Name, and praised be Thy Majesty, which hath designed to use us, Thy humble servants, that Thy holy Names may be proclaimed in this second part of the earth.”

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# On your spiritual adventure...

## lessons from Elijah

- Feelings of fear and loneliness are real
- You can choose to reject the false gods of this world
- You can have the courage to stand up for the one true God even if you feel all alone
- Your prayer life can include asking God to do amazing miracles for His glory
- You can **COMMIT** to serving God faithfully
- You can **CALL** others to serve God with you

“Every man can transform the world from one of monotony and drabness to one of excitement and adventure.”

- Irving Wallace

Elijah said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.”

1 Kings 18:21