

Study Notes: Session 7

“Egypt to the Promised Land”

Your Scriptures to Read

- ⇒ **Experience in Egypt:** Exodus chapters 1-15; Deuteronomy 4:20 – their condition in Egypt, the Passover feast, God’s redemption, exit out of Egypt, their song of rejoicing, and arrival in Elim, with springs of waters.
- ⇒ **God’s Deliverer:** Exodus chapters 3 and 4.
- ⇒ **Wilderness Experience:** Exodus chapters 16-18 – journey to Sinai, struggles, God’s promises & provisions for them.
- ⇒ Exodus chapters 19-24: God gives Moses the law and the inauguration of the law:
- ⇒ Exodus chapters 25-31: God gives the pattern for the tabernacle and the priesthood.
- ⇒ **Problems & Promises in the Wilderness: Exodus chapters 32-34:** the molten calf, God’s anger, Moses’ debate with God; God speaks of a covenant with miracles, enlarging their borders. He promises His presence will be with them.
- ⇒ **God’s Covenant Relationship:** Exodus 6:2-8; Judges 6:8-9; Psalm 50:5, 16
- ⇒ Numbers chapters 10:11-21:35 – an historical account of their journeys, covers 39 years. Tells the story of their inability to enter into the promised land – the 12 men who spy out the land and their reports. Tells of the suffering to follow because of their failure to trust God and follow Him; the water out of a rock, and God’s presence with them.
- ⇒ **Story of the twelve spies:** Numbers 13:1-33; 14:1-45.
- ⇒ **Moses prepares the people to enter the Promise Land:** Deuteronomy Chapters 1-3 – After 40 years, God says they have stayed long enough at the mountain and to turn and set their journey toward the promised land. Moses reviews what happened to them in their wilderness experience – from the time they left Horeb (Mt. Sinai) until they camped at the foot of Mt. Nebo – and how God was with them.
- ⇒ Deuteronomy chapters 4-11 & 28 – Moses teaches what they are to do when they enter and reminds them of what God has done. Tells them the “meaning” of their wilderness experience.
- ⇒ Deuteronomy chapters 12-26 – Moses gives people the statutes and judgments they are to observe.

- ⇒ Deuteronomy chapters 27-34 – Moses speaks about the necessity of their obedience and the cost of not doing what the Lord says. Gives his parting words and blessings.
- ⇒ **Joshua (Jehoshua, son of Nun) prepares the people to enter the promise land:** Joshua chapters 1-5 – Moses (symbol for the Law) is dead and now the people can enter into their promised land. Joshua tries to instill the courage and boldness they will need and the importance of listening to and obeying God’s word to them.
- ⇒ **Joshua sends out two spies to spy out the land:** Joshua 2:1-24
- ⇒ **The Ark of the Covenant:** Joshua 3:3; 6:7-20
- ⇒ **Entering the Promise Land:** Joshua chapters 13-21 – story of the struggle to take possession of their promise land.
- ⇒ **Living in the Promise Land:** Joshua chapters 22-34 – they possess the land; they enjoy rest from their enemies. Reminded to follow the ways of the Lord.
- ⇒ **Israelites Journey as an example for us:** 1 Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 7:26-8:5; 9:8-9; 10:1.
- ⇒ **Our Redemption from Egypt:** Ephesians 1:7, 11, 13-14; 2:1-6; Colossians 1:13-14; 2:12-15; Luke 1:68-79.
- ⇒ **God’s New Covenant Relationship:** Acts 3:19-26; Hebrews 8:6-13; 9:1-4, 16-22; 10:16-29; 12:24; 13:20.
- ⇒ **God’s Two Covenants:** Galatians 4:22-31.

Reflection Points

- ◆ Their escape, the tremendous vicissitudes of life, and the memory of God's intervention are a symbolic picture of your spiritual journey.
- ◆ “There is no gift human beings will run faster from than the terrible gift of freedom” – (Eric Fromm).
- ◆ “Though real and concrete as the Promised Land, the ‘New Jerusalem’ is not geographical in nature; rather it symbolizes for us an inner development such as wholeness, possessing our identity, fulfilling our destiny, and God's presence.” —Richard Peace¹
- ◆ The Key Thing They Learned: They learned how to surrender themselves to God, i.e., to let go and trust Him. In surrendering themselves into His hand, they discovered the power of God, and that His power is within them. The message of faith is “to let go”— this is our true work in life. In order to do this, their thinking had to change; their thoughts had to be based on a new reality of who they were. They could no longer think

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like slaves or children. The rules in the new order were different than their old reality. They had to learn that they were free.

- ◆ What are the differences between God’s two blood covenants?

1) Stage 1: Egypt

- What condition did God’s people live under while in Egypt?
- How were they freed from their house of bondage in Egypt?
- What promise did God give His people? What did He ask of them? (Exodus 15:26).
- What was God's purpose in delivering them from Egypt? (Ex. 3:8,17)
- What did they learn from their miraculous exodus out Egypt?
- What were they freed from?

2) Stage 2: Wandering Around in the Wilderness

- Who did the people follow in the Wilderness?
- What report did Joshua and Caleb bring back to Moses and the people?
- What happened to the ten spies who gave a negative report?
- Consider God’s response to the congregation in Numbers 14:26-30?
- Why did it take forty years for God’s people to go into the Promise Land?

3) Stage 3: The Promise Land

- Who did the people follow into the Promise Lands?
- How did Joshua prepare God’s people to enter into the Promise Land?
- What was the purpose of Joshua to send out two spies? What did they learn from their experience? (Joshua 2:1-24)
- Read Joshua 18:4: What were the people of God asked to write out?
- What problems and challenges did they encounter entering into the Promise Land?
- What were they instructed to follow when they crossed the Jordan River into the Promise Land? When they captured the walled city of Jericho?
- Who did Jacob encounter in Joshua 5:13-15?
- What are some things they were told to be aware of and remember when they entered into the Promise Land? (Deut. 4:7-8; 5:15, 29, 32-33; 6-9; 11:16-20).
- How did their new life in the Promise Land differ from their life in the Wilderness?
- Describe the attitude they needed in order to go into the Promise Land and possess it (Deut. 1:29; 7:21-22; Joshua 1:6-9).
- What was the difference between their two leaders: Moses and Joshua?

Your Responses

1) Experiences in Egypt

- Look at the situation God’s people lived in. In what way do you think you are living in a similar situation? Do you feel like you are still trapped in a situation?
- What goal might a slave in Egypt have had in mind? What would they long for?
- When do you feel like you are a victim?
- Listen to the words and sounds you make this week? When do you use the words and sounds of slavery? Do you moan more or less incessantly, noisily or subtly, about enormity of your problems, burdens, and difficulties?
- What condition were you in when you came out of Egypt?
- How were you delivered out of Egypt?
- In what areas of your life are you still in bondage or slavery?
- What will it take for you to break free or come out of Egypt?
- What do you need to be freed from?
- Sing the song the sons of Israel sang to the Lord as they left Egypt (Exodus 15:1-21).

2) Experiences Wandering around in the Wilderness

- How did you get out of Egypt?
- Identify problems and difficulties you have experienced since finding Jesus.
- What memories do you have of God's interventions in your life?
- After you read Numbers 14:4, how often have you wanted to go back to Egypt?
- What have you learned about yourself as a result of your experiences?
- What have your problems and difficulties accomplished in you?
- What kind of report do you daily give? Like Joshua & Caleb or the other 10 guys?
- What words, thoughts, and pictures still want to hang onto you from your time in the house of bondage?
- What needs to happen for you to enter into and possess your Promise Land?
- What discoveries have you made about God?
- In your *gut* do you really believe that His desire is to do good for you? That you can trust Him? What does He have to do for you to trust Him?

3) Entering the Promise Land

Note: to enter the promise land, the Israelites needed a change in leadership – no longer Moses, but now Joshua, son of Nun. What was the difference in these two men of God?

- Can you explain what the Promise Land symbolizes for you? Where is the Promise Land to be found?
- Read the following scriptures and think of them in terms of your own life (Joshua 1:3-9). What stands out to you?

- What promises has God given you?
- What dreams do you carry in your heart?
- Write out a description of your promise land – the land God has for you to possess.
- Describe the attitude you need to go in and possess that land? (Deut. 1:29; 7:21-22; Joshua 1:6-9).
- What does the Ark of the Covenant symbolize for you?
- What battles have you fought and won in order to enter and possess your promise land?
- What negative thoughts often try to take hold of your mind? Write them out.
- Search the Bible looking for promises God has given us new Covenant believers. (2 Peter 1:3-4).

Suggested Creative Exercises

Learn to ask what does this experience mean to me?

- The test is not, *“Do I like this or want that?”*
- Learn to ask what does *“this”* experience mean to me. Do I know the meaning of all that has happened to me so far? What significance do I want to give to it?
- If you can find meaning and purpose in your suffering, you can survive anything.

Journal writing

- Write a short description of how you got out of Egypt.
- Write a description of your wilderness experiences. What giants have you encountered? What point did they bring you to? What have you learned in your wilderness experience?
- Write a letter to God as one who is struggling to get out of the wilderness.
- Write a song, a piece of prose, or a poem about your journey with God, your Creator.

Make a collage

1. Make a collage on large poster board, using pictures and words from magazines to tell the story of your life – this exercise helps to bring together the fragments of your life into a meaningful whole, perhaps you find meaning and purpose beyond your personal history.
2. Make a collage on large poster board, using pictures and words from magazines to tell the story of your journey – out of Egypt to the promise land.