

OUT OF BONDAGE INTO ABUNDANCE

Part 1: Introduction

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The amazing story of God’s deliverance of His people Israel out of Egypt and His taking them into the Promised Land is a prevalent theme throughout Scripture. The Bible reveals that God had a **two-fold purpose** for His people: He brought them **out** of Egypt to take them **in** to Canaan, the Promised Land

I. OUT OF EGYPT THE “LAND OF SLAVERY”

- A. **Ex. 3:7-8:** *⁷The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the **misery** of My people in Egypt. I have heard them **crying out** because of their **slave drivers**, and I am concerned about their **suffering**.⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and **to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land**, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.*
- B. Terms used in Scripture to describe Israel’s experience in Egypt: oppression, misery, groaning, suffering, affliction, discouragement, cruel bondage, bitter forced labor, toil, mistreated, iron-smelting furnace, aliens, diseases, reproach, idols, darkness
- C. **Deut. 6:20-23:** *²⁰In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?”²¹tell him: “**We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt**, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.²²Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders—great and terrible—upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household.²³But **He brought us out** from there **to bring us in and give us the land that HE PROMISED ON OATH** to our forefathers.*
- D. There were **three important steps** or aspects to Israel’s deliverance from Egypt:
 - 1. Celebration of the Passover
 - 2. Crossing the Red Sea
 - 3. Coming to Mt. Sinai

II. INTO THE PROMISED LAND OF CANAAN

- A. Canaan was a good and spacious land flowing with milk and honey (**Ex. 3:8**): ⁸*So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...*
- B. God was taking Israel to be His own people in order that they might possess the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (**Ex. 6:5-8**): ⁵*Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered My covenant..* ⁶*“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as My own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.’”*
- C. The Promised Land was a place of abundant provision (**Deut. 6:10-12**): ¹⁰*When the LORD your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹²be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*
- D. It was a well-watered, fruitful and rich land (**Deut. 8:7-10**): ⁷*For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; ⁸a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.*

- E. Canaan was a land that drinks rain from heaven where they were to love and serve the Lord, enjoying long life like the days that the heavens are above the earth (**Deut. 11:8-15, 21**): ⁸*Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,* ⁹*and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.* ¹⁰***The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden.*** ¹¹*But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven.* ¹²*It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.* ¹³*So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul—*¹⁴*then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.* ¹⁵*I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied...* ²¹***so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.***

III. ISRAEL'S JOURNEY: A PICTURE OF NEW TESTAMENT SALVATION

- A. Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan is an amazing picture of the New Testament believer's salvation and entrance into abundant life through Jesus Christ
- B. Paul explained that the entire account of Israel's exodus from Egypt is an example for us (**1 Cor. 10:1-11**): ¹*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.* ²***They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.*** ³*They all ate the same spiritual food* ⁴*and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.* ⁵*Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.* ⁶***Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil***

things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. **¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings FOR US, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.**

- C. In subsequent studies, we will see how the three steps in Israel’s deliverance from Egypt correspond to **three distinct New Testament experiences** in Christ (John 3:3-5):
 1. Celebration of the Passover (Ex. 12) = salvation (*born again*)
 2. Crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 14) = water baptism (*born of water*)
 3. Coming to Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19) = baptism in the Holy Spirit (*born of the Spirit*)
- D. Just as Israel’s deliverance began with the blood of the Passover lamb, so the Christian’s salvation begins through the blood of Christ, the true Passover Lamb who was sacrificed for them (**1 Cor. 5:7-8**): ⁷*Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For **Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*** ⁸*Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.*
- E. As already noted, Paul referred to Israel’s “baptism” in the Red Sea (water baptism) and in the cloud (Holy Spirit baptism) in **1 Cor. 10:1-2**: ¹*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²**They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.***
- F. And just as God descended at Mt. Sinai to “tabernacle” amongst His people and to give them His law, Paul told the Corinthians that they had become the “*temple of God*” (1 Cor. 3:16) through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the law being written “**by the Spirit of the living God... not on tablets of stone [as at Sinai] but on tablets of human hearts**” (2 Cor. 3:2-8).

IV. GOD HAS A “PROMISED LAND” FOR THE CHRISTIAN

- A. It must be emphasized that Israel’s deliverance from Egypt through the Passover, their crossing of the Red Sea, and their coming to Mt. Sinai – these three steps were not sufficient to bring them into the Promised Land – they were only the initial phases to prepare them to enter and take possession of their promised inheritance!
- B. Likewise, the born-again believer who is baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit has not yet arrived – his/her journey has just begun: the New Testament believer is called out of sin into a “Promised Land” – a life of rich abundance in Christ to inherit God’s promises
 1. **2 Pet. 1:4** (AMP): *He has bestowed on us His **precious and exceedingly great promises**, so that through them you may **escape [by flight] from the moral decay** (rotteness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and **become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature**.*
 2. **John 10:10** (AMP): *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and **enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)**.*
- C. Note the similarity between the following Old and New Testament passages
 1. **Ex. 19:4-6**: ⁴“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine, ⁶you will be for Me a **kingdom of priests and a holy nation**.” These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.
 2. **1 Pet. 2:9-10**: ⁹But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God**, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you **out of darkness into His wonderful light**. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but **now you are the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- D. In the same way that Israel was called to inherit the land God promised them, so the Christian is called to inherit God's promises
1. **Acts 13:19:** *He overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to His people as their inheritance.*
 2. **Heb. 6:12:** *We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience **inherit what has been promised.***
 3. **2 Cor. 1:20:** *For no matter how **many promises** God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*
- E. Although many of God's promises for the Christian are for this life, his inheritance is primarily a heavenly one
1. **Eph. 1:13-18:** ¹³*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised **Holy Spirit**, ¹⁴**who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory...** ¹⁸*I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious **inheritance** in the saints.**
 2. **1 Pet. 1:3-4:** ³*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us **new birth** into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴**and into an inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade—**kept in heaven for you.***
 3. **Heb. 9:15:** *For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may **receive the promised eternal inheritance**—now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*
- F. God's call both to Israel and to us is to **enter His rest**; Israel could not enter into God's rest because of disobedience and unbelief, but the same promise of rest remains to the Christian
1. **Heb. 3:18-19:** ¹⁸*And to whom did God swear that they would never **enter His rest** if not to those who disobeyed?* ¹⁹*So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their **unbelief.***

2. **Heb. 4:1-11:** ¹Therefore, since **the promise of entering His rest still stands**, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. ²For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. ³Now **we who have believed enter that rest**, just as God has said, “So I declared on oath in My anger, ‘They shall never enter My rest.’” And yet His work has been finished since the creation of the world. ⁴For somewhere He has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “And on the seventh day God rested from all His work.” ⁵And again in the passage above He says, “They shall never enter My rest.” ⁶It still remains that some will enter that rest, and **those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.** ⁷Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later He spoke through David, as was said before: “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” ⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹**There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;** ¹⁰for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. ¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. In subsequent studies, we will take a step-by-step look at Israel's entire journey from Egypt into the Promised Land and try to apply those truths to our experience as New Testament followers of Christ
- B. Here is our **Study Outline:**
1. *Part 1 – Introduction (this study)*
 2. *Part 2 – Passover Celebration*
 3. *Part 3 – Crossing the Red Sea*
 4. *Part 4 – Coming to Mt. Sinai*
 5. *Part 5 – Journey through the Wilderness*
 6. *Part 6 – Conquering 7 Nations*
 7. *Part 7 – Possessing the Land*