

Introduction:

1. Our theme for 2022 is freed from sin, servants to God! While this lesson is not directly focused on our theme, it certainly connects. Our study will come from the book of Exodus. The book of Exodus shows us God delivering the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt into a journey to their promise land: Canaan. Like Israel, we are headed to our promised land: Heaven.
  - a. Israel had Moses (who was hesitant) to lead them in their journey. We have Jesus who was willing to deliver us! This nation of slaves could not defeat Egypt. But their God did. We serve the same God. Through Him and Son we've been saved, Matthew 19:26.
  - b. Israel went through the waters of the Red Sea as they departed their bondage to be delivered by God. We have gone through the waters of baptism to be delivered from our bondage of sin, Colossians 2:11-12.
  - c. Israel was to observe the Passover to remember what God did for them in, Exodus 12:25-27. Christ, who is our Passover, was sacrificed and set up a memorial to help us to remember what He has done.
  - d. Israel entered a covenant with God with laws to live by in Exodus 19. We are a part of the New Covenant established by Christ, Hebrews 9:15.
  - e. Israel had men like Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu as priests, Exodus 28. Jesus is our great High Priest who offered Himself for our sins, and who reigns in heaven, Hebrews 7.
2. The story of the Exodus is told throughout the Old Testament, Genesis 50:25; Psalm 78; Joshua 2; Luke 20:37-38; Acts 7:36 Hebrews 11:22, 27. Israel's identity is deeply connected to the Exodus story (Passover, Covenant, Laws, Priests, Tabernacles,) etc. *"By remembering the exodus, they remembered everything that it represented. This remembering is not found in the mental recollection of historical events, even though that type of memory played a part when the Israelites remembered the exodus. Instead, this remembering was much more of an exercise in reflecting on the significance of these events and a commemoration of the relationship that existed between God and His people. We may compare this to what we experience when we partake of the Lord's Supper...we remember His sacrifice, the significance of His death, we recognize the relationship we have with God because of what Christ did, and we conform our actions to that recognition accordingly. We renew our promise to Jesus, pledging to live out that commitment more thoroughly and consistently than we have in the past."* Jason Longstreth, *Florida College lectures, 2022*
3. While God delivered them, Israel's journey would be delayed for 40-years, Acts 7:36; Psalm 95: 8-11; Hebrews 3:7:13. Israel would find themselves delayed for 40-years. They would have to endure their wilderness. What can we learn from them? Let's consider a few thoughts.

## The Lesson:

### **I. Israel's Wilderness**

- A. As I think about Israel's time in the wilderness, my mind goes to a certain question.
- B. What was it that God wanted Israel to learn?
  1. From the beginning of their journey out of Egypt, God wanted Israel to know:
    - a. **He is faithful**, Exodus 14:10-14. God remembered His people, Exodus 2:24. *"To remember" means "He was moved to act based on His relationship with them, consistent with His promises."* He was faithful to His promises. This was one of the biggest challenges for Israel, Exodus 15:22; 16:2-3, 17:1-3; Psalms 106:13; Numbers 14:21-22. What's the point? Israel was to trust God! They were to move by faith. a
    - b. **He will provide**: Deuteronomy 2:7. He continued to provide for them (Water, Food, Daily Necessities). He was with them. Yet they often doubted His provisions.
    - c. **Be patient**: This journey was slow due to their sins. What's scary is that Israel was impatient, Numbers 16:1-3; Numbers 21:1-9. They were to wait on Him. That time would come, Deuteronomy 2:14. Patience would be required obtaining the land, Exodus 23:29-33.
    - d. **Be content**: Despite their stubborn hearts, God blessed Israel. He provided a miracle for 40 years. He gave them victory of their enemies, Numbers 31. Yet a common theme is complaining. They needed to learn to be content.
    - e. **Be Holy**, Israel had been redeemed from slavery. God had expectations. They failed, Exodus 32; Numbers 25:1-9; Psalm 106:19-20.
  2. For Israel to endure their wilderness, they would need to learn these truths concerning God.

### **II. Jesus Wilderness**

- A. We can say Jesus endured His wilderness. Not due to sin, mistakes, or failure on His part.
  1. Rather, He came to this earth to save us from sins, Matthew 1:23; John 1:14.
    - a. He and His family initially had an exodus out of Jerusalem to Egypt, Matthew 2:13. Like Pharaoh, Herod was a wicked man who did not submit to God. Eventually, Jesus would exit Egypt, Matthew 2:15.
    - b. Jesus experienced temptation in the wilderness, but did not sin, Matthew 4:1-11. While Israel was learning about God, Jesus knew the Father. He trusted in Him. He relied on His provisions. He remained holy!
    - c. He patiently accomplished the will of His Father, John 19:30.
  2. He endured the cross, Hebrews 12:2. He eventually exited this world, Acts 1:10.
- B. Jesus and Israel is to be our example, Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11. Are we learning?

### **III. Our Wilderness**

- A. This world is not our home! The best is yet to come! One day we will exit life and die!

1. One day we will exit the grave and be raised! Therefore, how we live during our stay on this earth matters, 1 Peter 1:17. We must conduct ourselves properly.
  2. Israel had Pharaoh seeking to destroy them. Jesus had Herod seeking to destroy them. We have the devil seeking to destroy us, 1 Peter 5:8.
- B. So, how can we endure our wilderness? Consider some practical things we must DO!
1. **LEARN**: Learn and learn the right way! We can LIVE and LEARN or LEARN and LIVE. We have Israel's story to LEARN from it. Our journey is often more difficult than it must be due to SIN! Like Pharaoh, Satan wants to pull us back into the snares of bondage. In our case sin. But God provides a way of escape. Even when sin may not be involved, a lack of patience makes our journey more difficult. God is patient (2 Peter 3:9) and therefore we must be patient. It is a fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22.
  2. **HIDE and SEEK**: Hide God's word in your hearts
    - a. Jesus did and we must do the same, Matthew 4:1-11. Why? To not sin! To defeat Satan. This is how we will learn to be avoid sin, overcome sin, be content, please God.
    - b. Find places to Hide each day to be alone with God, Luke 5:16.
  3. **REMEMBER**: Israel was to make tassels on their garments, Numbers 15: 37-41. We have a memorial each first day of the week to remember. We have the Old Testament to remember! Consider more often the significance of Christ's sacrifice. Renew your commitment to Him daily. You have an opportunity every Sunday with the saints and everyday individually.
  4. As we journey in our wilderness, let us keep moving forward! There's no reason for us to turn back. Israel often wanted to return to the house of bondage, Exodus 13:3 and the iron furnace, Deuteronomy 4:20. That mindset would delay their blessings, lose lives, and miss out on God's rest!

Conclusion:

1. We know one day this world (our wilderness) will end! Israel knew it would be 40-years for them. Jesus knew the cross was coming! While we don't know the day or hour, we know Jesus will return. Let's journey with a view of this day. Constantly ready. The Final Exodus will occur! Halleluiah! Are you ready for that Exodus?
2. Have you gone through the waters of Baptism for the remission of sins?