

From Egypt to the Promised Land!

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The Happy Wanderer

Frank Weir
1954

“Life is a journey, not a destination.
Happiness is not “there” but here,
Not “tomorrow” but today.”

Sidney Greenberg

How Did the Promised Land End up Being Slavery in Egypt?

- God called Abraham to be the "Father of a Great Nation."
- Along with this promise, there came the promise of a land that God would use to bless His people and to work out His plan of salvation.
- Abraham, his son Isaac and Isaac's son, Jacob were shepherds who moved from place to place.
- Due to a severe famine, the Israelites, as they were called, moved to Egypt.
- At first they were welcomed but in time things changed.

From the Promised Land to Egypt, and then Back Again to the Promised Land!

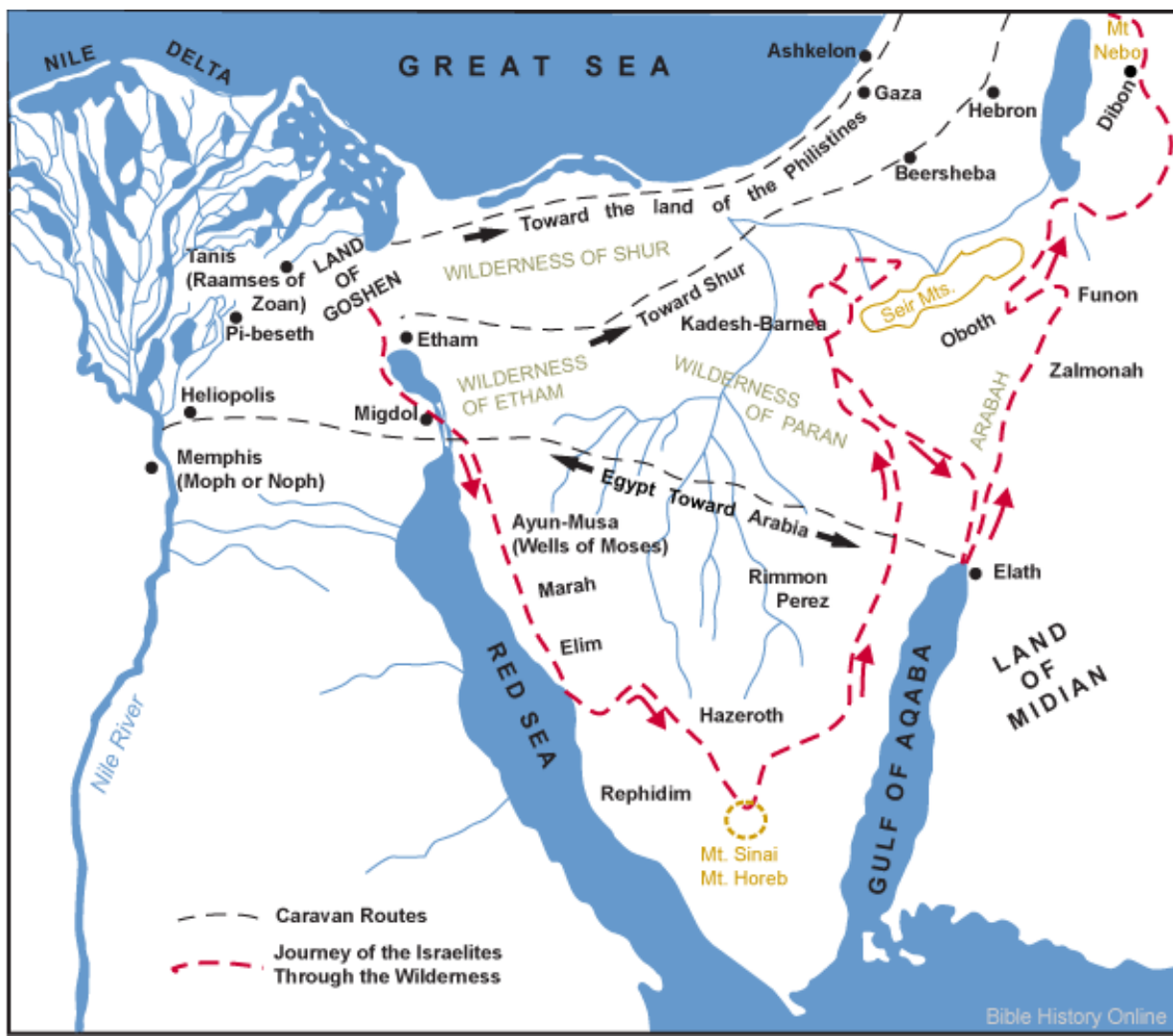
- Eventually the Israelites became slaves to the Egyptians and helped build many of the pyramids.
- God did not forget His promise and so after almost 400 years, it was time for Israel to return and re-claim their inheritance, the land promised to them by God.
- Moses was chosen by God to lead the Israelites back home!

Being slaves in Egypt did not happen by accident or by chance!

When God called Abram to be the Father of a Great Nation, God foretold Abram that His people would be slaves in a foreign land.

13) And He (G-D), said to Abram, "Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs, and they shall be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years; 14) but I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve, and in the end they shall go free with great wealth" (Genesis 15:13, 14).

WHY?????????????



- Caravan Routes
- - - Journey of the Israelites Through the Wilderness

The journey from Egypt to the Promised Land should
have only taken several weeks or months.

Not 40 years!

How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Down on the Farm (After they've Seen Paree?) - World War I song)

How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Lord as Your Own People when they've seen Egypt? (God's dilemma)

"Miracles don't create believers"

Professor / Rabbi Ismar Schorsch

Thus the Lord saved the people Israel from the Egyptians on that day; they saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore of the sea. When the people witnessed the great power which the Lord wielded against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord; they trusted in Him and in His servant Moses (Exodus 14:30-31).

But as the subsequent stories make so graphically clear, that trust and faith was as ephemeral as the morning dew.

The repeated rebellions against God and Moses in the wilderness demonstrate that miracles could not steel the faith of Israel for the adversity to come.

The exodus had freed Israel from bondage, **but failed to transform its mental state of dependence and passivity.**

What is handed to us on a silver platter does little for the development of our character.

Professor / Rabbi Ismar Schorsch

Exodus 13:17-18

17) When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." 18) So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

6 On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands. 7 And I said to them, ‘Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.’ 8 But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt

(Ezekiel 20:6-8).

Before Israel could truly become God's chosen people, "Egypt" had to be taken out of them!

What "Egypt" has to be taken out of you before you become a chosen son / daughter of God?

Next Sunday

“Are You Men/Women or Grasshoppers?”



Traveling Music!

