

Wednesday Adult Class
September-November 2023
Journey to the Promise Land

Date	Topic	Teacher
Sep 6	Origins of Israel	Steve C
Sep 13	Egyptian Captivity	Shane L
Sep 20	God vs. Pharoah	Kyle S
Sep 27	Crossing the Red Sea	Jerry M
Oct 4	God Provides Food & Water	Brit T
Oct 11	God Defends Against Enemies	Joey F
Oct 19	God Gives the Law	Adam C
Oct 25	The Tabernacle is Established	Mike A
Nov 1	The Priesthood is Established	Randy T
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The history of the children of Israel is valuable for us to know and understand.

1Cor 10: **11** Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

In this study, we will examine the relationship between the Lord and Israel in the Old Testament from the time of Abraham's promise to entrance into the promise land with emphasis on the deliverance from Egypt and the time of wandering in the wilderness as God developed this people into a nation.

Please find below some ideas to consider when developing your assignment. I have included bullet points for each lesson for your information. Use these as suggestions, but feel free to make the lesson your own.

Origins of Israel

- Review the calling of Abraham
- Explore the concept of separation from the world
- Describe the idea of a chosen people
- Review the covenants/promises to Abraham
- Discuss God's protection and provision from Abraham's calling to Jacob's journey to Egypt
- Consider our role in the promise to Abraham
- Who is God's Israel today?

Egyptian Captivity

- Review how the children of Israel came to Egypt-emphasize God's hand in the migration
- Review the relationship between children of Israel and Egypt and how it changed from Joseph to Moses.
- Describe the life of slavery for the children of Israel
- How might the oppression of slavery have contributed to the willingness of the people to follow Moses?
- Discuss the parallels between the children of Israel in captivity and a life of sin.
- What are the characteristics of a life dedicated to sin?
- What does the NT say about slavery to sin?

- How might the consequences of sin motivate one to seek deliverance?

God vs. Pharoah

- Review the Story of Moses
- Describe the Egyptian gods and how the plagues may have related to them
- Explore God's purpose for the plagues and how it affected the Egyptians, the Israelites, and the rest of the world
- Consider how God used Pharoah and Egypt for His purpose. How might this have helped prepare Israel to become a nation?
- What prerequisites are necessary for a group of people to identify as a nation? In what ways did God provide for these conditions for Israel?
- In what ways has God provided the necessary conditions for spiritual Israel to be a nation?

Crossing the Red Sea

- Review the story of the children of Israel's flight from Egypt and the conditions under which they left
- Describe the crossing of the Red Sea and the significance of the details in the biblical account
- God could have destroyed Egypt with a word, yet he had the people participate in the crossing and witness Egypt's destruction. Why would God choose to deliver the people in this way?
- How did the children of Israel respond to this miraculous delivery?
- Compare the miracle of this event with baptism. What are the similarities? What can we learn from this comparison?

God Provides Food & Water

- Review the various times and ways that God provided food and water to the children of Israel during the sojourn in the wilderness.
- Describe the significance of water for the people under these conditions
- Describe manna and its significance to the people. How was it to be used?
- What lessons did Israel learn from this dependence on God?
- Was God's provision sufficient for their needs? Did they always view His provision as sufficient?
- What spiritual lessons may we learn from these examples of God's provision?
- What does God provide for us? How is it similar to His provision for Israel?

God Defends Against Enemies

- Review the accounts of Israel's battles with other nations during the sojourn in the wilderness.
- In what way does having a common enemy affect a group of people?
- God could have destroyed the enemies before they even encountered them. Why would God allow Israel to be confronted?
- Describe the ways in which Israel participated in the battles. Why would God have them be a part of the battle?
- How did God demonstrate His power in these battles? Was Israel's army sufficient to win without God's help?
- Describe the parallels between Israel's battles and our spiritual battles today.
- In what ways must we participate in battles? Are we sufficient to win these battles on our own?

God Gives the Law

- Give a brief overview of the Law delivered to Moses.
- Describe how the ten commandments regulated behavior of man toward God and also among men.
- In what ways did obedience to the law protect them?
- Is a common law necessary for a group of people to become a nation?
- In what ways throughout history did the Law of Moses set Israel apart from other nations? How did it affect their sense of uniqueness and national identity?
- What were the consequences when Israel violated the law? How serious was God about adherence to the commands of the law?
- Describe the law given to God's people today.
- What parallels may we infer between God's provision of the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ?
- Should we have a sense of national identity? How does our law make us unique among the nations of the world?
- In what ways does our obedience to the law protect us?

The Tabernacle is Established

- Briefly review the structure of the tabernacle and its various parts

- What was the purpose of the tabernacle? What was the main function of the tabernacle for Israel?
- In what ways did the tabernacle bring the people together as a nation?
- How serious was God about the sanctity of the tabernacle and adherence to the observance of its regulations?
- In what way has God provided a spiritual tabernacle today?
- As time permits, relate the parts of the OT tabernacle to what God has provided for us.
- What lessons can we learn from the OT tabernacle to help us live under the Law of Christ?

The Priesthood is Established

- Describe the Levitical priesthood. What made someone a priest?
- What was the purpose of the priesthood? What was its function among the people?
- How serious was God about adherence to the statutes given to the priests?
- What role did sanctification play in the process of preparation to serve?
- Describe the priesthood under Christ. What makes someone a priest?
- What is the purpose of the priesthood in Christ? What are the functions of a priest under the New Covenant?
- What lessons may we learn from the OT about what God expects from us today?

Preview of the Promise Land

- Briefly review the promises given to the children of Israel regarding the land of Canaan from Abraham to Moses
- Review the account of the spies sent to Canaan
- Describe what the land of Canaan was like. How did it compare to their current conditions in the wilderness?
- What role did faith play in the way in which the spies gave their report?
- How did Israel respond to these reports? What role did fear and doubt play in the response?
- What were the consequences of Israel's response to the spies?
- What is our promised land under Christ?
- Describe what awaits us in this promised land.
- How should our knowledge of heaven affect our life here below?

- What should we learn from the OT about how we might enter the promised land?

God Deals with Rebellion and Grumbling

- Review the accounts of Israel rebelling and grumbling after the crossing of the Red Sea and before the crossing of the Jordan.
- What did these events have in common?
- Describe their reactions to hardship. How did God view these reactions?
- What role did faith play in Israel's view of God's provision?
- How might we be guilty of grumbling today? What is the cause of a dissatisfied and complaining attitude?
- Describe Israel's view of their deliverance from Egypt when in the face of trials. Did they appear to value what God had done for them?
- In what ways did Israel rebel against the authority of God? Was rebelling against Moses and Aaron the same as rebelling against God?
- What were the consequences of that rebellion?
- How might we be guilty of rebellion today? Has God established authority in the church?
- What lessons about rebellion and grumbling should we draw from the example of Israel in the wilderness?

Transition of Leadership

- Who was Joshua? What does the scripture reveal about him?
- Describe the responsibilities that Joshua was given. How did he carry out his duties?
- Review Joshua's ascension to a position of authority.
- Why was Moses not allowed to lead the people into the promised land?
- What is the meaning of the name Joshua?
- Compare Joshua to Jesus. Describe the similarities in nature and function as a leader.
- What lessons may we learn from the life of Joshua that will help us appreciate what God has provided for the leadership of his people?

Crossing the Jordan

- Review the account of Israel crossing the Jordan

- God could have moved the people to the promised land in any number of ways. Why would he have chosen to have them participate in the migration across the Jordan river in this way?
- Examine the details of each part of the crossing. What significance may we find in these details?
- What is our Jordan?
- What comparisons may we make between Joshua leading the people across Jordan and what Jesus does for us?
- What is our role in this transition and what is the role of Jesus?
- Describe the comfort and certainty we can have in knowing who will lead us to the promise land.