

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps

Lesson 33

Entering the Land of Promise

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Our starting place for this lesson is Exodus 3. To begin, we are going to look at the nation of Israel. We have a little groundwork to do first to make the lesson easier to understand.

We all remember the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-39. His brothers betrayed him and sold him to the Midianites. Eventually he ended up in Potiphar's house in Egypt, and after that, he was thrown into jail. With God's help, he interpreted some dreams and landed himself a job working with Pharaoh as the second in charge of distribution of food. During this time, Pharaoh was a nice guy and invited all of Joseph's family to move to Egypt.

After Joseph died, another Pharaoh came into power who was not so nice. He decided the children of Israel were growing in population and might take sides with Egypt's enemies. He forced the Israelites into slavery and used them to build his treasure cities. After being in bondage for four hundred and thirty years, the Lord had Moses deliver the Children of Israel from their bondage in order to lead them into the Land of promise (Exodus 12:40-41), where they would become a great nation. That was a promise that was made to Abraham by God in Genesis 12:2.

As we pick up the story, the nation of Israel was in bondage in Egypt, and the Lord appeared to Moses, telling him how he would lead that nation out of Egypt.

Exodus 3:7-8 ***And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;...*** The Lord was aware of what was happening, and He was going to do something about it.

Coming out of Egypt was only half of the goal, only the first step. Do you know what was between Egypt and the promised land? It was the wilderness, a challenging place to be, a desolate place, a difficult place, a deadly place, and a place of blessing. Just coming out of Egypt and their

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bondage was not good enough. God also needed to bring them through the wilderness and into the promised land. That was the goal.

The Bible teaches us that the experiences of others are written for our ensamples (1 Corinthians 10:11). What are the ensamples we need to see in the experiences of the Children of Israel? Christians experience similar challenges, but we have the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide us through them. Unsaved people experience the challenges of the wilderness without this comfort and guidance (Proverbs 13:15; Proverbs 4:19).

A new Christian is saved from the penalty of sin and is immediately seated with Christ in heavenly places. Why? Because at the moment of salvation, we are placed into the body of Jesus Christ, and we are with Him (Ephesians 1:3). Ultimately, our soul and body will be brought into the place of our inheritance which is promised by God (Ephesians 1:13-14). The baby Christian is tempted by the pleasures of sin and will need to keep close to the Saviour until he or she learns to fully trust the Lord in all things. Read Psalm 17 to see where all born again Christians should abide daily.

The Bible says in 1st Corinthians 5 that Christ is our Passover. The nation of Israel was delivered from Egypt by the blood of a lamb. Remember that the blood was put on the door posts and lintels; then they were able to escape death because God said in Exodus 12:13 ***And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*** Christians too are delivered by the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Between us and our final home is the wilderness, just as it was for the Children of Israel. What is the wilderness? Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil (Matthew 4:1). John the Baptist was sent to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness (Matthew 3:3). To the unsaved, the wilderness is a picture of one's existence between birth and death, where one wonders why they are alive, coupled with the fear of dying, having no help or hope along the way (Job 18:11-21). The wilderness is filled with challenges, problems, trials and blessings. If anyone follows the guidelines set forth in the Bible, their life can be a whole lot better than one who does not (Christian or not). The wilderness, to a Christian, can be an adventure filled with blessings, trials, and challenges. The only difference is that the Christian has a hope both now and beyond the grave (Psalm 23; Colossians 1:5).

Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted; we will also be tempted this side of death. Temptation is not a bad thing unless you yield to it. In fact, the Bible says that temptation holds within it a blessing.

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James 1:12-16 ***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.*** If you follow the admonishment of 1 Corinthians 10:13 and take the way of escape, then the challenges and trials of life will be steppingstones to spiritual maturity.

The wilderness is also an opportunity for us as Christians to preach the Gospel to the lost, as shown by our Lord in the feeding of the 4000 (Matthew 15:32-38).

The Children of Israel were in the wilderness 40 years, but the distance between Egypt and the Land of Promise should have only taken them 11 days. Why did it take so long? Because when God was trying to teach them, they said they wanted to learn, but they did not. So around and around they went in the wilderness. You would have thought after they saw all the miracles God had done, along with His promises, they would have followed Him with all their hearts. We can see their lack of trust and disbelief in their comments when Moses sent spies into the Land of Promise (the land of Canaan). Numbers 13:33 ***And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*** So they wandered around and around. It took the children of Israel 40 years until God led their offspring into the land of promise.

When a person gets saved, God gives him/her everything all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) in the person of the Holy Spirit; and yet, he/she struggles with the flesh. Some never really give the Holy Spirit control of their life. It is the same as the children of Israel wandering in the wilderness.

Biblical, victorious Christian life is something that is joyful despite trials, temptations, troubles, and hardships.

Many of our troubles are brought on by ourselves. God holds to the principle of sowing and reaping, and we are reminded of the painful results of disobedience. (see Job 5:17; Proverbs 13:15; Galatians 6:7)

The Bible instructs us to follow God's rules, and the reward is spiritual maturity in this life. Hebrews 6:1 ***Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not***

laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

"Perfection". This is the born again Christian's Land of Promise, that of spiritual maturity and victorious Christian living which can be attained this side of death. However, as we walk through our wilderness, we are tempted to be carnally minded. The carnal mind is described as enmity with God. Enmity is a Bible word meaning the quality of being an enemy, the opposite of friend. This is what happens to our relationship to God when we sin. His guidance and mercy become blocked by sin and a carnal mind, and His chastening (punishment) soon follows.

Romans 8:6-7 ***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.***

The Israelites were made to wander in the wilderness for 40 unnecessary years as a punishment for their disobedience to the word of God.

Let's recall some things that happened frequently during their wandering, how God instructed them, and how they rejected His instruction.

They knew that talking bad about the things God had done and blaming others was wrong. This was how their ancestors, Adam and Eve, had sinned; and yet, as soon as a situation arose in which they were not comfortable, they started complaining to Moses. Exodus 15:24; Exodus 16:2; Exodus 17:3.

The life of a Christian does have enemies to conquer. The Christians enemies are those that come naturally from the flesh. Galatians 5:19-21 ***Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:...*** Other enemies are lying, gossiping, pride, envy, foolish jesting, lust, and anger. Each time the Holy Spirit brings a secret sin to your awareness, it is time to pray and ask God to show you how to conquer that enemy. It is going to take some work on your part, but the rewards far exceed the labor because God will fight our battles if we ask Him and trust in Him. Our problem is not the devil, our problem is the one we see in the mirror. The devil has already been conquered by Our Lord Jesus Christ. Job 41:8 ***Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more.***

Because the children of Israel were disobedient to the word of God, the Bible says they were made to wander. Why are some Christians no different than lost people? They have the Holy Spirit, but they are no different than

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they were before salvation. Yes, they will go to heaven when they die. That is promised to them by God, and God does not lie. Titus 1:2 ***In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*** What an embarrassment to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and admit to Him that you did not appreciate the gift that He gave you by sacrificing His life for you on the cross at Calvary.

The Christian can wander around in circles, wasting time, waiting to die, or they can put their faith and trust in the Lord each day just like they did when they first asked to be saved. Do you know what the promised land is? It's a type and picture of the victorious Christian life. But there are a lot of born again people that refuse to enter it because of one thing—they are fearful. They would rather blatantly disregard the commands and encouragement from God because of their lack of trust in God. They would rather exist in a wilderness, living for the flesh and living for carnal things.

Do you know what life becomes when one just wanders around in circles wasting time? Boring waiting to die. This may sound harsh and mean, but that's the reality for a lot of born again people. Please understand, this has nothing to do with service. It is our willingness to trust God when our flesh says "Ah, not today, maybe tomorrow." In fact, service can become a loophole in our lives. Many have convinced themselves that they are fine because they stand on a street corner holding a sign or put tracts on cars in a parking lot at the mall. These are great ways to get the Gospel into the hands of the lost. If you are physically able, I would encourage you to do so, but God has called all of us to be verbal witnesses for Him.

Romans 10:14 ***How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?***

Do not get me wrong, tract passing, holding signs, wearing gospel apparel, putting gospel message bumper stickers on your car are all great ways to get the gospel into the eyes and minds of this lost and dying world. Service is an essential part of proclaiming the Lord's message, but not the main part. The main part is being willing to open our mouths and tell someone about Our Saviour even when we feel uncomfortable doing so.

If you have the Holy Spirit and vocal cords, then you have all the tools you need to tell your neighbor, your co-worker, the person behind you in the grocery store check-out, the cashier, the person at the gas pump in front of you, and anyone else about your wonderful Saviour. The biggest hurdle is your flesh. It will come up with the lamest excuses to keep you from doing what God has commanded you to do. Preach the word. (2 Timothy 4:2)

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The world teaches us that there are two things that no one should talk about – politics and religion; and yet, they break their own rules daily. In fact, we hear about politics almost every day. The bottom line is that it is the god of this world who wants to stop us from proclaiming the gospel of our Saviour. Who is your God, commander, and chief? The Lord Jesus Christ is mine.

Introverts will say they are too shy, and that they do not know what to say. Can you say “Good Morning” to a stranger? Well, next time say, “Good Morning, Do you know my Saviour Jesus Christ?....”

Remember, it is not you that is going to do the persuading, it is the Holy Spirit. Before you start your day, ask the Lord to give you opportunities to witness to strangers. Ask Him to give you lead off phrases to start conversations. God wants all men and women to be saved, He needs you and I to open our mouth and proclaim His gospel. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

It should be the goal of every born again child of God to please his or her heavenly father. If that is not your goal, then you need to repent.

The Bible teaches us in Hebrews 6:1 that we can go on to perfection. Perfection in our Bible means spiritual maturity. It means reaching the land of promise and leaving the wilderness behind. It means understanding the deep things of God in this life. Meditate, you could be there today.

Notes

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Name _____

Note: (*) An asterisk indicates you must include scripture with your answers.

1. What did God use Moses for? *
2. What caused the Children of Israel to wander in the wilderness?
3. Why would a Christian wander in the wilderness?
4. What is the wilderness for an unsaved person?
5. What is the wilderness for a saved person?
6. Is temptation always a bad thing? Why? *

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7. How do you reach spiritual maturity? *
8. What is God's priority in the life of a born again Christian as noted in this lesson? *
9. After all the miracles that God did in Egypt and in the wilderness, what convinced HIM, He would wait till that generation died off? *
10. How can passing out tracts, wearing Gospel apparel, and having a bumper sticker on your car be just an excuse not to witness?
11. Explain Mark 8:38.
12. What is the Christian's "Land of Promise" a type and a picture of?
13. How should we start every day?

True/false

- The Lord understands that I am too shy to witness.
- The crown of life is given to those who refuse temptation.
- You can be a wandering, born again Christian.

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- Born again believers live inside of Jesus Christ before their body dies.



Scripture memorization

Mark 8:38; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Timothy 4:2

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?