

## There's more to the story (Wilderness journey)

The wilderness journey will be a type and shadow of our earthly lives with the believer's final destination being the Promised Land.

**Crossing the Red Sea** After being set free from slavery, the Israelites passed thru the Red Sea. Sea in throughout the Bible is a symbol of judgment such as in the flood of Noah (**Genesis 6**), in the story of Jonah (**Jonah 1**) and the fish, and the baptism Christ underwent via His death on the cross (**Luke 12:50**). Christians pass through the waters of judgment because Christ the true Passover Lamb took upon Him wrath and judgment from the Father (**Isaiah 53, 1 Peter 2:24, etc.**) on behalf of spiritual Israel.

After our salvation we are to be baptized in water (water baptism doesn't save, but is sign or symbol of our spiritual union with Him- **1 Peter 3:21**) representing our union with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection.

- **Romans 6:3-6** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become <sup>[a]</sup> united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be <sup>[b]</sup> in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old <sup>[c]</sup> self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be <sup>[d]</sup> done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
- **Galatians 3:27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**Living in tents** The Israelites did not have permanent homes in their wilderness journey, but rather lived in tents that were temporary. These tents were taken down and put up at the camp where God would lead them. At the center of the camp was always the Tabernacle where the ceremonial sacrifices and ordinances would take place and where Yahweh's presence would dwell in the Holy of Holies. All the tents were arranged according to their tribes (**Numbers 2:1-3:39**) and subsets of the Levites (**Numbers 3-4**) would be camped the closest around the Tabernacle.

- The tents the Israelite camped and lived in represent the temporary nature of the journey. Tents is also the analogy Paul uses to describe our bodies while we are on our wilderness journey marching to the promised land.
- **2 Corinthians 5:1-5** For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, <sup>3</sup> inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.
- The tents the Israelites used were temporary until they reached the Promised Land, and this is the same for us. We are nomads journeying through the wilderness of life living in our tents (bodies) until we enter our permanent dwelling (the Promised Land).
- As we are in our earthly tents, just like the Israelites had the Tabernacle in the center when they camped, so should God and His presence be the center of our lives.

**Guided by God in the wilderness** The Israelites received their direction and guidance on where to go and when to go by the pillar of cloud and fire. The fire and cloud did not cease until they reached the Promised Land. This fire and cloud was God (**Exodus 13:21**) (**Exodus 40:34-38**) (**Numbers 9:15-23**) (**Nehemiah 9:12**). It is God that is leading them in all their ways and guiding them ultimately to the Promised Land. This represents the Holy Spirit's work in our lives to guide us in all our ways and to ensure that we will enter the Promised Land.

- **Romans 8:14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- **John 16:13** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

**Eating bread from Heaven** The Israelites in the wilderness received bread from Heaven by way of manna. Believers today feast on the true Bread out of Heaven, Christ.

- **John 6:31-35** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is <sup>[i]</sup>that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst
- **John 6:48-51** I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."
- **1 Corinthians 10:1-4** For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food; <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was <sup>[a]</sup>Christ.
- The manna did not cease until they reached the Promised Land (**Joshua 5:12**). We will be with the Bread of Life for all eternity when we reach our eternal Home.

**Receiving water from a rock** The Israelites drank water from a rock(**Exodus 17:1-7**)(**Numbers 20:1-12**) to sustain them from death. The rock from which they drink is pointing to Christ as shown in New Testament scriptures.

- **1 Corinthians 10:1-4** For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food; <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was <sup>[a]</sup>Christ.

In **John 7** the setting is at the feast of Booths. There was a water ceremony associated the feast of booths and it would involve the priest drawing water from the pool of Siloam and then pouring into a basin near the altar. Jesus knowing that this festival is about remembrance of His dwelling with them and His provision of them in the wilderness including with water from a rock. It is here in **John 7:37-39** that Jesus links Himself with the water that gives eternal life.

- **John 7:37-39** Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "<sup>[a]</sup>If anyone is thirsty, <sup>[b]</sup>let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From <sup>[i]</sup>his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- **John 4:10-14** Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> She \*said to Him, "<sup>[b]</sup>Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? <sup>12</sup> You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."
- **Revelation 22:17** The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.
- The rock was struck the first time so that the water would spill out and quench their thirst (**Exodus 17:1-7**). Moses's sin was that he was told the second time in (**Numbers 20: 1-12**) to only speak to the rock and not strike it for the water to come out. What was the difference this time. The Rock represents Jesus. He was struck (crucified) only once so that the Living water that would quench our spiritual thirst permanently. We are able to come and speak to God because the Rock was struck on the cross for His sheep. We speak and confess He is Lord and speak to ask for salvation, forgiveness, guidance, wisdom, etc by the Holy Spirit's guidance and help.

### Moses did not enter the Promised Land.

- At first glance this may seem unfair since God disqualified Him from entering the Promised Land after one sin (**Numbers 20:1-12**). The wage of one sin is death (**Romans 3:23**). If you are guilty of breaking one part of the law, you are guilty of them all (**James 2:10**).
- Moses represents the Law which no one will ever be justified (**Romans 3:19-20**)(**Galatians 2:16**) and is fitting that he not enter the Promised Land.
- The one coming after Moses, Joshua whose name is where the name Jesus is derived, and whose name means "God is deliverance" would be the one to lead them into the Promised Land. Christ fulfilled the Law so that all that believe may have the requirement of the Law (perfection) fulfilled in them(**Romans 8:1-4**) by faith in Him!

### Unbelief will not enter the Promised Land

- **Hebrews 3:16-19** For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.
- **John 8:24** Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that <sup>[a]</sup>I am *He*, you will die in your sins."
- **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His <sup>[a]</sup>only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
- **John 3:36** He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not <sup>[a]</sup>obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

After Christ our Passover Lamb's blood is applied in faith, believers are set free from slavery to sin, death, and the devil. We are baptized into Christ and begin our journey with Him. Our spiritual thirst and hunger are satisfied in Christ as we travel in this life as His gives living water and is the Bread of Life. Our bodies, which are our earthly tents that we travel and dwell in as we journey in this wilderness are temporary as they will one give way to our immortal bodies in the eternal Promised Land. Unbelief will keep one out of the Promised Land, but belief in Christ brings the promise of eternal life and dwelling with God forever. As we journey throughout this life those who are adopted sons of God and believe in Christ are being led and guided by the Holy Spirit until we reach the Promised Land to where we will find our eternal home and find our eternal rest, the true Promised Land for Spiritual Israel!

There's more to the story!!!