

"THE ISRAELITE JOURNEY AS AN ANALOGY TO THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY"

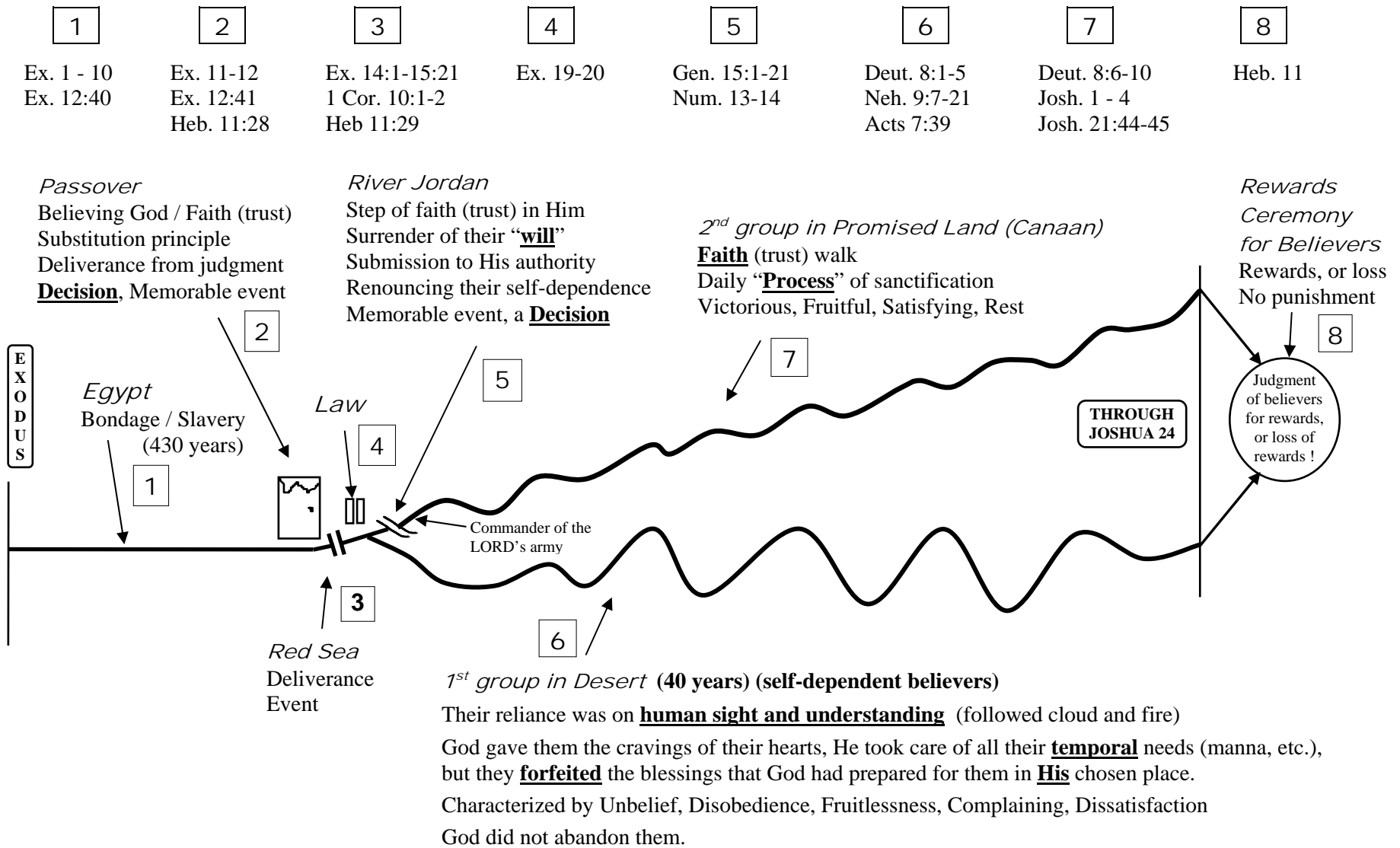
LESSON GUIDE

NOTE: The discipler should carefully read these teaching suggestions beforehand.

- I. The main purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the disciple with the journey of the Israelites from their enslavement in Egypt to the conquest of Canaan (through the book of Joshua). The Israelite journey should serve as an illustration and model to help us better understand our personal relationship with God. (1 Cor. 10:11 *Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*)
- II. Focus on the Israelites, that is, on their attitude towards God and God's perspective of them. As a result of having understood Lesson 3-3, the individual being discipled may begin on his own to draw parallels with his personal life and that of other Christians.
- III. As you proceed through this overview, emphasize the events, attitudes and principles that will serve to illustrate in subsequent lessons characteristics of the Christian life and a Christian's attitude towards God.
- IV. As needed, discuss the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt.
- V. Regarding Exodus 3:7-8a - A detail often overlooked in the episode of the burning bush, is what God revealed to Moses about His intended dealing with the Israelites. He had a two-step plan for them. The **first** step was to take them **OUT OF** Egypt. The **second** step was to take them directly **INTO** the Promised Land, the chosen place of His blessings. **It was never God's intention for them to forfeit His blessings in Canaan and consequently spend a fruitless time in the desert.**
- VI. As you read together from Exodus 12, (Point 2) discuss the Passover event, emphasizing the substitutionary principle.
- VII. If needed, discuss the crossing of the Red Sea and the giving of the Law (10 Commandments).
- VIII. God's dealing with the Israelites at the Jordan River and their attitude towards Him are very significant. As you read Numbers 13 and 14, (Point 5) emphasize God's desire for the Israelites to trust His promises about His good intentions and plans for them in Canaan, the special destination where He wanted to bless them. It needs to be understood from the Scriptures that God only wanted to bless His children, the Israelites. There is no evidence of any wrongdoing on God's part, yet the Israelites, as believers, still refused to consider Him trustworthy. Their unwillingness to trust in His character was based on illogical human reasoning. (Prov. 3:5-6)

OVERVIEW OF THE ISRAELITE JOURNEY

"HE BROUGHT US OUT ... IN ORDER TO BRING US IN, TO GIVE US THE LAND ..." (Deut. 6:23)



VERSES RELATED TO THE ISRAELITE JOURNEY

1. The Israelites had been in bondage in Egypt for about 400 years, when God spoke to Moses at the burning bush and revealed to him His two-step plan.

Exodus 3:7-8 *The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. “So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, ...*

Ezekiel 20:5-6 ... *‘Thus says the Lord God, “On the day when I chose Israel and swore to the descendants of the house of Jacob and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt, when I swore to them, saying, I am the Lord your God, on that day I swore to them, to bring them out from the land of Egypt into a land that I had selected for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands.*

2. God sent judgments against the Egyptians. The last one was the “Passover” 2

Exodus 12:21-23 *Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb. “You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning. “For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on*

the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.

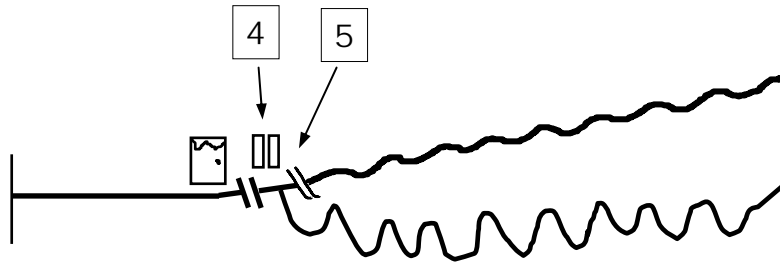
Exodus 12:29-31 *Now it came about at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead. Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the Lord, as you have said.*

3. God divided the Red Sea and delivered Israel from Pharaoh’s army. 3

Exodus 14:21-22 *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*

:23-25 *Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. At the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians.”*

:26-28 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then **the Lord overthrew the Egyptians** in the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh’s entire army that had gone into the sea after them; **not even one** of them remained.



4. God appeared at Mt. Sinai, and gave the Ten Commandments and the Law 4

Exodus 19:18-20 Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. ...

Exodus 24:12 Now the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction.”

5. The Israelites arrived at the River Jordan, where they had to make a decision. Was God trustworthy? Would He take care of them? Could they believe His promises, or was the risk too great?

Twelve men, one from each tribe of Israel, were graciously given a preview of Canaan by God. 5

Numbers 13

:1-3 Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, “Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to **give** to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers’ tribes, ...

:23 Then they came to the valley of Eshcol and from there cut down a branch with a **single cluster** of grapes; and they carried it on a pole **between two men**, with some of the pomegranates and the figs.

:25-29 When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of **forty days**, they ... brought back word to them and to all the congregation and **showed them the fruit** of the land. ... they ... said, “We went into the land where you sent us; and **it certainly does flow with milk and honey**, and this is its fruit. **Nevertheless**, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; ...

:30 Then **Caleb** ... said, “**We should by all means go up and take possession** of it, ...”

:31-33 But the men who had gone up with him said, “**We are not able** to go up against the people, for they are **too strong for us**.” So they gave out to the sons of Israel a **bad report** of the land ... saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that **devours its inhabitants**; and all the people whom we saw in it are **men of great size**. ...”

Numbers 14

- :1-4** Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept **that night**. All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! **“Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”** So they said to one another, “Let us appoint a leader and **return to Egypt**.”
- :5-9** ... **Joshua** ... and **Caleb** ... tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation ... saying, “The land which we passed through to spy out is an **exceedingly good land**. “If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and **give** it to us—a land which flows with milk and honey. “Only **do not rebel** against the Lord; and **do not fear** the people of the land, for they will be our prey. **Their protection has been removed** from them, and **the Lord is with us; do not fear** them.”
- :10-12** But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the Lord appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. The Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people **spurn** Me? And how long will they **not believe** in Me, **despite all the signs** which I have performed in their midst? “I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, ...”
- :13-16** But Moses said to the Lord, “Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for by Your strength You brought up this people from their midst, and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. **They have heard** that You, O Lord, are in the midst of this people, ... “Now if You slay this people as one man, then the nations who have heard of Your fame will say, ‘Because the Lord could not bring this people into the land which **He promised** them by oath, therefore He slaughtered them in the wilderness.’”

- :17-19** “But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, ... **“Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”**
- :20-25** So the Lord said, **“I have pardoned them** ... “Surely all the **men who have seen** My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these **ten times** and have **not listened** to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. “But My servant **Caleb**, because he has had a **different spirit** and has **followed Me fully**, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.
- :26-35** The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are **grumbling** against Me? I have heard the **complaints** of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. “Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from **twenty years old and upward**, who have **grumbled** against Me. ‘Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except **Caleb** ... and **Joshua** ‘Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey—I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have **rejected**. ‘But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. ‘Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will **suffer for your unfaithfulness**, until your corpses lie in the wilderness. ‘According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, **for every day you shall bear your guilt a year**, even forty years, ...’ ”
- :36-40** As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land, even

those men who brought out the very bad report of the land **died by a plague** before the Lord. But **Joshua ... and Caleb ... remained alive** out of those men who went to spy out the land. When Moses spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people mourned greatly. **In the morning**, however, they rose up early and went up to the ridge of the hill country, saying, “Here we are; **we have indeed sinned**, but we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised.”

:41-45 But Moses said, “Why then are you transgressing the commandment of the Lord, when it will not succeed? “Do not go up, or you will be struck down before your enemies, for **the Lord is not among you**. “For the Amalekites and the Canaanites will be there in front of you, and **you will fall by the sword**,” But they went up **heedlessly** to the ridge of the hill country; neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses left the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down, and struck them and beat them down as far as Hormah.

6. The following passages express God’s perspective of the Israelites, and the Israelite’s perspective of God.

6

a. Nehemiah relates God’s faithfulness and the Israelites’ self-dependent disposition (carnality).

Nehemiah 9:7-12 “You are the Lord God, Who chose Abram “You found his heart faithful before You, and made a **covenant** with him **to give him the land** of the Canaanite, of the Hittite and the Amorite, of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite — **to give it to his descendants**. And You have **fulfilled Your promise**, for You are **righteous**. “You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heard their cry by the Red Sea. “Then You performed **signs and wonders against Pharaoh**, against all his servants and all the people of his land; for You knew that they

acted arrogantly toward them, and made a name for Yourself as it is this day. “You **divided the sea** before them, so they passed through the midst of the sea on dry ground; and **their pursuers You hurled into the depths**, like a stone into raging waters. “And with a **pillar of cloud** You led them by day, and with a **pillar of fire** by night to light for them the way in which they were to go.

:13-15 “Then You came down on Mount Sinai, and **spoke with them from heaven**; ... “You provided **bread from heaven** for them for their hunger, You brought forth **water from a rock** for them for their thirst, and **You told them to enter** in order to possess the land which You swore to give them.

:16-21 “But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; they became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments. “They **refused to listen**, and **did not remember** Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; so they became stubborn and appointed a leader **to return to their slavery** in Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; and **You did not forsake them**. “Even when they made for themselves a calf of molten metal and said, ‘This is your God Who brought you up from Egypt,’ and committed great blasphemies, You, in Your great compassion, **did not forsake them** in the wilderness; **the pillar of cloud** did not leave them by day, to guide them on their way, nor the **pillar of fire** by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go. “**You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them**, Your **manna** You did not withhold from their mouth, and You gave them **water** for their thirst. “Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness and they were **not in want**; their **clothes did not wear out**, **nor did their feet swell**.

b. The Psalmists relate God's faithfulness and the Israelites' self-dependent disposition (carnality).

Psalm 78:12-16 *He wrought wonders before their fathers in the land of Egypt ... He divided the sea and caused them to pass through, ... Then He led them with the cloud by day and all the night with a light of fire. He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them abundant drink like the ocean depths. He brought forth streams also from the rock and caused waters to run down like rivers.*

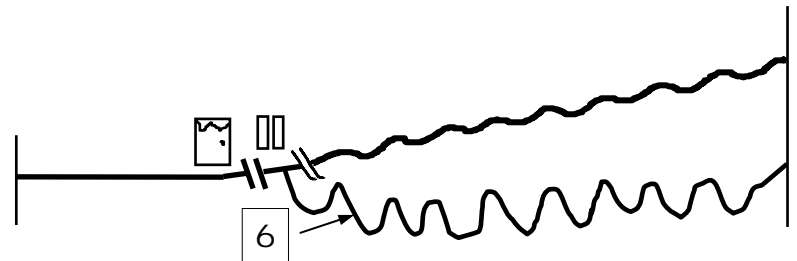
:17-19 *Yet they still continued to sin against Him, to rebel against the Most High in the desert. And in their heart they put God to the test by asking food according to their desire. Then they spoke against God; they said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?"*

:20-25 *"Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, and streams were overflowing; can He give bread also? Will He provide meat for His people?" Therefore the Lord heard and was full of wrath; and a fire was kindled against Jacob and anger also mounted against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust in His salvation. Yet He commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven; He rained down manna upon them to eat and gave them food from heaven. Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.*

:26-31 *He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and by His power He directed the south wind. When He rained meat upon them like the dust, even winged fowl like the sand of the seas, then He let them fall in the midst of their camp, round about their dwellings. So they ate and were well filled, and their desire He gave to them. Before they had satisfied their desire, while their food was in their mouths, the anger of God rose against them and killed some of their stoutest ones, and subdued the choice men of Israel.*

:32-37 *In spite of all this they still sinned and did not believe in His wonderful works. So He brought their days to an end in futility and their years in sudden terror. When He killed them, then they sought Him, and returned and searched diligently for God; and they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. But they deceived Him with their mouth and lied to Him with their tongue. For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant.*

:38-43 *But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; and often He restrained His anger and did not arouse all His wrath. Thus He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and does not return. How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert! Again and again they tempted God, and pained the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power, the day when He redeemed them from the adversary, when He performed His signs in Egypt and His marvels in the field of Zoan,*



Psalm 81:10-16 *"I, the Lord, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. "But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. "So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices. "Oh that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! "I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their*

adversaries. ... “But I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock **I would satisfy you.**”

Psalm 105:36-45 ... He brought them out with silver and gold, and among His tribes there was not one who stumbled. Egypt was glad when they departed, for the dread of them had fallen upon them. He spread a **cloud** for a covering, and **fire** to illumine by night. They asked, and **He brought quail**, and **satisfied them with the bread of heaven**. **He opened the rock** and water flowed out; it ran in the dry places like a river. For He remembered His holy word with Abraham His servant; and He brought forth His people **with joy**, His chosen ones with a joyful shout. He gave them also the lands of the nations, **that they might take possession** of the fruit of the peoples’ labor, ...

Psalm 106:7-27

:7-12 Our fathers in Egypt **did not understand** Your wonders; they **did not remember** Your abundant kindnesses, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. **Nevertheless He saved them** for the sake of His name, that He might make His power known. Thus He rebuked **the Red Sea** and it **dried up**, and He led them through the deeps, as through the wilderness. So **He saved them** from the hand of the one who hated them, and **redeemed them** from the hand of the enemy. The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. **Then they believed His words; they sang His praise.**

:13-18 They **quickly forgot** His works; they **did not wait for His counsel**, but **craved intensely** in the wilderness, and **tempted God** in the desert. So **He gave them their request**, **but sent a wasting disease among them.** ...

:19-20 They made a calf in Horeb and **worshiped a molten image**. Thus they exchanged their glory for the image of an ox that eats grass.

:21-23 **They forgot God their Savior**, Who had done **great things** in Egypt, **wonders** in the land of Ham and **awesome things** by the Red Sea. Therefore He said that He would destroy them,

had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, to turn away His wrath from destroying them.

:24-27 Then they **despised the pleasant land**; they **did not believe in His word**, but **grumbled** in their tents; they **did not listen** to the voice of the Lord. Therefore He swore to them that He would cast them down in the wilderness, and that He would cast their seed among the nations and scatter them in the lands.

c. Isaiah relates God's faithfulness.

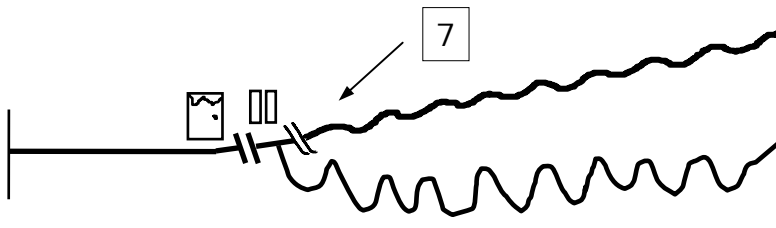
Isaiah 63:11-14 Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put **His Holy Spirit in the midst of them**, who caused His glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like the horse in the wilderness, they did not stumble; as the cattle which go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them **rest**. So You led Your people, to make for Yourself a glorious name.

d. Stephen relates God's faithfulness and the Israelites' self-dependent disposition (carnality).

Acts 7:36-44 “This man (Moses) led them out, performing **wonders and signs** in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. ... ; he received living oracles to pass on to you. “Our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him, but repudiated him and **in their hearts** turned back to Egypt, ... “Our fathers had the **tabernacle** of testimony in the wilderness, ...

- e. Paul relates God's faithfulness and the Israelites' self-dependent disposition (carnality).

1 Cor. 10:1-5 *For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.*



7. THE SECOND GROUP OF ISRAELITES CHOSE TO ENTER INTO CANAAN 7

- a. God had made a covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, promising to give the chosen land of Canaan to them and their descendents forever.

Genesis 12:1-9

:1-3 *Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; ...”*

:7-9 *The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” ...*

Gen. 13:14-18 *The Lord said to Abram, ..., “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. ... “Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.” ...*

Gen. 17:1-8 *Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram ... “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. “I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; ...”*

Gen. 26:1-6 *... The Lord appeared to him (Isaac) and said, ... “Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. ... and will give your descendants all these lands;*

Gen. 28:10-22 *Then Jacob ... came to a certain place and spent the night there, He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. ... Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” ... He called the name of that place Bethel;*

Gen. 35:9-15

:9-11 *Then God appeared to Jacob again ... and He blessed him. God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; you shall no longer be*

called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” Thus He called him **Israel**. ...

:12-15 “**The land** which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you.”

...

b. Moses reminded them of where they had been and where they were going.

Deut. 8:1-10

:1-6 ... “Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. “Thus you are to know in your heart that the Lord your God was disciplining you just **as a man disciplines his son**. “Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

:7-10 “For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food **without scarcity**, in which you will **not lack anything**; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. “When you have eaten and are **satisfied**, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

Deut. 11:10-12 “For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. “**But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year.**

c. From the beginning they needed to rely on God, not on self. This was an important step of faith.

Joshua 3:13-16 “It shall come about **when the soles of the feet** of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, **rest in** the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap.” So **when** the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people, and **when** those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were **dipped in the edge** of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, ... So the people crossed opposite Jericho.

d. The crossing was memorialized. (Symbolic.)

Joshua 4:1-9 (See also 4:19-24)

:1-4 Now when all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan, **the Lord spoke to Joshua**, saying, “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, and command them, saying, ‘Take up for yourselves **twelve stones** from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet are standing firm, and carry them over with you and lay them down **in the lodging place** where you will lodge tonight.’ ...

:5-7 “Let this be **a sign** among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ then you shall say to them, ‘Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.’ So these stones shall become a **memorial** to the sons of Israel **forever**.”

:8-9 ... the sons of Israel did as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones ... and they carried them over with them **to the lodging place** and put them down there. Then Joshua set up

twelve stones **in the middle of the Jordan** at the place where the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing, and they are there to this day.

- e. God re-instituted circumcision, and the Passover was celebrated.

Joshua 5:2-9 *At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time.” So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel ... **This is the reason why** Joshua circumcised them: all the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, died in the wilderness along the way after they came out of Egypt. For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, that is, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished **because they did not listen** to the voice of the Lord, to whom the Lord had sworn that He would not let them see the land which the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. Their children whom He raised up in their place, Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them along the way. Now when they had finished circumcising all the nation, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have **rolled away the reproach of Egypt** from you.” So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.*

Joshua 5:10 *While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they observed the **Passover** on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho.*

- f. The pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud were no longer mentioned once they entered the Promised Land. It was now a “faith” walk, not a “sight” walk.

- g. They immediately began receiving God’s prepared blessings.

Joshua 5:11-12 ***On the day after** the Passover, **on that very day**, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The **manna ceased on the day after** they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel **no longer** had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.*

Exodus 16:35 *The sons of Israel ate the manna forty years, **until** they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna **until** they came to the border of the land of Canaan.*

- h. God had already prepared the way for them.

Joshua 2:8-11 (Rahab told the two spies) ... *“I know that the Lord has **given you the land**, and that the **terror of you** has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have **melted away** before you. “For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, ... whom you utterly destroyed. “When we heard it, our **hearts melted** and **no courage remained** in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, **He is God** in heaven above and on earth beneath.*

Exodus 15:14-16 *“The peoples have heard, they tremble; anguish has gripped the inhabitants of Philistia. ... all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. “Terror and dread fall upon them; ...*

- i. Why did God want to destroy the inhabitants of Canaan?

Deuteronomy 9:4-6 *... it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is dispossessing them before you. “It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart ...*

Ezra 9:10-12 *... You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, ‘The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from end to end and with their impurity. ...*

- j. They met the Commander of the Lord’s army, who was there to direct and fight their battles

Joshua 5:13-15 *Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” He said, “No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” The captain of the LORD’s host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.*

Deut. 20:3-4 (Moses had given God’s promise to Israel) *... ‘Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them, for the Lord your God is the one*

who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.’

Acts 7:45 *... the nations whom God drove out before our fathers, ...*

- k. Some years later, after having conquered the land of Canaan, the 2nd group of Israelites testified of God’s faithfulness and blessings - what He had originally intended for the 1st group.

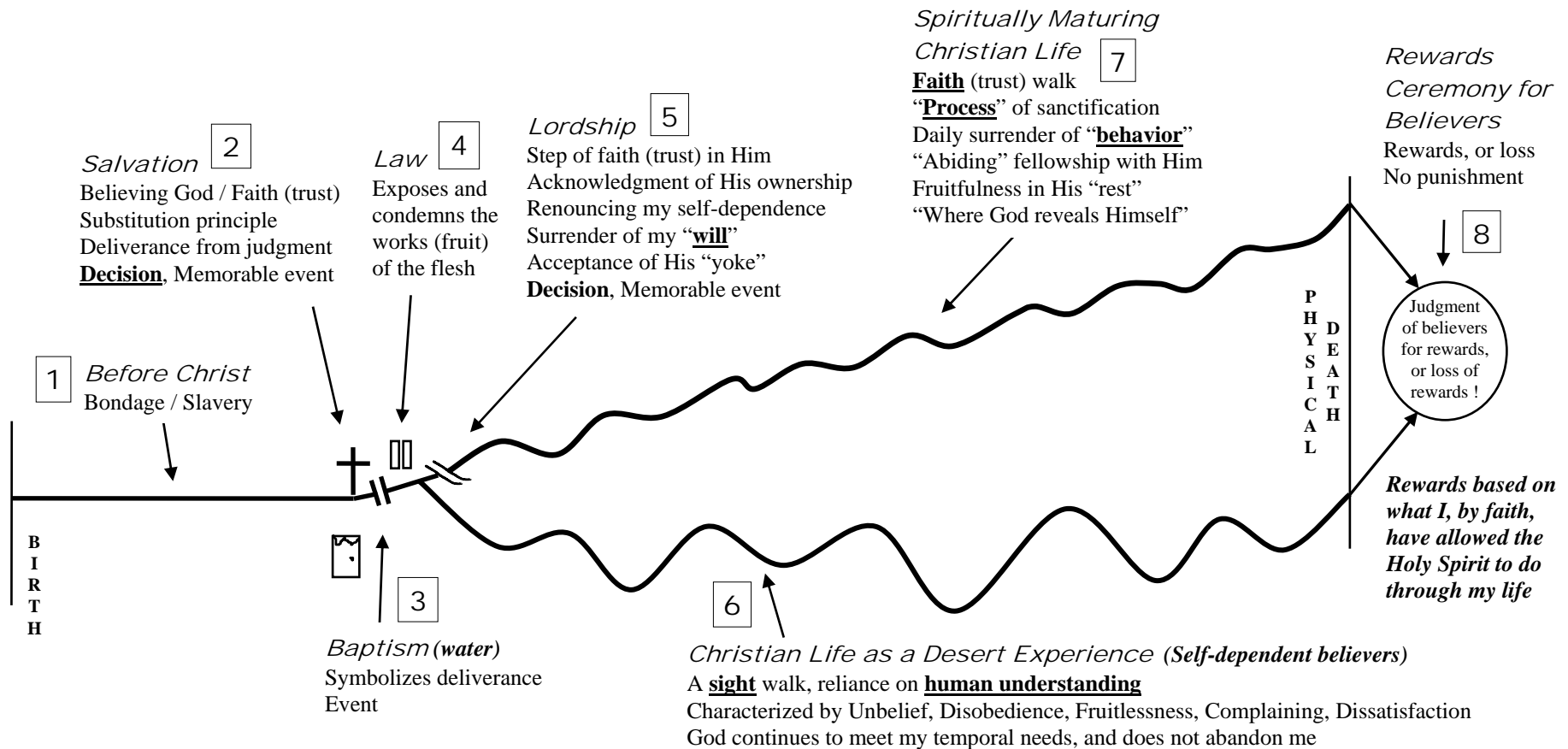
Joshua 21:44-45 *And the Lord gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.*

Joshua 23:14 *... you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.*

Joshua 23:3 *“And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has been fighting for you.*

OVERVIEW OF THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Eph. 2:1-3,12 Rom. 3:9-18	1 Cor. 5:7 Jn. 1:29	1 Cor. 12:12-13 Rom. 6:3-14	Rom. 7:7-24 Gal. 5:14, 18	Mt. 11:28-30 Lk. 14:25-33	Lk. 8:14 Acts 7:39	Mt. 13:23 Jn. 15:1-17	Mt. 6:19-21 1 Cor. 3:10-15 2 Cor. 5:9-10
ROMANS 1-3	ROMANS 4-5	ROMANS 6	ROMANS 7			ROMANS 8	



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N. T. VERSES RELATED TO THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

1. God's call to enter the place of His blessing (the Spiritual Promised Land) is still valid for believers today.

Heb. 3:16-4:1 *For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.*

Heb. 4:9-11 *So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.*

Note: While some hymn writers have used Canaan (the *Promised Land*) as a type of heaven, that analogy is hardly warranted by Scripture.

2. The following verses from the letter to the Hebrews provide a New Testament perspective of the Old Testament example of the Israelites. These Scripture portions can be read at the disciple's convenience.

Hebrews 3:1-19

:1-6 *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.*

:7-11 *Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, and saw My works for forty years. “Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said,*

‘They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know My ways’; as I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest.’

:12-15 *Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”*

:16-19 *For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.*

Hebrews 4:1-11

:1-5 *Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, “as I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; and again in this passage, “They shall not enter My rest.”*

:6-8 *Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.*

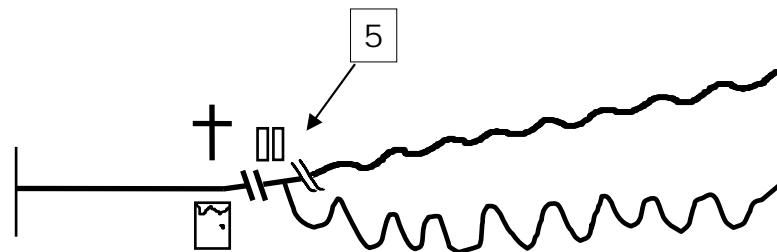
:9-11 *So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.*

Hebrews 4:12-16

:12-13 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

:14-16 *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us*

hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



Hebrews 5:1-14

:1-3 *For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself.*

:4-11 *And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”; just as He says also in another passage, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

Hebrews 5:12 – 6:12 (referring to spiritual growth from immaturity to maturity and fruitfulness)

5:12-14 For though **by this time** you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the **elementary principles** of the oracles of God, and you have come to need **milk** and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is **not accustomed** to the word of righteousness, for he is an **infant**. But solid food is for the **mature**, who because of **practice** have their senses **trained** to discern good and evil.

6:1-6 **Therefore** leaving the **elementary teaching** about the Christ, let us press on to **maturity**, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits. For in the case of those who have once been **enlightened** and have **tasted** of the heavenly gift and have been made **partakers of the Holy Spirit**, and have **tasted** the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

6:7-12 For **ground** that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation **useful** to those for whose sake it is also tilled, **receives a blessing** from God; but if it yields **thorns and thistles**, it is **worthless** and close to being cursed, and it **ends up being burned**. But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that **accompany** salvation, though we are speaking in this way. For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering

to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience **inherit the promises**.

3. Christians of **today** are warned to not follow the Israelite's example.

1 Cor. 10:1-14

:1-5 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were **drinking from a spiritual rock** which followed them; and the **rock was Christ**. Nevertheless, with **most** of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

:6-10 Now these things happened as **examples for us**, so that we would **not crave** evil things as they also craved. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play." Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

:11 Now these things happened to them as an **example**, and they were written **for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

SUMMARY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TWO GROUPS

CHARACTERISTICS OF A "PROMISED LAND" EXPERIENCE

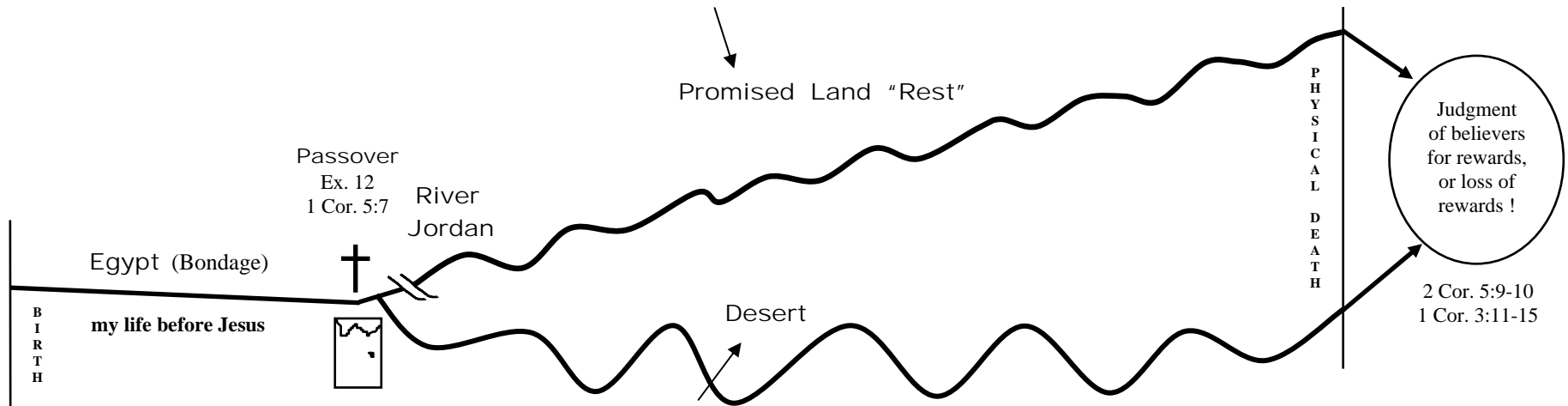
(Heb. 4:9-11) So **there remains** a Sabbath **rest** for the people of God. For the one who has entered His **rest** has himself also **rested from his** works, as God did from His. Therefore let us **be diligent to enter** that **rest**, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

(Joshua 21:44-45) And the Lord gave them (Israelites) **rest** on every side, ..., and **no one** of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord gave **all** their enemies into their hand. **Not one** of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; **all** came to pass.

(Matt. 11:28-30) "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you **rest**. "**Take My yoke** upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am **gentle** and **humble** in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls. "For My yoke is **easy** and My burden is **light**."

(Eph. 5:31-32) ... a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become **one flesh**. This **mystery** is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church**.

(Matt. 13:23) "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed **bears fruit** and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."



CHARACTERISTICS OF A "DESERT" EXPERIENCE

(1 Cor. 10:11) Now these things happened to them (Israelites) as an **example**, and they were written **for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

(Heb. 3:19-4:1) ... they were not able to enter because of **unbelief**. Therefore, **let us fear** if, while a promise **remains** of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have **come short** of it.

(Luke 8:14, Matt. 13:22) "... the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with **worries** and **riches** and **pleasures** of this life, and bring **no fruit to maturity**."

(1 Cor. 3:15) If any man's work is burned up, he will **suffer loss**; but **he himself will be saved**, yet so as through fire.