

WILDERNESS LESSONS # 11

December 6, 2015

I. Overview:

A. Israel departs from Egypt in God's timing

Ex 12:40-41 Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

To fulfill His Word (Covenant) with Abraham (Gen 15).

Gen 15:1-4 promise of heir

Gen 15:5-7 Abraham believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness
And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:8 How can I know for sure?

Gen 15:9-21 the cut covenant

Gen 15:13-14 they will be enslaved 430 yrs.

God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.

Gen 15:13-19 they will depose 10 nations

B. Their number when leaving Egypt

Ex 12:37-38 Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. 38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock (Nu 11:21)

Calculation of Israel at the beginning of the Exodus (Ex 38:26; Nu 1:45-46);
603,550 over 20 years of age.

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| Men 20 years old and upward | 600,000 |
| If two thirds were married | 400,000 |
| Unmarried women | 100,000 |
| Those (believed to be) under 20 years of age | 2,000,000 |
| Levites were not included (see Nu 26) | 45,000 |
| Levites - women and children | 198,000 |
| The mixed multitude (Ex 12:38); at least | 20,000 |
| Total | 3,263,000 |

At the end of the Exodus, there were 601,730 men over 20 years of age (Nu 26:1, 51).

C. Reasons why they journeyed for 40 years

1. Because of their unbelief (Nu 14:11, 33-34; 20:12; Dt 1:32; 9:23; Ps 78:32).
2. Because they tested God ten times by complaining and murmuring (Ex 14:11-12; 15:23-24; 16:1-3; 17:1-3; 32:1-6; Nu 11:1-3; 11:4-9; 11:31-34; 12:1-15; 13:27-33).
3. Because of their rebellion (Ps 78:40; 95:10; 106:7-43).
4. To prove and humble them (Dt 8:2, 16; Ps 81:7; Pr 17:3).
Dt 8:2 "... the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart ...
5. To teach them to live by God's Word
Dt 8:3 ... man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. (God's Word is food to the spirit Job 23:12; Ps 119:103; Jer 15:16; Ezk 2:8; 1Pt 2:2).

D. What Israel experienced in the wilderness:

God's mercy and grace (Ex 15:13; 20:6; 34:6; Nu 14:18; Ps 86:15; 106:43-46; 145:8).

God's protection from danger (Dt 8:15);
by the angel of God (Ex 14:19-20; Ex 23:20; Ps 105:39; 78:53);

as He led them like sheep, going before them in a pillar of cloud by day, and fire at night
(Ex 13:21-22; 15:13; Ne 9:12; Ps 78:52; Isa 63:11-14).

God's miraculous provision of their clothing preserved for 40 years (Dt 8:4; 29:5; Ne 9:21).

II. Camp #15 Rimmon-perez

Num 33:19 journeyed from Rithmah and camped at **Rimmon-perez**.

Definition:

Rimmon = very high; (to be high); exalted;
& *perez* = a breach, to break; to disperse
Rimmon-perez = to be very high, or exalted, and then to be broken.

Application:

1. God shows us our pride and brings us to brokenness.
Mt 21:44 "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust." (Isa 8:14-15; Dan 2:34-35, 44-45)
2. The purpose of brokenness is humility.
Definition of humility = not proud or haughty: not arrogant or assertive.

Humility:

1. God commands humility
Mic 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?
(1Pt 3:8; Isa 57:15; Zep 2:3; Lk 14:9-11; Ro 12:3; Eph 4:2; Col 3:12; Jas 4:6-7; 1Pe 5:5).
2. God gives grace to the humble
Jas 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (1Pt 5:5);

3. God rewards humility
 Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
 (Pr 15:33; 18:12; 22:4; Isa 57:15; 1Pt 5:6; Mt 23:12; Lk 1:52; 14:11)
4. God responds to the repentant with mercy
 (Ps 18:27; 25:9; 138:6; 147:6; 149:4; Pr 3:34; 18:12; Isa 29:19; 38:15; 57:15);
 because repentance and humility go together
 (1Ki 21:29; 2Ki 22:19; 2Ch 12:6-7,12; 30:11; 32:26; 33:12,19, 23; 34:27).

III. Camp #16 Libnah

Num 33:20 journeyed from Rimmon-perez and camped at **Libnah**.

Definition:

Libnah = (root = to become white); whiteness or transparency.

Application:

Living in God's righteousness (whiteness) requires personal evaluation and transparency.

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool."

Isa 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,

1. The trials of life reveals our unrighteousness
 Ro 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE" (Ps 14:3).
 Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;
2. God's righteousness was revealed in the Old Testament.
 Rom 3:21-24 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
3. Righteousness is a gift, credited to the account of the person who response to God in faith.
 Gk. = *logizomai*; "it means to count, calculate, compute, conclude or take inventory."

logizomai is used 41 times in the New Testament and 11 times Rom 4 alone.

(Mk 11:31; 15:28; Lk 22:37; Ac 19:27; Rom 2:3, 26; 3:28; 4:3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24; 6:11; 8:18, 36; 9:8; 14:14; 1Cor 4:1; 13:5, 11; 2Cor 3:5; 5:19; 10:2, 2, 7, 11; 11:5; 12:6; Gal 3:6; Phil 3:13; 4:8; 2Tim 4:16; Heb 11:19; Jas 2:23; 1Pt 5:12).

Abraham understood this.

Rom 4:3-5 for what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS" 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

David also understood this.

Rom 4:6-8 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

4. We are made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ

Ro 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." (2Cor 5:21)

Ro 3:21-22 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

5. Israel did not submit to God's righteousness, because they were trying to establish their own.

Ro 9:30-32 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works.

Ro 10:3-5 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. 5 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.

IV. Camp #17 Rissah

Num 33:21 journeyed from Libnah and camped at Rissah.

Definition:

Rissah = Dew; watering, distillation;

Application:

1. In the Bible, water (the physical need to drink) is often used as a picture of man's spiritual need.

Israel experienced thirst in the wilderness (Ps 78:15-16; 105:41; 107:4-9, 33, 35; 114:8; Isa 48:21).

The bitter water at Marah (Ex 15:22-26)

At Rephidim there was no water to drink, Moses provides water by striking the rock (Ex 17:1-6).

At Kadesh (Meribah) Moses striking the rock (instead of speaking to it) for water (Nu 20:8-13).

Dt 8:15 "He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

Ne 9:20 "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.

The purpose of trials is to make us hungry and thirsty for God

Ps 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?

Ps 63:1 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Ps 143:6 I stretch out my hands to You; My soul longs for You, as a parched land.

This longing can only be satisfied in our relationship with the Lord

Jn 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 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."

Jn 6:35 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.

Jn 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ 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.

All other sources bring dissatisfaction

Jer 2:13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water. (Jer 2:17-18; Isa 41:17-18; 58:11)

God invites and promises to satisfy our thirst

Isa 55:1 "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. (Rev 22:17).

Mt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

2. Water also speaks of our need for restoration and renewal

Prayer for renewal

Ps 51:10-12 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. (Lam 5:21)

Promise of renewal

Isa 40:30-31 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. (Ps 23:3; 103:4; Jn 7:37-38)

Renewal is a day by day process of the new man.

2Co 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (Col 3:9-10; Tit 3:5)

Transformed through the renewal of our mind

Ro 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Eph 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.