



~ Walking Towards the Promised Land ~

"In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling." – Exodus 15:13

The Israelites had just passed through the great body of water known as the Red Sea. They rejoiced with singing and dancing at the Lord's mercy and deliverance. The Lord had set them free from slavery and had destroyed the enemy. The Lord was taking them to the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. How awesome was the victory!! (Exodus 15:1-19)

By walking through the high, parted waters of the Red Sea, the Israelites were symbolically baptized by water just like we are called to do today when we accept the invitation of Christ to become leader in our lives and lead us to the Promised Land. By leaving Egypt, they showed their commitment to answer the Lord's call to make them His own people.

Their story is for us. It began with a choice to leave Egypt when the door opened for them to leave. Just like God called the Israelites out in His messages to Pharaoh, God calls each of us out of our slavery and out of our sin that keeps us in bondage. Our acceptance to that call is our first step towards freedom.

What is interesting about baptism is that just as the Israelites witnessed the defeat of their enemies (Exodus 14), so the victory in the blood of Jesus will be witnessed in our lives by the results of our own baptism. Baptism is the acceptance of Christ's blood for our own and agreeing to become His people. That decision defeats the enemy because in the midst of Christ, he has no power. (Colossians 2:15)

The Israelites' promise was also interesting – to be a free nation in their own land, a land flowing with milk and honey. These were symbols of prosperity and peace. Our promise is the same. God is calling us out of our junk, out of our mire. He is saying that He has a whole land for us, beautiful and peaceful. But, like the Israelites we too must take the steps of obedience and leave what is holding us in bondage.

Many theologies like to teach that if you are saved (baptized), you are always saved no matter what you do. But that isn't correct theology if you are basing your beliefs on the unmoving, unchangeable Word of God.

There were Israelites that had walked through the waters of baptism. These people appeared to have left Egypt behind, but they had kept Egypt very close in their heart. Deep down inside they didn't really want to give up their way of doing things for God's way in order to be blessed.

As a result, these people never made it to the Promised Land. They died in the wilderness after 40 years of wandering and their children got their blessing instead. It's not only about baptism. The journey is about our daily process of letting go and letting God. Unless He has daily control, we will wander in the wilderness until we die.

If we cherish "Egypt" in our hearts and cling to our own way of doing things vs. what we know God is calling us to do, we are hindering God's ability to bring us to the Promised Land. We will die in the wilderness and miss the incredible promise and blessings God has promised to those who obey Him and have the testimony of Jesus in their hearts – baptism or not. That means trusting on the Word of God alone and not man's theory or tradition. I want to be an Israelite who makes it to the Promised Land. How about you? Ask Jesus for deliverance in taking Egypt from your heart and giving you the strength to follow Him to the Promised Land.

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Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals

Daily tools of inspiration and hope for the journey home.