

I WANT TO KNOW MY BIBLE

Journey to Abundant Life

Beginning the Journey

Reading: Ex. 5 - 28

Text: Ex. 11-13

INTRODUCTION: In the beginning of the Book of Job we saw the devil's desire to do us harm. I reminded you then of the words of Jesus that exposed the evil intent of Satan for each of us.

John 10:10a The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

However, in the same breath our Lord declared His intention for us as well.

John 10:10b I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Jesus came to offer to us the gift of eternal life. But that is not all He offers. He also wants us to have **abundant life**:

- **life full of meaning and purpose**
- **life that is rich and lived to its fullest**
- **life that goes beyond mere existence**
- **life that is far more than just getting by day by day**

Most of the world knows nothing of abundant life.

This is not surprising to those of us who have a personal relationship with Christ because we know that most of the world does not have that relationship with Him.

However, the following statement is both exceedingly sad and surprising.

Most born again Christians today are not experiencing the abundant life.

**In the Old Testament, there is a parallel to the abundant life.
It is called "The Promised Land."**

In Genesis we read how God said He would give the land of Canaan to the descendants of Abraham as a part of the Abrahamic Covenant. From that day forward, the land became known as "The Promised Land." The books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers tell us about Israel's journey to the Promised Land.

But the Spirit of God did not have this sacred history written just to increase our knowledge of the past. He had it preserved for our instruction. In fact, the Apostle Paul says to us in

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

We should ask, “**The Promised Land is an example of what?**”

Now, listen, because **many a Christian has** given the wrong answer to this question. Many have **said**, “**The Promised Land is an example of heaven, of eternal life.**” That is **wrong!**

- **The Promised Land was filled with wicked men and women who worshipped false gods.**
Will heaven contain such?
- **The Promised Land harbored the enemies of God who fought against the people of God.**
Will they be in heaven?
- **The Promised Land was a territory that had to be conquered.**
Must we conquer heaven or fight to gain eternal life?

God forbid that we should think this way.

Ephesians 2:8–9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

No, **the Promised Land is an example of the abundant life**, the life here and now filled with meaning and purpose in Christ Jesus.

- **Is the life full of faith and obedience to the Lord in this world lived in presence of wicked men and women who serve other gods?**
Absolutely!
- **Does the life that is controlled by the indwelling Holy Spirit have to face enemies who fight against the Lord and His Kingdom?**
Every day!
- **Does the life that is meaningful and purposeful such as described for us by the Lord Jesus have to be conquered by obedience to Christ and discipline in the things of God?**
There is no other way!

Therefore, what we are reading as we read through Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers and we watch Israel journey toward the Promised Land is for us instructions and illustrations that will serve as examples to us about how to journey to the abundant life. So, today we are looking at

- **The Beginning of the Journey**

The next three weeks we will consider

- **Oct. 6 - The Reason for the Journey**

- **Oct. 13 - The Way of the Journey**
- **Oct. 20 - The Choice to Enter**

Today – Beginning the Journey to the Abundant Life...

So, how did the journey to the Promised Land begin? We read about it this week. The journey began with the Passover.

God sent His people Israel to Egypt to preserve them during a great famine and to grow them into a mighty nation. And God prospered Israel and they multiplied greatly, but the Egyptians became fearful of their numbers; and so they enslaved them.

God raised up Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, and in the name of the Lord, Moses said, "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh responded, "Who is the Lord that I should obey Him. I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go!"

Therefore God began to show Pharaoh and all Egypt who He is, demonstrating his might and power, but also His mercy when they relented of their stubbornness against Him. But ultimately, in spite of nine great plagues, Pharaoh kept Israel in bondage.

Let's pick up the story in Ex. 11.

Exodus 11:1 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets *you* go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.

11:4-8 ⁴ Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; ⁵ and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who *is* behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. ⁶ Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it *before*, nor shall be like it again. ⁷ But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.' ⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out."

...

Exodus 12:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

12:3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household.

12:5-8 ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on

the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

12:29 And it came to pass 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 livestock.

12:31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said.

And thus began the journey to the Promised Land.

And thus begins our example of the beginning of the journey to abundant life.

I. THE EXAMPLE IN THE PASSOVER

A. The journey begins with deliverance.

- 1. For Israel – deliverance from bondage in Egypt**
- 2. For us – deliverance from bondage to sin**

B. The deliverance comes by the blood of the lamb.

- 1. The blood of the lamb was put upon the doorposts and the lintel.**
- 2. When God saw the blood, He passed over the home and spared the firstborn.**

C. Other items of significance from the Passover

- 1. The lamb was to be eaten with unleavened bread.**
 - Leaven signifies sin.**
 - Therefore, unleavened bread signified “without sin.”**
- 2. The lamb was to be eaten with bitter herbs.**
 - The bitter herbs were to remind Israel of the bitterness of their bondage.**
 - The bitter herbs remind us of repentance that comes with genuine faith.**

3. The lamb was to be roasted in the fire, not eaten raw or boiled.

- Fire and roasting speak of judgment.
- The Passover lamb bore the judgment of God for the Israelites.
- The Lamb of God would bear our judgment upon the cross.

What is pictured for us today in the ancient Passover became a reality at the cross.

II. THE REALITY OF THE CROSS

Isaiah foretold our need for another Lamb.

Isaiah 53:6-7 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

John the Baptist declared,

- A. Jesus was the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world.
- B. Jesus was the unblemished Lamb, the sacrifice without sin.
- C. Our sins and iniquities were all placed upon Jesus, and He died for our sins.
- D. The blood of Jesus became the means of mercy for us.

Romans 3:24-25 ... Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood ...

- Propitiation means the place of mercy.
- This same word is used in the New Testament to refer to the Mercy Seat on the top of the Ark of the Covenant.

Folks, get this. For three more weeks we are going to be talking about the journey to abundant life. Today we are talking about the beginning of the journey. But if you do not get on the right road, you cannot arrive at the right destination.

Jesus said there are two roads: a broad road that leads to eternal destruction and a narrow road that leads to eternal life. Jesus is that narrow road. You enter the road by faith in Him. Walking that road leads to abundant life as well.

Here is the problem. **Many people walk the broad road but imitate people who walk the narrow road.**

- **Do good things**
- **Kind to others**
- **Refrain from gross sins**
- **Pray**
- **May even go to church**
- **But have never repented of sin and trusted Christ to be saved**

They are not saved. They do not have eternal life. They try to achieve abundant life but always fail. Why?

Because they have not begun the journey on the right road.

They have not been delivered, saved.

They have not had the blood of Christ applied to their lives to bring them to the place of the mercy of God.

Hebrews 9:22 ... without shedding of blood there is no remission.

The journey to the Promised Land began with deliverance that came through the blood of the Passover lamb.

The journey to abundant life begins with deliverance that comes through the blood of the Lamb of God upon the cross.

And that is what we remember when we take the Lord's Supper.

III. THE REMINDER IN THE SUPPER

Luke 22:15, 19-20 Then He said to them, "With *fervent* desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

²⁰ Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.