

**Scripture:**

**Notes:** How God dealt with Israel gives us insight on how he deals with us. Egypt is a picture of the world. First the Israelites are in bondage in Egypt, travel through the wilderness and finally to the promise land. Today we are going to look at life in the wilderness. Americas Keswick study guide labels it the life of a new believer/ carnal Christian/ wandering in the wilderness.

**I. We move from Egypt into the wilderness by faith. Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. There is a lot of grace involved in our lives. Grace is always the means of our salvation.

**1. New Believer knows Christ as Savior. Titus 3:3-6** For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; In verse 3 we are reminded of what we used to be like and who we served. When we accept Christ we receive the washing and renewing of the Holy Spirit. This is another way of saying God does the work in our salvation.

**2. There is discipline in the wilderness for disobedience.**

**A. Moses was punished for not obeying God. Numbers 20:8; 10-13** Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. .... And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them. Those seem pretty harsh but remember these things happened to the Israelites as a warning to us. God said speak Moses hit the rock. The people could have thought Moses and not God was the provider of the water. You say that was Old Testament but listen to Hebrews.

**B. We must learn from God's discipline on us. Hebrews 12:5-6** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

**3. Self is the master for the carnal Christian. Matthew 16:24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. To take up his cross means to surrender his will. The carnal Christian will not surrender his will. The carnal Christian still lusts after the pleasures of Egypt. It actually is a little more serious than that. **Romans 8:5-6** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For

to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. This is talking about how we decide what we are going to do in our lives. For example church attendance, is that a priority or do I fit it in around those things I would rather do. When you listen to a sermon about denying yourself in order to serve God do you automatically assume God is talking to someone else.

**4. Egypt is still in self. 1 Corinthians 10:4-6** And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. The Hebrews were in the wilderness because they did not believe God could conquer the enemies in the promised land. Even though they rebelled he provided all their needs but that wasn't enough. They wanted the pleasures of Egypt, complaining about water and food, getting involved in idolatry and sexual immorality.

**5. Carnality is often a result of Spiritual immaturity.** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? Paul tells the church at Corinth you have not grown enough in your knowledge of the scripture to learn the deeper truths of the Bible. The milk of the gospel is salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. What was happening in Corinth was a lot of arguing over who was more spiritual because of who had led them to the Lord. God has a cure for immaturity: **2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.....All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**6. Remember the enemy is at still working on our minds.** Keswick calls this coexistence with Satan. That word coexistence is important because it implies we do that by choice. We are satisfied to let God be in control of our salvation and eternal destination. When we are in church we blessed and as we study we are growing in knowledge and we are getting closer to God. Satan still has influence in our lives. It is he that entices us to lust after the desires of the flesh. He doesn't need total control He just wants to make sure we stay in the wilderness. How does this work?

**A. It is easier to take a man out of Egypt than to take Egypt out of the man. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; As long as we imagine the fun of sin we are coexisting with Satan. The only way to think like Jesus is to deny yourself and seek him. That is a price most people don't want to pay.