

January 26, 2021

## Eternity Training

Shalom,

The period of time from when Pharaoh sent the people of Israel out of Egypt until the battle with the Sons of Amalek at Refidim is included in this week's Torah portion that is named **Beshalach** or "**When he sent,**" and is found in **Exodus 13:17—17:16**. It includes the crossing of the Sea of Suf, healing of the bitter water at Marah, miraculous supplying of quail and the daily provision of manna in the Seen Desert, striking the rock to bring forth water, and experiencing victory over Amelek as Moses held the Rod over the battlefield.

*And it cometh to pass in Pharaoh's sending the people away, that God hath not led them the way of the land of the Philistines, for it [is] near; for God said, 'Lest the people repent in their seeing war, and have turned back towards Egypt;' and God turneth round the people the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea, and by fifties have the sons of Israel gone up from the land of Egypt. (Exodus 13:17-18 YLT)*

A detour can be an act of great mercy. YHWH determined the route that Moses was told to take in leading the people to the destination of His promised land to them. They were a people, but they had not yet become a nation that God could reign over with love. They were genetically the people of Israel but, as can be seen in the text, their hearts were not recognizable as princes with God. At many turns, they spoke of their desire to return to bondage in Egypt for the temporary convenience of being in a familiar setting. For them, it meant trading freedom for the food of slaves.

When the natural mind is allowed to control our path, we will make decisions based on circumstances, without being aware that our level of maturity may be tried in a way that has not been tested and where we may be unequipped for what lies ahead. Consider that the LORD knows exactly the best path for each of our lives, and even though the times of testing that we will face may seem difficult, if we will let Him lead us, we will see the salvation of God.

*But Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid! Stand still, and see the salvation of Adonai, which He will perform for you today. You have seen the Egyptians today, but you will never see them again, ever! Adonai will fight for you, while you hold your peace." (Exodus 14:13-14 TLV)*

What we must recognize is that YHWH knows our fleshly weaknesses and is always directing us, a step at a time, in preparing us for deliverance from the ways of the flesh as we learn the ways of the Spirit.

We slowly realize that the arduous pace of His training is determined by our own stubbornness in resisting the instruction of God instead of joyfully embracing it and completely trusting His plans and purposes that prepare us for our destiny in the Messiah. Delays are a result of our own immaturity in receiving the things of God that can only be discerned by our spirits. We

need to recognize that seeming delays are merciful times to grow spiritually unto a place of trust where fear cannot break through.

This took forty years of wilderness wandering for Israel until their potential had been made actual, and they were prepared to enter the land of promise, not by superior military force or strategy, but by the trust that they had learned, step-by-step.

Each of us, regardless of our level of spiritual maturity, will face temptations and trials that, when overcome, will show a new level of maturity that will continue to grow until we reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Messiah. We can determine that we will not retreat, no matter how great the temptation or adversity we face. He patiently teaches and instructs us, and He never leaves us nor forsakes us until we attain to our destiny in Him conformed to the image of His Son.

Maturing in Him,  
Terry

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