

January 24, 2024

Preparation and Timing

Shalom,

This week's Torah portion 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, the miraculous supply of quail and the daily provision of manna in the Seen Desert, striking the rock to bring forth water, and the victory over Amalek 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 in love. They were genetically the people of Israel, but as can be seen in the text, their hearts were still hardened and incapable of taking their places as princes with God. They spoke of returning to bondage in Egypt rather than enduring until the promises of God were realized. God, lovingly, changed their route to protect them from their own way of doing things.

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 so extreme that we may consider compromise, 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)

Recognizing that YHWH knows our fleshly weaknesses and is always directing us, a step at a time, to prepare us for deliverance from the ways of the flesh is vital as we learn the ways of the Spirit.

The 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.

It took forty years of wilderness wandering for Israel to mature. 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.

Everyone, regardless of our level of spiritual maturity, will face temptations and trials that, when overcome, will bring forth 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 see our destiny in Him conformed to the image of His Son.**

Growing up in Him,
Terry

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