

ISRAEL: TYPE OF OUR SALVATION (2)

By Keith Greer

Did God keep His promise to them? “And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.” {Exodus 14:27,28} The nation is now a free nation. Yet, their journey was not complete.

Wilderness Wanderings. It did not take long to get to the border of the land of Canaan—the Promised Land. Spies were sent in to survey the land. twelve men, one from each tribe, were sent to survey and bring back evidence of what the land was like. Ten came back with an evil report. These men explained the land did have “milk and honey” but also great walled and fenced cities, great armies and even giants in the land. All of this frightened them and they believed the enemy would crush them like grasshoppers! Yet, Joshua and Caleb saw something much different: “Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” {Numbers 13:30} “But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey. ‘Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.” {Numbers 14:6-9}

God had had enough. “Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ‘The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ‘Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. ‘But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. ‘But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.” {Numbers 14:28-32} Unwilling to trust God they wandered in the wilderness for forty years until the death of that generation which came out of Egypt. Every person that came out of Egypt over twenty years of age died except Joshua and Caleb.

Land of Canaan! “So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” {Joshua 21:43-45} The inheritance of God’s people was given to the tribes and they received it. A free people with their own homeland—promise number two kept!

Thus we see that over time God saved, rescued, and delivered His people out of the hands of wicked men. The promises were kept and now the history will continue from this point. How

will God bring about the third promise that was made to Abraham? This was a “preview” of a greater salvation that was coming and far more important.

Lord willing, in other articles we will see the opposite side of this “preview” concerning the greater salvation to come in Christ. This would not just save Israel – but all men! ***