

Holiness In The Wilderness

The Journey to Living Truth

The Children of Israel - From Bondage to Encounter

Exodus 2:23-25 (TLV) Now it came about over the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. *Bnei-Yisrael* groaned because of their slavery. They cried out and their cry from slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God heard their sobbing and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵ God saw *Bnei-Yisrael*, and He was concerned about them.

Exodus 3:1-10 Now Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. So he led the flock to the farthest end of the wilderness, coming to the mountain of God, Horeb. ² Then the angel of *ADONAI* appeared to him in a flame of fire from within a bush. So he looked and saw the bush burning with fire, yet it was not consumed. ³ Moses thought, "I will go now, and see this great sight. Why is the bush not burnt?"

⁴ When *ADONAI* saw that he turned to look, He called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" So he answered, "Hineni." ⁵ Then He said, "Come no closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." So Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then *ADONAI* said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their slave masters, for I know their pains." ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, to bring them up out of that land into a good and large land, a land flowing with milk and honey, into the place of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ Now behold, the cry of *Bnei-Yisrael* has come to Me. Moreover I have seen the oppression that the Egyptians have inflicted on them. ¹⁰ Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people *Bnei-Yisrael* out from Egypt."

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

In these verses, note how many times they groaned, sobbed, and cried out.

HOMEWORK:

Read Exodus 3:1-21, then answer the following questions:

When you are faced with challenges of everyday life, what is your first line of defense?

Do you cry out to Adonai?

What was Adonai's response?

How do you act in the presence of Holy Adonai?

The Scriptures go on in chapters 4 and 5 and describe the reason why Adonai wanted His People to come out – to worship Him, for them to offer sacrifices to Him, and to hold a festival to Him in the desert.

Adonai again promises Deliverance

Exodus 6:2-9 (TLV) God spoke further to Moses and said to him, “I am *ADONAI*. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, as *El Shaddai*. Yet by My Name, *ADONAI*, did I not make Myself known to them. ⁴ I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage where they journeyed. ⁵ Furthermore, I have heard the groaning of *Bnei-Yisrael*, whom the Egyptians are keeping in bondage. So I have remembered My covenant. ⁶ Therefore say to *Bnei-Yisrael*: I am *ADONAI*, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ I will take you to Myself as a people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am *ADONAI* your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ So I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, and give it to you as an inheritance. I am *ADONAI*.”

What a promise from the King of the Universe! Look how they responded:

⁹ Moses spoke this way to *Bnei-Yisrael*, but they did not listen to him because of their broken spirit and cruel bondage.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

How many times have you questioned Adonai’s promises while burdened with a yoke of bondage?

HOMEWORK:

See how many Scriptures you can find on Adonai’s faithfulness to never leave nor forsake His people, make notecards and commit to memorize them. When times of distress come, recite those promises out loud. For example:

Dueteronomy 31:6 (TLV) *Chazak!* Be courageous! Do not be afraid or tremble before them. For *ADONAI* your God—He is the One who goes with you. He will not fail you or abandon you.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (TLV) Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and ‘you will find rest for your souls.’ ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

The Journey to be Set Apart - Testing

In **Exodus 8** during the plagues, Adonai set apart the land of Goshen where His people were dwelling where it did not suffer the same plagues as the Egyptians, and made a distinction between His people and the people of Egypt. The greatest testament of this is The Passover and The Exodus, with Moses leading Israel.

Exodus 13:20 So they journeyed from Succoth and encamped in Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ ADONAI went before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead the way and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light. So they could travel both day and night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night never departed from the people.

Exodus 15:22-26 Then Moses led Israel onward from the Sea of Reeds. They went out into the wilderness of Shur. But they travelled three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink from the waters because they were bitter. On account of this it was called Marah. ²⁴ So the people complained to Moses saying, "What are we going to drink?"

²⁵ So he cried out to ADONAI, and ADONAI showed him a tree. When he threw it into the waters, they were made sweet.

There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them. ²⁶ He said, "If you diligently listen to the voice of ADONAI your God, do what is right in His eyes, pay attention to His *mitzvot*, and keep all His decrees, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians. For I am ADONAI who heals you."

Exodus 16:1-2 They journeyed on from Elim, and the entire community of *Bnei-Yisrael* came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after leaving the land of Egypt. ² But the whole congregation of Bnei-Yisrael murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

Exodus 16:8-12 Then Moses said, "ADONAI will give you meat to eat in the evening and enough bread to fill you in the morning, since ADONAI hears your complaints that you mutter against Him, what are we? Your complaining is not against us, but against ADONAI!"

⁹ Moses said to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of *Bnei-Yisrael*, 'Come near before ADONAI, because He has heard your complaining.'"

¹⁰ Then, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of *Bnei-Yisrael*, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of ADONAI appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ ADONAI spoke to Moses saying, ¹² "I have heard the complaining of *Bnei-Yisrael*. Speak to them saying, 'At dusk you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am ADONAI your God.'"

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

Do you find yourself murmuring and complaining about anything?

Would you act differently if you had experienced Adonai in a dramatic way like the Israelites?

Be aware Adonai is watching and listening.

Grumbling brings Amalekite attack. See Exodus 17

HOMEWORK:

Make a list of things to be grateful for and give thanks to Adonai for each one. Count your blessings!

Read 1 Peter 5:7-11

Arrival at the Mountain

Exodus 19:1-7 In the third month after *Bnei-Yisrael* had gone out of the land of Egypt, that same day they arrived at the wilderness of Sinai. ² They travelled from Rephidim, came into to the wilderness of Sinai, and set up camp in the wilderness. Israel camped there, right in front of the mountain.

³ Moses went up to God, and *ADONAI* called to him from the mountain saying, “Say this to the house of Jacob, and tell *Bnei-Yisrael*, ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagle’s wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now then, if you listen closely to My voice, and keep My covenant, then you will be My own treasure from among all people, for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of *kohanim* and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you are to speak to *Bnei-Yisrael*.”

⁷ So Moses went, called for the elders of the people, and put before them all these words that *ADONAI* had commanded him. ⁸ All the people answered together and said, “Everything that ADONAI has spoken, we will do.” Then Moses reported the words of the people to *ADONAI*.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

As we are counting the Omer, how are you preparing to hear from *ADONAI* this Shavuot?
The third month, Sivan, is a month of Revelation.

HOMEWORK:

Read Exodus 19 and 20

Living Truth – Blessings or Misery

Leviticus 26:1-13 – Faithfulness Ensures Blessings

Leviticus 26:14-39 – Faithlessness Ensures Misery

Jeremiah 17:5-8 – A tree planted by the water

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

How did Yeshua follow the Torah?

HOMEWORK:

Read Matthew 5:1-7:27

Write three things you will do this week to focus on Living Truth, for example:

“This week I will seek first His Kingdom”

“This week I will ask, seek and knock”

“This week I will love my enemies and pray for those who persecute me”

Closing thoughts

REMEMBER, HE CAME DOWN TO BRING US UP

Are you diligently listening for the voice of *ADONAI*?

Are you doing what is right in His eyes?

Are you paying attention to His mitzvot?

Are you keeping his decrees?

Do you remember His covenant with you?

Do you remember He delivered you from the bondage of sin?

Do you remember He redeemed you?

Never forget he takes you to be His, and He is your *ADONAI*