

The Promised Land

“On Becoming an Extroverted Traveler”

I. SCRIPTURE

Revelation 22:12-13 – “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

John 14:2-3 – “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

II. IS TRAVEL AN INTROVERTED ACTIVITY?

Yesterday, as I was browsing the news feed on Facebook, this pop quiz showed up with a question: “Where is Laos?” Asia or Africa?”. Usually I will ignore this type of thing on Facebook, but I couldn’t resist this particular quiz because I had travelled to this country a few times before. Where do you think Laos is? In Asia or in Africa? Well, I can personally attest that the country of Laos is in Asia.

You see, when I worked in Vietnam between 1994 and 1996, my employment contract provided from some additional paid time off because Vietnam was considered a “hardship” work post back then. I used this time-off opportunity a couple of times to travel from the very busy country of under 100 million people, to this very laid-back land-locked mountainous country of under 8 million people. [Talk a little about the experience.: Laos, landlocked between Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia (Kampuchea), China, and Burma (Myanmar). Air travel – Laos Aviation – the preferred way to travel, from the capital Vientiane to the ancient capital: Luang Prabang, up to Houeisai; rich cultural experience with fantastic food, beautiful people of Buddhist belief; overnight longboat trip down the Mekong River back to the capital; witness to the Buddhist monk, security checks at each port, etc.]

I was surprised when I had answered where all 23 of the questions accurately – where all these obscure countries were located, and answering no other questions about personality, etc, that the quiz maker said that people who ace this test are “introverts”. What do you think? Travelers vs geography experts?

III. YOUR JOURNEY

Speaking of travel, have you noticed that over the last few months and weeks, that you are being led on a journey?

By participating in the Passover/YAHUSHA [the LORD]'s Supper Holiday back on April 8, and by progressing into and beyond the Shavuot Holiday just a few days ago on May 29, you are on a journey, are you not? A journey where you have survived the Angel of Death of Passover back on April 8 (which in 2020 includes surviving the COVID-19 pestilence)? And haven't you now, after 50 days from your deliverance, also the May 29 past Shavuot: a reminder that you were given the 10-commandments and Torah? And weren't you reminded by YAHUAH [God] in 2020, as He reminded His people before you, that you were to "leave your dwelling" (Leviticus 23:17) and present a living sacrifice unto Him? A "first fruits" offering unto Him, thanking Him for your survival so far on this journey?

If you believe what I am saying, then you are now – in this 2020 year – on a trip! And you have now travelled away from the place of your deliverance from the Angel of Death at your bondage in Egypt! And as YAHUAH [God]'s people, you were then led to the Red Sea, where you realized that the enemy was still pursuing you from behind, but yet YAHUAH ELOHAYNU [The LORD our God] Who had led you out of your oppression in Egypt, then also opened up the Red Sea barrier ahead of you, and delivered you there again... Yes! He did that for you... despite your complaints and lack of faith. For the apostle Paul says...

"Moreover, brethren [and sisters], I do not want you to be unaware that *all* our fathers [and mothers] were under the cloud... *all* passed through the sea, *all* were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, *all* ate the same spiritual food, and *all* drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was MASHIACH [Christ]." (1 Corinthians 10:1-4) And yet, don't forget that "with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness" (1 Corinthians 10:5).

So on your 2020 journey, up to today, this Shabbat (Sabbath) Holiday June 13, you have been led out from your Passover through Shavuot, May 29, where you were reminded that you had waited at Mt Sinai for YAHUAH [God] to deliver to you your life's map, instructions, His commandments, His Torah... and now with that in your hand, you are on your way again to your next destination. And where is that exactly? It is a land that YAHUAH [God] has promised you, isn't it? It is "Heaven"; it is "Paradise"; it is "The Promised Land" ...

for didn't our MESSIAH [Christ] tell us the He has gone **"to prepare a place for you"**? Didn't He? Didn't He leave you with that promise? Yes He did! And it is from that place, the Promised Land, that He promises to you and me: **"I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"**.

IV. SPECIAL 2020 MEANING

A. PASSOVER 2020 – APRIL 8

The story of the first Passover, recorded in the book of Exodus, comes on the heels of a series of plagues carried out by YAHUAH [God] against the Egyptians. The tenth and final plague presents a particular danger to the Israelites. According to this story, YAHUAH [God] decreed the death of every first-born male in Egypt, both humans and animals.

Because the plague is meant to be punishment for the Egyptians, YAHUAH [God] commands the Israelites to mark their houses with a sign and to be sure not to step outside until morning. Moses explains to the Israelites that this is so that **"when the Lord goes through to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the lintel and two doorposts and the Lord will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter and strike down your home"**.

B. THE JOURNEY BEGINS THE MORNING AFTER – APRIL 9

"These are the journeys of the children of Israel, who went out of the land of Egypt by their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. Now Moses wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the command of YAHUAH [the LORD]. And these are their journeys according to their starting points: ... on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians. For the Egyptians were burying all their first-born, whom YAHUAH [the LORD] had killed among them. Also, on their gods YAHUAH [the LORD] had executed judgments. (Numbers 33:1-4)

C. THE JOURNEY AFTER SHAVUOT – MAY 29

If we are keeping up with our itinerary, we have now left our upper room (Jewish), our house (Gentile), with YAHUAH [God]'s law in hand and embedded in our hearts... now filled with the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]...

Yes... we have now already offered our firstfruits thanks offering to Him. We have told Him “thank you dear Father, for delivering me from my bondage to sin, and from delivering me from the Corona Virus plague... as well as all the false gods and plagues of Egypt. Yes... by now are we providing our “reasonable service” as we continue on toward The Promised Land.

As we journey forward, we reflect with thanksgiving on how YAHUAH [God] has helped us to leave our old sinful lives behind (Egypt)... how YAHUAH [God] has set us free from Judgment and Death (the Red Sea baptism)... and how YAHUAH [God] has made us a new person – with law in hand and heart AND with the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] – committed to obeying Him. Our bus has now left the Shavuot station, and there is no turning back now. We continue on; our final destination: The Promised Land! Yes! “The Promised Land or Bust!” is written on the front, the back, and the sides of our bus.

V. WE ARE EXTROVERTED TRAVELLERS NOW

As we continue on our journey, as we leave behind the comfort and perceived safety of our dwellings... as we “go” (Matthew 28:19) into the outside world... where we move forward... where we push back the temptation to be an introvert, a person who focusing on *our* feelings... on *our* thoughts, *our* mind, *our* interests! We now become extroverted travelers... where we become “out”-going (not “in”-going)... where we recognize the outside social environment... we now focus on and contemplate things and particularly people who are outside of “our”-selves – Jew and Gentile, were we:

- “make disciples of *all nations*” (Matthew 28:19). We
- “baptize *them* in the name of the Father [YAHUAH], and of the Son [YAHUSHA], and of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit]” (Matthew 28:19),
- “teaching them to observe (the law that we received at Mt Sinai,) *all that [He has] commanded [us]* to do (Matthew 28:20).

The middle wall of separation between ourselves and others has now been broken down. We each are at Peace with others who think and look differently than us, and we are united with all others of The Body of MESSIAH [Christ]. We “were once far off, [but] have [now] been brought near [to others] through the shedding of MASHIACH [Christ]’s blood. For He is our peace, Who made has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us.” (Ephesians 2:13-14)

VI. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO REST; THIS IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!

Now... Today is not the time to rest. Today is a time for action! Yes, this is the time to get out of our comfort zones. It is in the 11th chapter of Hebrews that we are reminded of the actions of the faith of our fathers and mothers before us... the faith of Abel, of Enoch, or Noah, of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, of Joseph, and of Moses...

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven (7) days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”

“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again.”

“Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, YAHUAH [God] having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto YAHUSHA [Jesus], the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of YAHUAH [God].

(Hebrews 11:30-40; 12:1-2)

VII. FINAL APPEAL FOR TODAY'S CHURCH

“Therefore if there is any consolation in MASHIACH [Christ], if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the RUACH [Spirit], if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... (Philippians 2:1-5) Who after He healed the man who had been blind from birth, said **“I must work the works of Him Who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4).**

I appeal to you now... get out of your comfort zone! Get out of your rocking chair! Get out of your houses! Turn your introverted lifestyle in... and get a refund on that investment! Exchange it for the life of an extroverted, unencumbered traveler... who is on the road to The Promised Land.

You may think that you are entitled to some rest now... a vacation, a hassle-free retirement, freedom from your sickness or other deficiency... But in this life, you are only entitled to the rest you will find in the weekly Shabbat [Sabbath] and in the Millennial Shabbat [Sabbath]. For in “six (6) days you shall labor! So I ask you, is your labor “your” labor or are the labor of YAHUAH [God] working His will in you? Remember now, if you will, the failure of those travelers out of the Passover in Egypt: “for who, having heard, rebelled. Indeed, was it not *all* who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was [YAHUAH (God)] angry forty (40) years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So, we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.” (Hebrews 3:16-4:1)

There is a new picture of a new RUACH [Spirit]-filled church of today, comprised of prostitutes, tax collectors, thieves, and the other notorious sinners... who have repented and truly committed themselves as a new living sacrifice unto YAHUAH [the LORD]. Please self-analyze now... if you are still having trouble today accepting and loving your brothers and sisters, such as they are in His body today, then how will you be able to unite a broader composite of His body, of the saints-in-training who were collected from “the highways and gathered

together all whom they found, both bad and good who were brought into His body by His servants (Matthew 22:10)?

Dear family and friends... dear brothers and sisters... today, please get on the bus to The Promised Land today... for if you do not, then the bus is going to leave without you, and the bus ticket and the seat that you thought was reserved for you, will be given to and occupied by someone else Whom YAHUAH [God] has found more obedient, more worthy than you.

Please get on the bus now... for forever loose your place. For YAHUSHA [Jesus] promises us: **“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”** (Revelation 22:12-13)

Please! For **“He Who testifies of these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly’.** Amen. Even so, come, ADONAI YAHUSHA [Lord Jesus].” (Revelation 21:22)

References & Credits:

- 1 “Laos”, Wikipedia; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laos>
- 2 “Vietnam”, Wikipedia; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam>
- 3 “Riding Out a Plague Has a Whole New Resonance This Passover [Shelter in Place]”, Candida Moss & Liane Feldman, Daily Beast, April 8, 2020; <https://www.thedailybeast.com/with-coronavirus-riding-out-a-plague-has-a-whole-new-resonance-this-passover>
- 4 “Passing through the waters: The background of water baptism”, William S Higgins, January 2, 2018, Christian Teaching; <https://williamshiggins.net/tag/red-sea-crossing/>
- 5 “Introvert”, Dictionary.com; <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/introvert>
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