

Bethel Bible Series

A Destiny Insured

Study 8

When someone tells you that they “don’t believe in God”, ask them to describe the god they don’t believe in. Maybe you don’t believe in that god either. - PK

Welcome

Opening - What important lessons did the Israelites need to learn during their 40 years in the desert?
InDepth Memory Review = Throw out concepts
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week

InDepth Picture Concept Presentation - Jean Carr

InDepth Research Presentation - Sandy Dybdahl

How did God use similar approaches with the early church (New Testament Israel) to teach her to Trust in the Lord in order to fulfill her destiny of being Blessed to be a Blessing?

Review of Last Week - *An Emerging Nation on the Way to its Homeland*

God used the Israelites' exodus experiences to build the new nation
What did God ask of the Israelites as they migrated? = TRUST IN THE LORD

Crisis and Trials

Examples: Egyptians chasing, Bitter water, No food, No water
What was God's intention when He intervened in a crisis? = Build trust
God, a constant presence in Israel's midst = Exodus 40

Organization

Examples: Delegation, Census, Levite duties, Making & Breaking Camp Orders, Communications
Why was organization critical? = Needed to manage large group, no prior structure
Jethro's advice to Moses to delegate responsibility = Exodus 18
God equips people for specific tasks = Exodus 31

Law and Legislation

Three Types of Law: Civil (evolves), Ceremonial (evolves), Moral (never changes)
Why were laws critical? = Only had Egyptian law before, had nothing to direct them
The Ten Commandments = Exodus 20
Civil Law for nomads = Exodus 21-23
An eye for an eye code = Exodus 21
Instructions to build a tabernacle = Exodus 25-27
Inauguration of the priesthood = Exodus 28-29

Rigid Discipline

Examples: Idolatry, Religious Abuse, Blasphemy, Jealousy, Mutiny
Why was rigid discipline critical? = Maintain pure worship and justice to fulfill destiny
The Golden Calf = Exodus 32
Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children = Exodus 34

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Lesson - A Destiny Insured

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What was the purpose of Selection, Separation and Unity (Studies 4, 5, 6)?

Genesis 12:2-3 = To prepare Israel to be blessed to be a blessing

Were these enough to insure that Israel's destiny would be fulfilled?

Numbers 14:11 = Didn't insure that the Israelites would remain within the covenant

Deuteronomy (*Second Law*) - Moses reminded the wilderness generation of their Destiny from God

Manuscript and its message = After Egypt - The destiny still stands

Deuteronomy 7:12-15 = If you obey the Lord, He will keep His covenant and bless you

Deuteronomy 28:9-10 = All peoples on earth will see you are His people

Manuscript tied to anchor = The destiny must be insured – contingent on obedience

Deuteronomy 30:15-18 = Obey and God will bless, Disobey and God will destroy

Anchor lodged in sand = Insuring factors were critical at infancy stage

Deuteronomy 7:6-11 = You were chosen by God because of His love

Lightning streaks = Divine Intervention developed confidence and trust

Question 1 = Infant Israel needed to see God to build confidence, trust, faith

Do miraculous elements have any direct relationship to Israel's needs in this period of its history?

Exodus 4:1-8 = Staff became snake, Hand turned leprous to convince Moses was from God

Joshua 3:7-10, 15-17 = Jordan stopped flowing to convince that Joshua was from God

PK - *Miracles appeared in the early period to develop trust much like the early conversion period in the life of a new Christian*

When does God use "direct" divine intervention? = When His plan calls for it

Genesis 2:21-22 = Formed woman out of man to give a partner

Genesis 9:12-13 = Rainbow given as sign of covenant

Genesis 12:1-3 = God called Abram and gives promise

Exodus 14:21-22 = Israel crossed Red Sea on dry ground

John 2:11 = Jesus' first miracle, turned water into wine

Why doesn't God use "direct" divine intervention every day? = *Moses & Prophets* was name for *Scriptures*

Luke 16:27-31 = God has already revealed Himself to us; trust His Word

Should we expect God to reveal Himself to us through divine intervention?

Mark 8:11-12 = Not all generations receive signs; God gives signs when He sees the need

PK - *People who refused to believe were never able to see. The faithful saw God at work in everything.*

Should we be concerned with HOW or WHY miracles happen? = Why (Cargo) - How is Vehicle

Scales of justice = Civil and Moral Law prevented chaos and destruction

Question 2 = Civil and moral laws are essential for a nation

Could Israel have existed in its nomad days without the types of laws in Exodus 21-23?

Exodus 18:13, 17-20 = Moses handled disputes all day; teach them laws and how to live

Exodus 32:7-9 = Without laws, Israel quickly turned from God (golden calf)

Why were laws critical for insuring the destiny?

Exodus 19:3-6 = Obey me, you'll be a kingdom of priests, holy nation

Deuteronomy 4:5-8 = Israel respected for such righteous laws - others blessed through Israel

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Separated figures = Visual Aids perpetuated ideas of separation and obedience

- Question 3 = Nazirites were separated within a separate people, a visual reminder of call to be separate
What purpose might the Nazirites have accomplished in Israel's camp?
Numbers 6:1-5 = Abstain from wine and grapes, hair and beard uncut (visually separate)
- Question 4a = Blue cords stood out visually, tassels hit legs as walked – ever-present reminder
What purpose did the tassels accomplish for Israel?
Numbers 15:37-41 = Tassels were reminders to obey God's commands
- The Great Shema (Taught to Jewish kids)
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 = Talk of commands, tie on hands and foreheads, write on doors and gates

Wine chalice and bread = Memorial Feasts reminded of past, present and future

- Question 4b
What purpose did the memorial feasts accomplish for Israel?
Exodus 12:24-27 = Passover festival reminded how God saved Israel
Exodus 13:6-10 = Feast of Unleavened Bread is *a reminder that the law ... is to be on your lips*
Leviticus 23:41-43 = Feast of Booths to remind that Israel lived in booths during exodus

Tent = Tabernacle was a constant reminder of God's presence in their midst (also tent of meeting, ark, temple)

- Question 5 = God was actually present in the tabernacle (*Tabernacle* means *dwelling place*)
What did the tabernacle and the tent of the tabernacle mean to the Hebrews?
Exodus 25:8, 22 = Make a tabernacle for me and I will dwell among you
Exodus 40:36-38 = God's cloud stayed above the tabernacle
John 1:14 = *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*
Greek word translated as *dwelt* is actually *tabernacled*

Mace = Leaders were provided who had proper credentials

- Why was great leadership critical for insuring the destiny? = Lead in faith
Numbers 16:3, 8-11 = Korah and others tried to take over, sinned against God
What was a key component for great leadership?
Numbers 12:5-8 = Strong faith, in a right relationship with God

What made Israel's leaders great?

- Exodus 4:10-12 = God would tell Moses what to say and how
Joshua 4:14 = *The Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel*
Judges 6:14-16 = God told Gideon, *I will be with you and will conquer*
2 Samuel 7:8-9, 16 = God raised David, gave him victories, established his kingdom
Jeremiah 1:6-8 = God would be with Jeremiah, tell him what to say, protect him
- How did God prepare His leaders?
Exodus 2:10, 15 = Moses raised in Pharaoh's house, lived 40 yrs with priest of Midian
Exodus 33:11 = Joshua helped Moses many years & was with Moses when he spoke with God

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Land scene = The land was to be conquered to fulfill the destiny

Question 6 = The land was for the nation to grow to be a blessing

What is meant by the story in Joshua 5:13-15?

Joshua 5:13-15 = The promised land is holy ground - set apart for the destiny

How were the Israelites to receive the promised land?

Deuteronomy 7:22-24 = God would drive out the nations before them

Deuteronomy 7:16 = They were to destroy all the peoples God gives to them

All rocks attached to manuscript = Insuring factors were meant to help insure the destiny

How do these insuring factors relate to us as Christians today?

Divine Intervention

Civil and Moral Law

Visual Aids

Memorial Feasts

The Tabernacle

Leaders

The Promised Land

Summary - *A Destiny Insured*

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Manuscript tied to anchor = The destiny must be insured

Anchor lodged in sand = Insuring factors were critical at infancy stage

Lightning streaks = Divine Intervention developed confidence and trust

Scales of justice = Civil and Moral Law prevented chaos and destruction

Separated figures = Visual Aids perpetuated ideas of separation and obedience

Wine chalice and bread = Memorial Feasts reminded of past, present and future

Tent = The Tabernacle was a constant reminder of God's presence (also tent of meeting, ark, temple)

Mace = Leaders were provided who had proper credentials

Land scene = The land was to be conquered to fulfill the destiny

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InDepth Research:

What Insuring Factors did God put in place with the early church (New Testament Israel) to insure that she could fulfill her destiny of being Blessed to be a Blessing?

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 8 and Assignment

Next Week - *Empowered for a Destiny*