

Our Spiritual Journey

Return Church

August 18, 2024

A person with a backpack is walking away from the viewer on a wide, reddish-brown beach. The beach stretches towards a range of mountains in the distance. The sky is a deep blue with some white clouds on the left side. The overall mood is one of solitude and journey.

Our Spiritual Journey

THE JOURNEY FROM EGYPT TO CANAAN'S LAND

Life is a journey, not a destination

Your spiritual life is so much more than you just getting saved. Yes, if you are saved, you will go to heaven when you die. And yes that is the greatest thing that can happen to you, but that is not the end, but rather the beginning.

God will meet you right where you are:

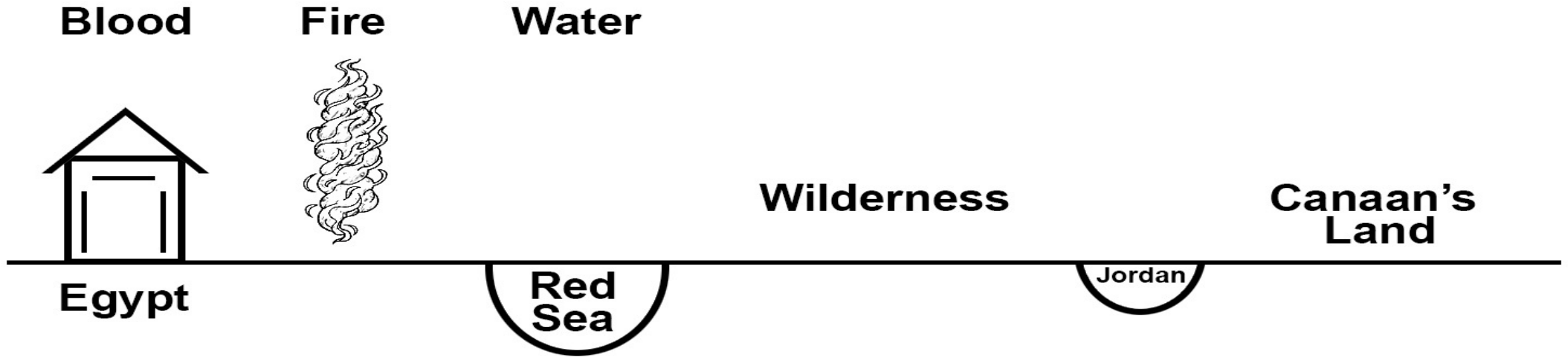
He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump.

Psalms 113:7 NLT

Our examples

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers 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 Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our **examples**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, *1 Corinthians 10:1-11 NKJV*

Our Spiritual Journey



3 basic categories of Men

1. Egypt

2. Wilderness

3. Canaan's Land

Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan's Land is a type or shadow of our spiritual journey in the new covenant.

3 basic categories of Men

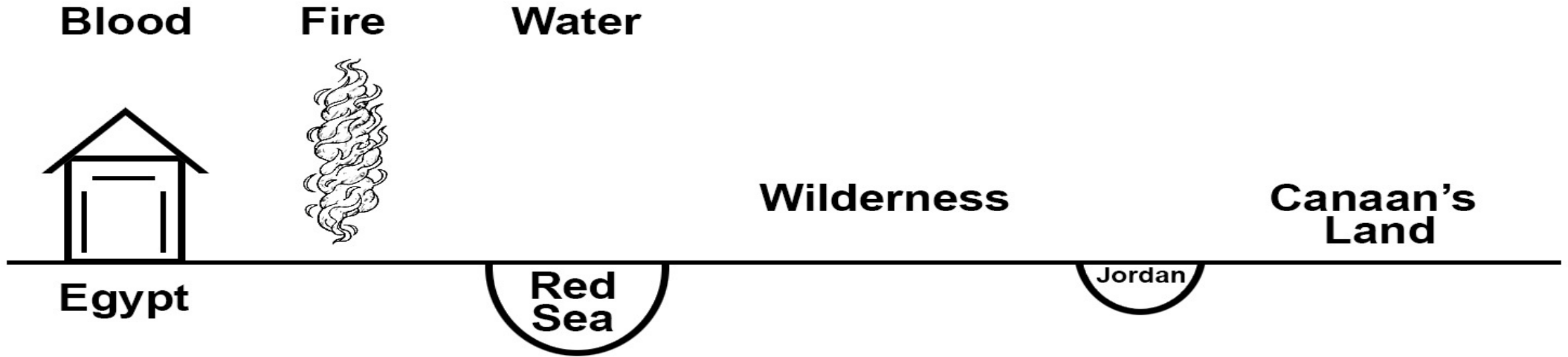
Egypt --- **Wilderness** --- **Canaan Land**

Lost ----- **Babe in Christ** --- **Mature Believer**

Unforgiven --- **Carnal** ---- **Victorious**

Who is Jesus? --- **Jesus is Savior** ---- **Jesus is Lord**

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What does Egypt represent?

Israel lived in Egypt for 430 years:

So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands. ***Exodus 1:13-14 NLT***

And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in **bondage**, and I have remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I *am* the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their **bondage**, ***Exodus 6:5-6 NKJV***

Egypt – The bondage of sin

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ***1 John 2:15-16 NKJV***

Egypt – a picture of the World, the Flesh, the Devil.

We were all born in bondage to a sinful nature.

Original sin

- I don't believe that Adam and Eve thought, let's ruin our lives and the lives of the rest of the human race that will come after us.
- No, instead I believe they thought, I just want to be happy.
- They didn't trust in the goodness of God.
- All sin begins with a character assassination of God.
- Because they couldn't think of a good reason for God's command, then there must not be one.
- Because of their sin, we were all born with a sin nature.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. ***Romans 5:12 NKJV***

All of us have sinned

Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins. ***Ecclesiastes 7:20 NLT***

As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; ***Romans 3:10 NKJV***

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ***Romans 3:23 NKJV***

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. ***Isaiah 64:6 NLT***

Wages of sin is death

the soul that sinneth, it shall die. *Ezekiel 18:44 KJV*

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Romans 6:23 NKJV***

Every lost person is condemned:

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ***John 3:18 NKJV***

The heart of man - wicked

And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” ***Mark 7:20-23 NKJV***

The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ***Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV***

Will not inherit the Kingdom of God

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ***Galatians 5:19-21 NLT***

The lake of Fire

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. ***Revelation 21:8 NKJV***

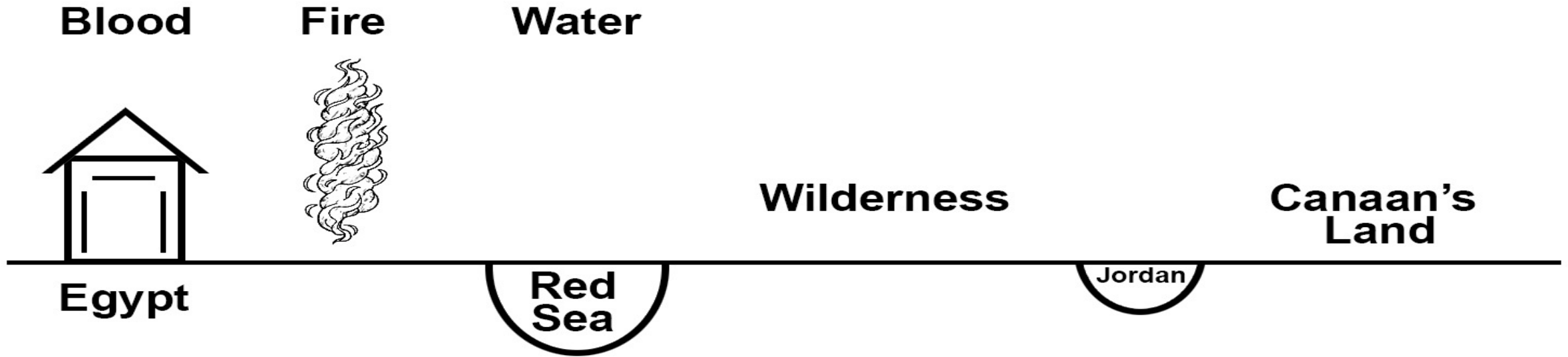
Subject to God's anger

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT

The lost sinner deserves the wrath and anger of God. He deserves condemnation, death and hell. But the good news is that Jesus came to save you from your sins.

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Egypt – Passover blood

We are saved while still in the world. God comes to get us right where we are, and He rescues us. He comes to us even if we are in the gutter; we don't clean up our life and try go to him to earn salvation.

In Egypt, on Passover, all of Israel killed a lamb and painted the blood of the lamb over the door post of their houses. God saw the blood and passed over their houses.

Jesus was called the Lamb of God.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ***John 1:29 NKJV***

The Blood of Jesus Christ

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. ***Ephesians 1:7 NKJV***

Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. ***Ephesians 2:13 NLT***



Salvation

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ***Romans 10:9-19 NKJV***

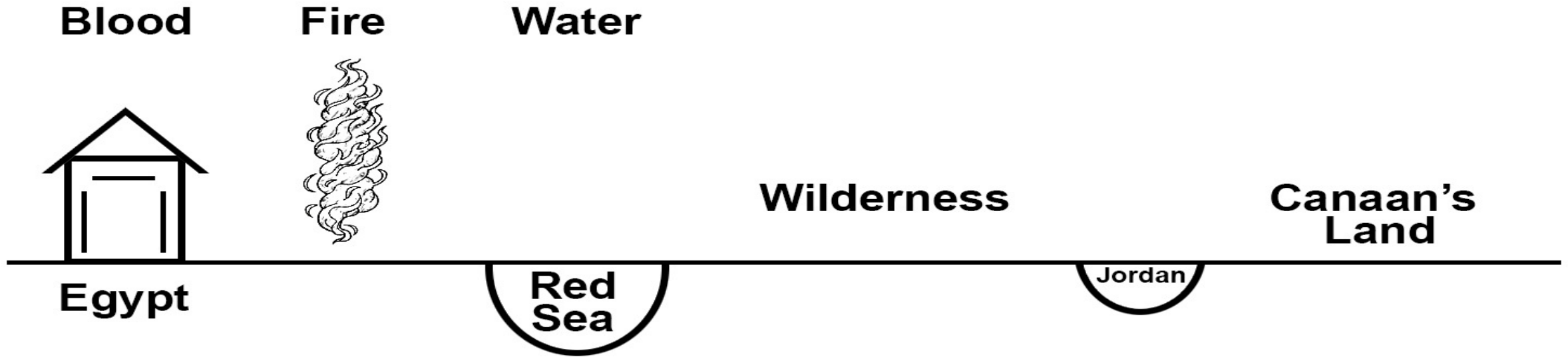
And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.' ***Acts 2:21 NKJV***

Blood – Fire - Water

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ***Acts 2:38 NKJV***

And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. ***1 John 5:8 NKJV***

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Sandals on your feet

And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It *is* the Lord's Passover. ***Exodus 12:11 NKJV***

God wanted Israel to eat the Passover meal with their sandals on and staff in their hand, because he wanted them ready to move out of there. It is God's intention to save you and then to immediately begin bringing you out of the world.

Blood – Fire

God wants to bring you out of the world. He wants you to separate from the world. The pillar of fire was a picture of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that will lead you out of the world.

Rameses – Succoth – Etham

So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people.

Exodus 13:20-22 NKJV

The Red Sea

The children of Israel marched to the Red Sea. They could not go forward and Pharoah was charging hard and fast to come and get them to take them back to Egypt. Your flesh wants to take you back to the world.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ***Exodus 14:21-22 NKJV***

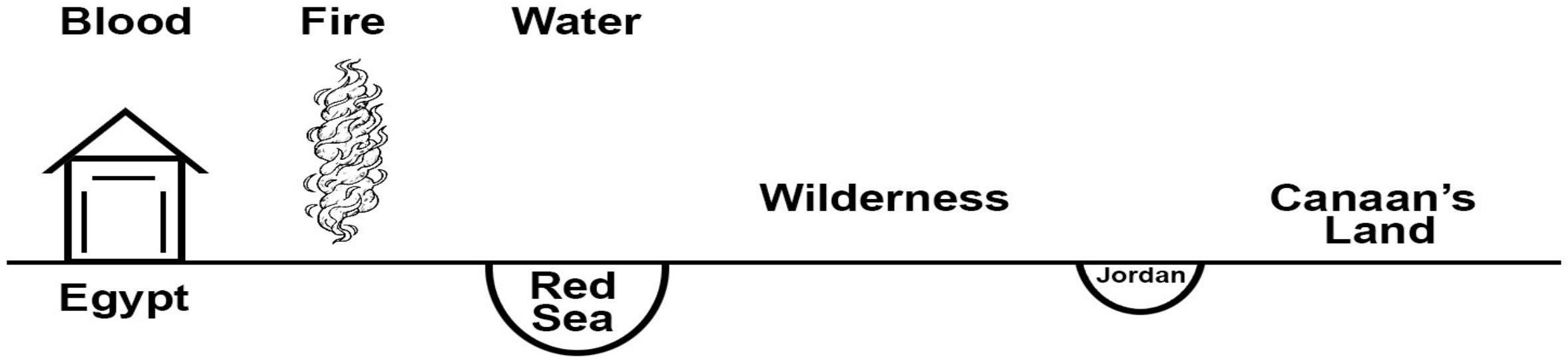
The Red Sea

Once Israel marched through the Red Sea and were on the other side, as Pharaoh's army were in the sea, Moses stretched his arm over the sea and prayed, and God miraculously closed the seas and drown Pharaoh's army. Israel shouted and danced with joy, rejoicing because God saved them.

A picture of water baptism

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ***Romans 6:3-4 NKJV***

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The wilderness

- **They were out of Egypt, but Egypt was not out of them.**
- This was not their will to be in the wilderness, this was the will of God. He led them there.
- Once in the wilderness, Israel murmured and complained with hearts of unbelief for 40 years.
- They should have gone into Canaan's Land in only a few weeks, but their unbelief kept them in the wilderness.
- They had faith to get out of Egypt, but didn't have enough faith to get them into the Promise Land.

A carnal minded Christian

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ***Romans 8:5-8 NKJV***

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ***Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV***

The wilderness

- They believed God to get them out, but they didn't have the faith to believe God to get them in.
- They wandered for 40 years, going around in circles.
- **Most people are too Christian to enjoy sin, and too sinful to enjoy Christ.**
- Most believers die in the wilderness. They never see Canaan's land.
- The wilderness is all about being tested and tried. It is about suffering and sorrow.
- It is all about God breaking all of the idols out of our hearts.

Infants in Christ

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your **sinful nature**. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your **sinful nature**? Aren't you living like people of the world? ***1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NLT***

They had enough faith to get out of Egypt, but not enough faith to get into the promise land.

Canaan's Land

- They walked by the Ark of the Covenant.
- The Ark is a picture of the headship of Christ. Or obedience to Christ.
- Crossing Jordan is not dying and going to heaven. There are giants in the land of Canaan.
- This is a picture of the believer making Jesus the Lord of their life.
- Reckoning the sinful nature dead, and alive with Christ Jesus.



The River Jordan

The Priest were carrying the Ark of the Covenant. As they stepped into the river Jordan, it miraculously split as did the Red Sea, so the people went over on dry ground. This is a picture of the believer making Jesus the Lord (master) of their lives.

Bro Dwayne talked last week about crossing over to the other side. Its time some of you cross over.

The believer is now dead to their old sinful nature and alive to God. The resurrected Christ is now living in and through them.

His Life

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ***Philippians 4:13 NKJV***

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ***Galatians 2:20 NKJV***

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ***Romans 5:10 NKJV***

The exchanged life

It is Christ Himself living His victorious life through you. Jesus died not only for what you have done, but He rose again to live in you, to take the place of what you are.

- His strength for your weakness.
- His wisdom for your folly.
- His grace for your greed.
- His love for your lust.
- His peace for your problems.
- His joy for your sorrow.
- His plenty for your poverty.

Victory

For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ***1 John 5:4 NLT***

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. ***Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV***

And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ***Galatians 5:24 NKJV***

Canaan's Land

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. ***John 10:10 NKJV***

For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ***Philippians 1:21 NKJV***

This exchanged life, this abundant life, is simply Jesus Christ Himself living His life through me. No longer do I have to struggle and strive to live the Christian life, I simply put my faith in Him; and say “thank you.”

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