

Exodus: Let the Journey Begin

This year's study will find us invited to accompany Moses and the Israelites on their journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land promised to them by God. Knowing about the wandering they experienced, we might wonder why we would want to study the ancient journey. Paul actually advises us in I Corinthians to take notice of what happened to Israel and not make the same mistakes.

Read I Corinthians 10:1-12

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷ 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." ⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; ⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

God provided the details of Israel's many mistakes not to shame them but as an admonishment to all who would follow. **Admonish** means to caution or warn - God wanted to give us a heads-up to help us avoid the consequences of disobedience. As Matthew Henry said, "Nothing in Scripture is written in vain; and it is our wisdom and duty to learn from it. Others have fallen, and so may we." So as we journey to the past with Israel, let us have open minds and hearts to learn what God wants to teach us from their achievements and their failures.



All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

II Timothy 3:16-17

World in 1500 BC (Bronze Age)



North America - Mexico

- farming was the predominant way of life
- they lived in single room mud huts with a thatched roof; a personal garden nearby
- they were already using irrigation methods to water crops
- the Mayan settlements developed trade networks among regions which caused communities to begin to flourish

South America - Peru

- towns formed along the river valleys as they needed the water for crops
- people cultivated corn, potatoes, squash, and some fruits
- they built irrigation canals and agriculture terraces on steep mountain slopes
- farmers raised llamas and alpacas to provide wool and meat and to use as pack animals
- their houses were adobe mud brick or rough stone
- pottery making developed and also the art of weaving

Europe

- covered by a network of farming cultures, ruled for the most part by powerful chiefs and warrior elites
- people living there at that time were ancestors of the Celts, Germans, and Italians
- in Greece, civilization arrived from the Middle East, bringing the concept of cities with it

- fortified citadels began to appear as trade for tin and copper (needed for chariots and implements) spread along the coast; palaces start to be built

Middle East & Africa

- written alphabet is starting to be used
- the Hittite and Babylonian empires along with Egypt are the leading powers of the region
- highly sophisticated civilizations with well-organized armies built around the use of the chariot; also known for great horse-breeding
- nomadic cattle herders occupy the remote areas of Africa while agriculture flourishes along the Nile

Asia (China)

- had first real cities of ancient Asia, with tens of thousands of inhabitants
- a system of writing, basically the modern Chinese script, was already in use
- already producing some of the finest bronzes in world history; also developed the use of chariots and horses
- rice farmers, fisherman, and hunters inhabited the area