

I WANT TO GO BACK HOME!

May 30, 2022

GALATIANS 5:1 NIV – (1) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

EXODUS 14:11-12 NIV – (11) They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? **(12)** Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

In the Bible, Egypt is a representation of the world; the world, that is, without God. It represents slavery, bondage, captivity, persecution, starvation, wickedness, polytheism, and many other evil and terrible things. Bottom line—Egypt represented sin. It also is a fitting representation of the sinful world we live in today. During this pandemic where we should be interceding in prayer as a church whole, servicing our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith and worshipping the true and living God, we are eager to get things back to where they were! A determination to return to Egypt. And how quickly we are determined to go back!

Because God’s people refused to follow His plan for them, they were left to wander in the wilderness for some 40 years. Yes, God allowed them to wander in the wilderness, but He didn’t forsake them; He continued to watch over, provide for, and protect them. It is interesting to note that during all of the years God’s people were wandering in the wilderness, not once did they miss a meal nor did any of their clothes wear out! There is a word that describes that. It is called, “Grace.” Even though God’s people had been disobedient, God’s love for them never ceased.

Perhaps there are times that you and I, for whatever reason, start “heading down to Egypt.” In other words, we start gravitating toward the things and the ways of the world, instead of staying anchored to God. We begin to allow something or someone else to guide and direct us. We begin to allow the world to enslave us, bind us, and starve God out of us. Our faith in God seems to shift from a vertical relationship to a horizontal relationship. Instead of seeking God first, we seek Him only when all else fails.

God knows best. He is telling His people, “Do not go back to **EGYPT!**” The Apostle Peter has a message for us. **2 PETER 2:21–22 - (21)** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. **(22)** Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”

SCRIPTURE READING: JEREMIAH 42

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Don’t let worldly things get between you and God.

“A JOURNEY OF THE HEART”