

The 40 Day Journey That Took 40 yrs

The Passover - Blessings in Disguise

Relentless Series: Judica Passiontide

Lent Week 5 - April 3rd, 2022

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Exodus 12: 1-42

Psalm 95

Jonah 3

Luke 4:1-13

Acts 1:1-11

Throughout many traditions, 40-day journeys are a rite of passage. In the Hebrew tradition, a purification rite (after birth) is 40 days, as is the grieving period. Fasting rituals are often 40 days. Both the Lent and Advent seasons are 40 days. There are tribes throughout Africa that believe a child should not touch the ground for 40 days to make sure the soul is anchored before grounding into the earth. Even Yeshua spent 40 days between the crucifixion to his ascension visiting and teaching while he integrated after death before passing on. 40 is an important and sacred number in the Bible.

The Israelites wandered for 40 years in the desert after leaving captivity. Few of us realize that journey is only an 11-day walk from Egypt to the Promised Land of Canaan. Even taking breaks to give the huge masses of exhausted people respite would have only taken 40 days. As a pilgrimage, it is often done as a 40-day ritual to honour the 40 years in the desert. So why did it drag on for so long?

As we make our way through the 40-day Lent season, can we really honour each step of the journey? Can we learn enough from the past to relieve ourselves of being doomed to repeat it?

So if the journey from Egypt to the promised land was only an 11 day walk why did it take 40 years?

Although there was no formal census, the Bible does account that there were 600,000 men, just men in the Exodus. When you add women and children it is believed that

there were millions of people who walked out of Egypt that day. Many would have been old or young, even baby livestock. But we must also keep in mind that even the strong men of fighting age had been slaves. They weren't just regular people in normal day life as we know it. They were people who had been excised from Egypt because they were treated horribly they were abused and whipped into submission and that's why Moses was fighting back.

The Hebrews who were being used to build the temples, the monuments and the pyramids were working under extremely harsh conditions. They weren't given enough supplies to get the job done and the quotas kept being raised making it so that they needed to get more done with fewer resources including less time. So for 430 years, these people had been slowly worn down to nubs, shells of who they used to be. It was a culture of very strong and proud people who work hard and that had more or less been worn out of them.

The Egyptian pantheon of gods was the Ennead. There were nine main gods who each dealt with one of the major aspects of a person. In the Hebrew Kabbalah, which is their secret mystic teachings, they taught that there were 10 aspects of a person. And so why did it take so much theatrical drama to get Pharaoh to let the people go? For one, they were his possessions. But when you read the exodus story we constantly hear God saying that he harden pharaoh's heart so that he wouldn't let them go. And that was to make sure that all 10 plagues were delivered because it addressed all 10 aspects of a person and rivalled all 10 of the main gods of Egypt (the tenth was Pharaoh himself who was worshipped as a god).

Proving that the Egyptian gods had no power as a way for God to prove His power. Not that He was stronger than them but that they didn't show up at all and therefore didn't exist at all. It was so that everyone in all the world would know that God is actually real as opposed to the made-up gods of the other nations, but especially it was so that the Hebrew people realized how real God was, what He was capable of, and that He fulfilled His promises. He was proving a point to the world but also earning the trust of the people.

And so, after the 10 plagues that lead up to the Passover, finally the Hebrew people were on the move. With a culture that had been in captivity under harsh commands for 430 years essentially, you're talking generation after generation after generation of people who didn't know how to make their own decisions. They were never given sovereignty

or freedom to decide those things or to take care of themselves. They make do with very basic little resources so you would think that they would be primed for life in the wilderness for a little while because they had been roughing it anyway.

But Egypt did have resources and it was reliable. Even though the resources were withheld from people they still knew that it was there. There wasn't a perspective of scarcity just of withholding. When the people wandered out into the desert they no longer believed that there was food available for them and so then fear set in.

Punishment and fear are very different ways of seeing the world. Even though as a slave you have no control over what your master decides your fate is there is still some understanding that there are repercussions for your own actions and if you do a good job and you keep your head down you should be able to get by. Out in the wilderness, they don't see food, they don't have a master taking care of them because they're not recognizing God as that master and so fear settled in.

The Passover was all about the people being chosen. If you did the simple ritual and acknowledged the blood and that you were claimed by the blood of the sacrifice then the angel of death would mosey on right by your place. It would recognize you as one of God's and leave your household alone.

To this day the Passover festival is still celebrated. And in the time of Yeshua it was a really important coming together. We celebrate Easter and Christmas as the big holidays of the year, but for them Passover was the big one. In fact, that's why Yeshua and his friends were all together the day he was betrayed. The last supper was a Passover meal. And true to form, the Lamb was the one who was sacrificed, and his blood was the one that saved everyone else.

In ancient Hebrew times, the last supper was the preparation of the lamb for the blood that marked the doorway of the chosen people - a stay of execution. And once that angel of death passed by the people were free to go on the pathway had been cleared, even if only temporarily. And off they headed into the desert.

The journey should only take a healthy individual 11 days. In consideration of the sick, the weak, the worn-out and the people who needed time to recover, rebalance and prepare themselves to go into the promised land and into a new life that was completely

unfamiliar to their culture, they took a 40-day sabbatical. A 40-day journey to pace themselves to camp, to recover, have a retreat along the way. But at the edges of the promised land, it's with in sight and instead of preparing themselves and entering into receiving the promise, rather the people chose to complain. Their fear overwhelmed their excitement. They misinterpreted the signs and didn't trust God, and as a result, He recognize that the generation He was trying to deliver His promise to was not worthy. He couldn't bring those people with that mindset into the fulfillment.

And so again, the stay of execution doesn't mean you're in the clear, it simply means it was deferred. Those people had disqualified themselves from receiving a promise. And they were sent another way to wander about living and through those conditions teaching them to be fully reliant on God.

Can you imagine living in a way where every morning your food is delivered to your door by God himself? That's essentially manna. All of their nutritional needs are met and all they have to do is go out, pick it, prepare the food. It's very simple. They got everything they needed delivered right to the doorsteps. But with all magic it expires. So they can only pick the amount they need for that day. It's an exercise to trust that the next day you will have it again delivered to you every single day reliably because God shows up for you every single day reliably. Your whole job is to just rely on that and be taken care of, like every other animal in the world is.

But no, they couldn't do that either. And so the uninterested generation with that negative filter that interprets the world through fear, wandered until that generation had been left behind. Until the last of them were gone with the exception of just a few choice individuals who trusted God the whole way, to whom God had specifically promised to take into the land in honour of the ways that they showed up for Him despite the others not believing.

When the 40 years, the process of transitioning the culture, had completed then the new generation who had lived their entire lives surrendered to God's care, whose entire perspective of reality was that God takes care of the details and will take care of you, when that was the primary worldview of the people, then they were ushered into the promised land without resistance. He fulfilled His promise to the people who are receptive to it.

And so it remains a right of passage that for 40 days, honouring the 40 years of that transition, we go through the process of recovery or grief. We go through the vision quest, the initiations that help us to face the truth and fulness of who we are. That 40-day journey purges the resistance, the fear, the sick parts of us that are not the fulness of God's promises of our personal divine design. It gets worked out, upgraded and integrated throughout that 40-day journey.

Yeshua went on an exodus wander to prepare himself for stepping into his public ministry. He had to make sure that none of that old Hebrew way was filtering his reality and standing between him and God. Once he had made sure that he was the purest, fullest form of who he was designed to be, then he could trust that he was in integrity and step in and step up as the mouthpiece of God. We always need to take that process of transition to grieve the old and integrate the new. Then and only then can we trust our own becoming as stable, reliable and complete.

We all have experiences in our lives where we have a realization, a breakthrough moment and then we move too fast or we try and pull it off before it's actually a reliable new way for us and we undermine the whole process and revert back to what we were doing before. Even though we now know that that's not the right way to do it.

When we don't take that time to integrate then we don't take the time to earn trust. And so anytime that we need to make a true conversion in our life from an old way to a new way we must take that 40-day journey to wander around in the no man's land between the old and the new until the old is truly gone and the new is truly claimed.

So remember, the walk from Egypt to Canaan was truly only 11 days. So the transition really is only an 11-day transit. The rest is all to recover. A gift from God to have a respite from the demands of reality and your expectations of showing up in life. 40 days is the time away, but our impatience reads it as an inconvenience rather than a respite from the demands of life.

Look at new mothers having just given birth, having the new responsibilities and pressures of a tiny human that needs to be taken care of and pushing themselves to stay on top of things and get back on track as though the inconvenience is robbing time from them. Instead of honouring the healing process, the recovery process, and allowing that time to adjust to the new with self-forgiveness and grace in their transit.

Look at those who are grieving relationships and the loss of loved ones either through death or the dissolving of an old relationship and how they fight the grieving process. They try and cling to the old way and they don't allow themselves to really feel. And so it always stays there at the edges just barely being kept at bay, waiting for its chance to be honoured.

The depths of emotions are frightening to us, we don't want to give into them, into fear. And we don't want to worship them and yet we treat emotions as though they are an external being who has a lot of power in our lives - essentially we treat them as the old gods.

When we understand the purpose of the 40-day transit, then we can honour not only the ritual of it but also the nature of it. The 40-day transit was designed to facilitate your transformation. It was an effort to honour the ways that people learn and grow. It is purely our resistances that refuse to take that time to allow things to become real, to truly be dealt with, and for us to become who we were designed to be in the process. We change in a heartbeat, I truly believe that, but we still need to integrate on the other side of it.

Maybe if we honoured the 40-day journey then we could be more graceful, and gracious, in our process. Maybe then we could be more swift in our transformations and 40 days could be condensed into the 21 that it takes for human psychology to actually create a new pattern. Then maybe if we got really good at doing that reliably, we actually could make it from the slavery of Egypt to the promises of Canaan in the 11 days that it takes to actually walk that walk when we were talking the talk because our self-talk would not be negative. The running commentary in our mind wouldn't be governed by fear and the depths of emotions that are holding us in that slavery even after we have left our captor's clutches.

I believe God's prayer for you is that you would know relief. That you would understand what respite is for, what integration means and feels like, and that you would understand that on the other side of the 40 days the promise isn't just milk and honey and rewards, it's a life where you actually believe God when He speaks promises in your ear. If you want to have the type of relationship with your Creator where you trust Him when He speaks, or you have confidence in the insights and intuition that He delivers to you as

direct revelations for your life, you need to learn to honour that 40-day transition, as it was designed to honour your nature as He created you.

Work with your nature not against it. Get out of the way and allow Him to deliver you to the promises of fulfilment that await on the other side of the stay of execution.

I call it a stay of execution because that means that the death is still coming, it is just deferred. Because the death was not meant to be yours. It was meant to be the old way that died. The slave mindset, the distrust, the fear, the lack consciousness that is what was meant to die. And those who could not allow that old consciousness to die we're on borrowed time. But I fully believe that God genuinely wants you to survive the process.

The transit from that old consciousness to the new one, the land of flowing milk and honey, was only meant to be that 40-day respite journey to retreat and recover. But instead, the resistance of the people turned it into a generational turnover. When we can learn to allow that old to die then we can survive our transition.

So if you want to be the embodiment of the new consciousness of the truly chosen people who accepted the promises and surrendered to rely on a God who truly does show up for them, those who believe because they see and they remember, then perhaps you want to craft yourself a 40-day journey. Do a Passover ritual in celebration to honour what it is that you are leaving behind, go on the grieving journey to really shed, let go and allow it to die in the wilderness of your initiation, integrate that 11-day transition where you do the work from the old to the new, and then allow the rest of the time for it to prove itself.

If you want a transmutation of your consciousness,
a transformation of your life,
and a transit of your soul from the old to the new
surrendered into the hands of God,
I truly pray that you don't drag the 40-day journey out over 40 years.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Selah