

[A Message of Encouragement](#)
Isaiah, Exodus and Numbers
“The Lord Shall Guide You Continually”

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[Exodus 13:21-22](#)

21 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.

22 **He did not take away** the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

I don't know if you noticed, but there is a tremendous similarity between the 2.5 million people that were slaves in Egypt for 400 years, and all of us.

- ☞ **Before God rescued them** from Egypt they were slaves.
- ☞ **Before God rescued us**, we were slaves to our old life.
- ☞ **Those 2.5 million people** were delivered by a Savior, **Moses**
- ☞ **All of us** find deliverance by our Savior **Jesus**.
- ☞ **Those 2.5 million people** were led through the desert by the Lord.
- ☞ **All of us** are being led right now through our own desert experience, by the Lord.
- ☞ **While being led by the Lord** through the desert, the 2.5 million people complained against the Lord and failed to trust Him most of the time.
- ☞ **While all of us** are being led by the Lord **through our own desert**, we constantly complain and doubt the Lord and fail to follow Jesus as we should.

So, the question is: Will the Lord cease to guide us and provide for us while we are struggling with trusting Him and struggling with defeating sin in our life?

- ☞ **Many of us** probably feel that the Lord will not bless us while we are struggling with sin.
- ☞ **But is that** the example that we see demonstrated by the Lord in the Bible?

[James 5:11](#)

Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

While on this journey of 40 years, the Lord provided everything that these 2.5 million people needed, by supernatural means.

[Deuteronomy 8:4](#)

Your garments **did not wear out** on you, **nor did your foot swell** these forty years.

[Nehemiah 9:21](#)

Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.

For the entire 40 years that they were in the desert, they LACKED NOTHING!

- ☞ **Notice that it says** that their clothes did not wear out in those 40 years!
- ☞ **Guys**, Have you ever had a T shirt last for 40 years?
- ☞ **Some of us** have some T shirts that look like they are 40 years old.
- ☞ **Most guys** have a couple old t shirts that we hold on to, way past the point that we should hold on to them.
- ☞ **You know what I mean**, t shirts that are only **held together by a few cotton molecules**, but hey man, they are so comfortable now, I can't throw it a way.
- ☞ **Then your wife finds it** in the drawer and tosses it and it is like losing your best friend!

Ladies, ever have a pair of sandals last for 40 years?

- ☞ **I have some cowboy boots** that were my dads that he had for 40 years, but they have been resoled about 10 times.

Shoes and clothing just doesn't last for 40 years, so how is it that these 2.5 million people in the desert had their clothing last for the entire 40 years and did not wear out?

- ☞ **Simple**, the Lord made them last for 40 years.
- ☞ **Now wait a minute**, The Lord made their clothes last for 40 years, **that is against all the laws of entropy and science**, everything must wear out.
- ☞ **It cannot happen**, that clothes last for 40 years, unless an outside force acts upon those clothes from a supernatural origin.

Yes, that is what happened, we call that "A Miracle".

But why would the Lord do that for a bunch of losers who only complain night and day, and fail to do what the Lord asked them to do, every day?

Deuteronomy 8:2-5

2 And you shall remember that **the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years** in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

4 **Your garments did not wear out on you**, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

5 You should know in your heart **that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.**

And why did the Lord "Chasten" his sons and daughters?

Hebrews 12:6

For **whom the LORD loves** He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

A second interesting statement there in Deuteronomy 8, regarding the physical health of those 2.5 million people crossing the desert for 40 years:

Deuteronomy 8:4

Your garments did not wear out on you, **nor did your foot swell** these forty years.

If you read through that verse quickly and don't study it, we might miss something here very interesting:

- ☞ **What in the world does** “*Your feet did not swell*” have to do with anything?
- ☞ **I mean**, so what if their feet did not swell, who cares?
- ☞ **But** there is a deeper meaning to that term.

There is a condition called “Rickets” in which a person who has not had a sufficient supply of vitamins D, contracts this disease.

- ☞ **The legs** and feet swell.
- ☞ **In fact** in severe cases of a lack of Vitamin D, from childbirth on, there can be catastrophic changes in the bones and legs themselves, such as in this picture here:

Picture of person with Rickets:

Imagine a child born out there in that desert at the beginning of the 40 year journey, and not having enough Vitamin D, they would all have legs that looked like these in this picture.

- ☞ **And yet**, the Lord says here that **NONE of them had legs like this**, or feet that were swollen, **because he supplied all of their needs!**

Now I do not read anywhere that the 2.5 million people has any milk or cheese or other sources that would supply them vitamin D.

- ☞ **And yet** the Holy Spirit includes this little verse that says that “*Their Feet did not swell*” for those entire 40 years.
- ☞ **Do you know** what that means?
- ☞ **That even though** they did not have any normal source for vitamin D or other vitamins and minerals that the human body needs, that **the Lord still knew what they needed, and He provided it for them, all of them, for 40 years.**

While they were complaining against Him every day, while they were failing to obey Him everyday, He was still faithful to them!

Several years ago, one of the men who was in charge of providing all the supplies for the Army in their battles, read this story here in the Book of Exodus and Numbers, of

how the Lord provided for all the needs of the 2.5 million people crossing the desert in Arabia.

- ☞ **He was intrigued by that story**, because providing the needs of 2.5 million people in the desert was no small matter.
- ☞ **He knew that**, because he was in charge of providing all those same needs for the army also in the desert

So, the Quartermaster of the Army made some computations, and this is what he discovered were the needs of 2.5 million people living in the desert, without any natural resources around them:

According to the Quartermaster of the Army,

- ☞ **It would take** more than **1,500 Tons of food per day** to feed 2 million people, DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD, 1,500 TONS OF FOOD IS?

This need would require **2 Freight trains that would be over 1 mile long**, with more than 100 freight cars behind each train, just to hold this much food, to feed 2 million people, EVERY DAY!

- ☞ **At one point** it says in Numbers, that the Lord fed them Quail everyday

Numbers 11:31

Now a wind went out from the LORD, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp

To feed a family of 5 with 1 quail per person per day, it would take 750,000 quail to fly into Israelis camp Every Single Day!

Next imagine The water that it would take in the desert, to quench the thirst and take care of the necessities of **2 million people** in the desert.

- ☞ **The Quartermaster of the Army** computed that it would require 11 million gallons per day.

This would require 18 more 100 car freight trains, that is **1,800 tanker cars** filled with water EVERY DAY!

- ☞ **Where did they get the wood** out in the desert, to start the fires needed to cook the food everyday?
- ☞ **If you have ever been camping** in the desert you know how hard it is to find any wood at all to build a fire with.
- ☞ **It would take 4,000 tons of wood each day**. Add A couple more 100 car freight trains, just to supply the wood!

And as if those statistics are not amazing enough, listen to this:

Even though the people complained and failed the Lord everyday, He still was faithful and took care of them and their needs.

The Lord had to deliver to these people, the equivalent of nearly 2,500 railroad cars of food, water, firewood and other needs to these people EVERY SINGLE DAY!

How did he do that? I have no idea, but HE IS THE LORD, HE CAN DO ANYTHING!

Isaiah 58:11

The LORD will guide you continually, **And satisfy your soul in drought**, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, **whose waters do not fail**.

The Lord will guide you.

- ☞ Not a human being.
- ☞ Not an Angel.
- ☞ Not a psychiatrist.
- ☞ The Lord will guide you.

The Lord Jesus has not left us alone during the days of our life here upon the earth.

- ☞ **He himself** is the One leading you throughout your life.

You might not see a pillar of fire to lead you the way that the Lord led Israel by night through the desert.'

Exodus 13:21

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

You most likely will not see Angels encamped all around you the way that Elisha saw.

2 Kings 6:17

And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and **he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

- ☞ **But the Lord** will not forsake you, He will guide you.

Judges 2:1

Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My

covenant with you

Hebrews 13:5

For Jesus Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Matthew 28:20

... I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

And it is important to know that it is not just once in a while that the Lord will guide us, but He will be a **continual guide** for us all the days of our life.

- ☞ **He does not leave us alone** to our own understanding, He is always guiding us, even when we don't know that He is guiding us.
- ☞ **He is guiding us** through the circumstances of our life, even when we cannot sense it.
- ☞ **He is guiding us through** the problems and difficulties of our life, even when we think everything is against us.

I am always amazed at how distressed and perplexed we become when things begin to go wrong.

- ☞ **As if** somehow the Lord has stopped working in our life.
- ☞ *"The Lord must be on vacation, because he let this happen..."*

When in reality, all the bad things, the difficult people that come into our life, the losses, the gains, the heartaches, the distresses, even the church itself, all these are under the Lord's control and power.

- ☞ **No one** can do anything unless they have permission from the Lord.
- ☞ **Even the bad things**, the Lord uses for His own GOOD purposes.
- ☞ **Very often** it is through these terrible things that happen, that the Lord will do his greatest work in our life and in the physical and spiritual growth of Jesus church.

Show me one place in the New Testament where the church grew mightily, that it was not through nearly being destroyed.

- ☞ **The Lord is always guiding**, always in control, in every and all circumstances of life.

We can hear the voice of His guiding us, if we stay close behind Him and follow Jesus.

- ☞ **Even when** your position in life changes.
- ☞ **When you** have nothing .
- ☞ **When you have** a lot.
- ☞ **The Lord is** in all these things guiding you.

Even if you might be taken to a distant land and you do not know why, it is because the

Lord is guiding you.

And...There is no problem, obstacle, hurt, injustice, or sorrow that the Lord will not deliver you out of...

- ☞ **If you are oppressed** by people.
- ☞ **If enemies** surround you...
- ☞ **There is no reason** to fear, because the Lord is guiding you.

We have **perfect love** to keep us, **perfect wisdom** to direct us, **perfect power** to defend us.

Isaiah 58:11

The LORD will guide you continually...

There is an interesting story of one of those old fashioned preachers who believed in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, more than the preparation of the minister.

So, he never studied his Bible or prepared notes, he just took the stage on Sunday morning, and flopped his big ole Bible up on the pulpit.

Wherever it opened to, that is where he taught from on that Sunday morning.

Well, on this particular Sunday, His Bible opened to the Book of Revelation.

After 50 years of teaching the Word of God, he still was not comfortable teaching the Book of Revelation...

But being a man of faith, **he took his next step**, which was to raise his right index finger and thrust it into the pages of the Bible where it had opened, and **pointed to the text for that morning...**

As he did so, his finger landed on the scripture in Revelation chapter 3:

Revelation 3:11

...Behold, I am coming quickly!

As the old preacher looked down at that verse of scripture, fear filled his heart, "***What Lord do you want me to say about that verse Lord?***"

So, reciting that verse out loud now, "***Behold I am coming quickly***, He waited for the guiding of the Holy Spirit, to tell him what to say, but **nothing came to his mind...**

Now, he raised his voice even louder in a shout and said "***Behold I am Coming Quickly***", still no inspiration flooded his mind from the Holy Spirit...

Now becoming desperate, he again recited the verse out loud, “Behold I am Coming Quickly”, but this time he jumped up and down and Rocked his body forward..

As he did so, he lost his balance and tumbled down the steps of the stage, rolling over and over, landing at the feet of one of the senior members of the congregation.

Standing to his feet, he humbly apologized to the elderly lady for his clumsiness...

To which she answered him,

*“Pastor don’t you worry about it, it is Okay, I wasn’t surprised at all, you gave me fair warning, **three times...**”***Behold I Am coming Quickly...**

Very often when we pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives, He will work in a way that we are not expecting, but is none the less, even more effective...

Communion...