

THE ROSETTA STONE OF CANAAN

The Rosetta Stone is a slab of black basalt bearing an inscription of praise to Ptolemy V, engraved in three scripts, hieroglyphics, demotic and Greek. Ptolemy was then King of Egypt. The stone, inscribed in 196 B.C., was found in the late 1700s in Egypt by French soldiers. The stone was the key to translating hieroglyphics, and understanding the language and subsequent Egyptology¹.

The name is used here in the same sense, this paper being a Stone from which we may understand the typology of the Exodus and Canaan as applied to the true followers of Christ. There are many individual metaphors more or less vaguely understood by the average believer. These include the blood of the lamb smeared on the doorposts, representing Christ's Passover blood, Egypt being a metaphor of slavery to sin, and the Red Sea representing the baptism of the believer. But if we accept these various types from the Exodus, then intellectual honesty compels us to accept the others in Canaan as well. *In all things, especially God-things, there is a symmetry; the Exodus and Canaan are just that, each an equalizing compliment of the other.*

One cannot escape the fact the Israelites indeed came out of Egypt, but were not qualified to go into Canaan. Their 'old man', who is never qualified to enter the Promised Land, was revealed in their murmurings, disobedience and foul attitudes in the wilderness. The word 'wilderness' in and of itself is a very precise metaphor for an area of testing and proving the righteous, exposing the unrighteous. It is a place where the inferior die.

God's purpose is never to merely bring His people **out of** a place, Egypt or other trials in general, but to bring His people **into** a relationship with Him. Our obsession with salvation, being "saved" from bondage, delivered from "Egypt", has become a one-sided miscreant. We have been duped into believing that being "saved" is it. But, it is man-centered; therefore it is to be expected.

The real message of the Gospel is the redemption of a man **from** his sin-saturated existence **to** becoming like Christ. The great deception of the modern era is the accentuation on extraction **from** an evil state (or an ingenious counterfeit), and letting it go at that. "Once saved, always saved" is only one of several religious ditties that epitomize a one-sided, single element gospel currently in vogue. Just join a religious institution, any denomination, and you're good to go; Heaven is yours...

The stories of the O.T. are examples and warnings² to us; they are types, foreshadows, allegories and metaphors of the physical preceding the spiritual, reflective of the course of life of the individual believer in Christ. The typology of Canaan is otherwise known as sanctification, or being *transformed* into the image of Christ. The Greek word is *hagiasmos*, also translated as holiness. They are one and the same. Moreover, as Paul said, "Strive for holiness, **without which** no one shall see the **LORD**." That is plain speech, without any wiggle room.

The Exodus-Canaan saga of the Israelites is an allegory of the dual-phase of the believer in Christ. The Exodus from Egypt only represents the **deliverance and salvation** of the believer from the domain of darkness, slavery to sin and spiritual death. A few of the individual metaphors within the **Exodus** are:

1. Egypt is a type of the world, and all that is wicked; power, dominance, control and all that is self-serving, contrasted with all that Christ is³.
2. Israel represents all of God's people, a new creation, just as we are.
3. Crossing under the Red Sea is a type of N.T. baptism⁴.
4. The 40 years of the Wilderness represents a proving, a purging. Throughout the scriptures the number 40 is used to reflect a testing; it rained 40 days and nights, Jesus was 40 days in the wilderness, Moses 40 years in Egypt, 40 years in the wilderness, and 40 years with Israel in the Sinai⁵.
5. The Mosaic Tabernacle represents God dwelling in and amongst His people⁶. This is the centerpiece of O.T. Israel as well as the typology of the N.T. indwelling God in the individual within the *ekklesia*, the body of Christ.
6. The three portions of the M.T. represent the heavens, man's tri-partite being, the three Personalities of the Godhead, and the three levels of the believer⁷; Outer Court, salvation; Holy Place, sanctification; Holy of Holies, glorification.
7. The death of the ones over 20 represents the believer's death of self, the old man. Israel's behavior is symbolic of what happens when the believer tries to enter the Promised Land (the fullness of Christ) as he/she is, with no change. The behavior of this age group in the wilderness is typical of the carnal believer; murmuring, manipulation, shifting the blame, self-pity, complaining about the slightest inconvenience, childish, acting, trying to impress, full of lust, absence of self-control, lack of patience of any kind. All of these are recorded in the early chapters of Exodus, and in the New Testament⁸.

Canaan represents the second half symmetry of the Exodus saga, the ascension of the believer **from** this state of deliverance **into** the fullness of Christ⁹, **into** His image. This ascension is also known as the progressive¹⁰ (*were saved, are saved, are being saved, will be saved*), lifelong **sanctification**¹¹ (**holiness**) of the believer.

1. Crossing the Jor-dan represents humility, brokenness, submission and obedience to His word. From #3381, "to descend, to go downwards, to a lower region, be prostrate, to be brought down." The context of Israel obeying God's command in crossing the Jor-dan makes this clear.
2. The circumcision represents being set apart from all the rest. It was a symbol of purity of heart¹². Believers are said to be circumcised in Christ¹³. The inference of the metaphor seems to be clear enough. Setting oneself apart is like all other God-things, it is a matter of the heart¹⁴, or the seat of the mind.
3. Jericho, which means 'spirit' or 'aroma', represents the principal ruling **spirit** over the individual believer which must be conquered first, by God alone. This ruling spirit is also known as one's *principle* sin nature. These are three in number, the Lust of the Flesh, the Pride of Life and the Lust of the Eyes.

4. Basically, Jericho was chosen to be first because of its control over the rest of Canaan; it was the central spiritual and political *principality* over the land. We see the correlative words¹⁵ in the N.T. where Paul refers to us “not wrestling with flesh and blood, but against *principalities, powers, and world rulers of this present darkness, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places*. The point made here is the hierarchy of darkness; that principle is what was in play with Jericho being first. *Jericho is a type of our sin nature*. It is conquered primarily by God’s power, but requiring our assent.
5. The Seven Nations of the Canaanites represent *powers*, the next level of corruption of the believer that must be overcome. They are *types of our strongholds*, and are expressed in the *affections¹⁶, desires and bents* of the individual, housed in the *subconscious*. They are conquered¹⁷ jointly by God and the individual. That’s why Paul said, “*We have Divine Power...*”
6. The Lesser Kings represent the corrupt ways of thinking absorbed from the *world rulers of this present darkness*, housed in one’s *conscious mind*. They are conquered predominantly by the individual, with God’s help.
7. All three levels of conquering the “self” is known as “overcoming” one’s self, addressed in The Revelation, chapters 2-3. It is only *after* these three levels of corruption are overcome that the other promises of being filled with the Spirit, anointing, etc., *truly* go into effect. Otherwise, salvation, and only salvation, is enacted. Being Outer Court, one being merely “saved” has no covering, no physical protection. The other two are 2nd and 3rd realm actions belonging to the Holy Place; therefore they are ‘under a covering’.



The primary problem facing the tens of millions of believers in this country is that all think themselves to be in the right, to be right. There has been a smoothing over, a cosmetic makeover that disguises everything underneath. “Believers” have become excellent actors, mimicking whatever has been characterized as admirable.

I have observed over the years that many “advanced” and “zealous” believing men will wax religious in their mid-late years, full of zeal, high-sounding words, self-proclaimed righteousness, only later in life to fall back into their old ways characteristic of their particular sin nature. The path looks like the Real Deal, but is an aborted attempt to be religious, nearly always ending up a worse state than before.

T. Austin-Sparks wrote about this in *The Snare of a Step in the Right Direction* years ago. Charles Solomon wrote about it in a more modern way, but captured the essence. That essence was the period in a believer’s life, averaging 40, where a man chooses to die to self and go on to be merged in to Christ, or he refuses such and reverts back to his old nature. Secularists called this period “Mid-life crisis”.

Few “Christians” die to self; most do not even know the concept, nor what the Bible says about it. Even if known, they usually find a way to camouflage it so that the old self is presentable to the local “church” membership. This is easily done by clothes, cars, proper behavior where needed, religious buzz-phrases, and visible acts of altruism and “ministry”.

This sham is easily exposed by the Word, but again few dare to call that bluff. If it is exposed, the tell-tale sign is anger, an inordinate show of being offended, or a well-rehearsed act of taking the high road, depending on the political sway of the individual.

Of some 25-30 men with whom I have had “sweet converse” in our gathering, about half have fallen off into bar ditches, made train wrecks of their families, and have become true apostates. The other half have thrown me under the bus, basically leaving me alone. Both halves retreated back to their old ways, their old nature.

All of this is not slander, for it is true; nor is it a putdown, judging, or even critical; they are simple facts, things being what they are. You say, “Well, maybe it was *you* who fell off into the bar ditch.” Maybe; if so, check out the fruit that fell off their trees as opposed to mine. That’s how Jesus said you would know them.

More often than not, these copied and pasted religious traits would get derailed by whatever appealed to their old self, or their particular sin nature. As Rick Godwin quipped once, “Gold, glory and girls”, which refers to the demise of the big names on TV in the 70s, 80s and 90s. In other words, money, power/influence/big crowds, and seductresses would ensnare them where the chink in their spiritual armor lay.

The principle applies down the food chain to the least of us. Money, power, perfection, pride and sex love the Old Self. Gold and glory apply to the sin nature of Lust of the Eyes, power, money, appearances and position. Girls apply to all three, but primarily Lust of the Flesh. That leaves Pride of Life, the perfectionists, arrogant, always right. What gets them?-high positions, accolades, flattery, dress, especially appearances.

On my ranch we bale hay for cattle; the grass is cut, allowed to dry, then baled into 1000# round bales. One can do this to high-quality hay, clean and full of protein; or, one can cut raw pasture grass land, which is full of briars, horse-mints, goat-heads, goat-weeds and honey locust thorns. You can bale it the same way, and you cannot tell the difference. One is genuine, one is full of all sorts of bad stuff.

So it has become with “believers” in Christ. The realms of ‘bad stuff’, our ***sin nature, our strongholds and our lesser sins*** have at best been trivialized by one-line ditties, covered over by our acting, and ignored at worst. But, like the terrorists who come out of their lair at night, these three will bear their evil fruit. It is just a matter of time, and will occur when one least expects. A one-line ditty won’t do you much good then...

There are three anecdotes from which I wish to draw this point;

- the first is when the multitudes waved palm branches for Jesus that Sunday morning; four days later they were foaming at the mouth with hate, "Crucify him!"
- the second is from an unknown source:

"No man escapes when freedom fails,
The best men rot in filthy jails,
And those who cry *appease! appease!*
Are hung by those they tried to please."

- the third is from the movie *Patton*, in which Gen. Patton is receiving accolades for his leadership in a WW II battle. He tells his aide about a Roman general who had just returned from battles with the barbarian hordes in Eastern Europe; the people were giving him a parade, with praises coming from both sides. The Roman general carried a black slave with him, who whispered in his ear, "Glory is fleeting, a deceitful, treacherous thing; today they are praising you; tomorrow they will slit your throat."

I am trembling as I write this; beware of those who carry a New Testament in their shirt pocket, with a little cross dangling on the outside. Do not entrust yourself, much less the business and safety of your family, to those who quote scripture after scripture, who make all the right appearances, who tell you what they know you want to hear, utter pleasant praises, who use faddish symbols and repeat religious clichés.

Be very careful of anyone who calls you "brother" but has not died to himself, nor crucified¹⁸ his/her personal sin nature, much less been delivered of his/her personal stronghold - they will turn on you in a heartbeat, in public, or wherever will wreak the most damage. Beware of thyself if there be in thee a tendency to do these things. 'Beware' will save your life in days to come. Certainly beware of orators and talkers.

Death to Self, sin natures, strongholds and holiness are all New Testament principles, up front and personal. If you have never fulfilled the symmetry requirements to enter and conquer "Canaan", you may be 'saved', but you are still in the Outer Court, falsely confident on your salvation and baptism, your flesh. Your old nature, your particular stronghold still controls you, regardless of your degree of polish.

This is the key behind the impotency and guile in modern-day "Protestantism". From an article written by Michael Boldea, Jr. from Romania;

"We are just now beginning to see the repercussions of the *Me Gospel*, the *Secular Gospel*, the *Prosperity Gospel*, the *Fire Insurance Gospel*. Worse is on the way, and those who still stand on the wall of the citadel and cry aloud are bone weary."

If there is no personal cross, then there is no gospel at all.

To personalize this concept of a dual-phase path for the true believer, I would like to give a brief summary of this dual-sided path as it occurred to me.

At 26, I was visited by the Presence of God; upon deep contrition, weeping, confession and repentance, I was born again by the Holy Spirit. From 26 until I was 35 or so, I devoured the Word, seeing things that were indeed strange to my (corrupt) way of thinking. During that time, I must have read about the O.T. fathers teaching their children, so that God's truths would be perpetuated. Not knowing any difference, nor knowing if it would work, I read the Bible to my children at the breakfast table. It bore fruit, and still is.

Around 36 years of age, I read in the Word about dying to self, and other books on the matter. Not knowing any better, I believed that premise and prayed accordingly. Two years and much pain later, I reached the end of myself. To all that was within me, my wife was "dead", my children were "dead", my job and all manner of pleasure were "dead". I was a zombie. At that moment, with the Captain standing right behind me, and with no mental reservations at all, I gave up the rights of my "self" to Him. "Do whatever you want to and with me, just give me peace." He did just that. I died to my old "self"; it was nasty, ugly, painful, totally draining, miserable. That's the way it is. Death is nasty.

At 40, less than 2-3 years later, I read the Word about strongholds. My sin nature and stronghold were the same, Lust; it was inherited from my ancestors, **formed** in me as a child and adolescent, but neither addressed nor brought under discipline by my parents.. Thus it grew unabated. By the time I was in my late teens-early 20s it was possessive and very destructive. Words cannot describe the evil thoughts, of which no one knew, nor will they.

At the same time, I attended a Gothard seminar in Dallas and heard the same message. I believed the Word and the confirmation. Soon after, I was in an upper room with 6-8 others at a country church, where a man of God quietly mentioned, one by one, a series of strongholds, one of which was Lust. I broke under the power of the Spirit and wept and wept. That day I was delivered by the power of the Spirit of the strong man of Lust; not the presence, but the power. It still lingers, and pops up every once in a while.

At 43-44, 2-3 years later, I am walking out to my shop in the dark, when all of a sudden I was filled with a Presence that vibrated every cell in my body. I thought I was going to die, literally. During the ensuing years, I was filled with the Spirit a number of times. [A note here; being filled with the Spirit is **NOT** the same as receiving the gifts of the Spirit, in whatever expression they appear. They may come at the same time, and be associated, but they are not the same, no more than the fruit of the Spirit is the same.]

From 44 until now, numerous "lesser" spirits of mine would be exposed by Him, and summarily addressed, some with a great price, some needing several episodes, all to which I had been blind and unawares. Many were associated with trials with other "believers", requiring drawing a line in the sand. All of them were expensive, but nonetheless victorious.

I began writing after I was filled with His Presence, crudely at first, improving with experience acquired from ignorance and bad judgment. Gradually He began to replace me with Himself and I noticed things happening that were not of me. Laying hands on a very limited number of people was one of them.

Thus the progressive path He took me was:

1. Salvation of spirit, water baptism.
2. Dying to self; begin process of sanctification.
3. Deliverance of my sin nature and stronghold.
4. Being filled with the Spirit (a continuance).
5. Victory over the lesser sins of my youth.
6. Walking with the Lamb.

Is this the only pattern in which these things can occur? Of course not, there are variations, but not materially so. The basic pattern was, and should be, the same as it was in the Exodus-Canaan episodes. This is the message of The Rosetta Stone.

Even if there were no gospel at all, if there were no O.T. stories, no record of the Exodus, no N.T. instructions, no record of anything at all -there would still be the reality of an unknown Almighty God, a Father, and the sense of the Holy Spirit, maybe even some historical vestige of Jesus the Lamb.

If this were all that I had, there would still be reason to follow the Lamb, imperfectly as I would picture Him. There would still be an awareness of my vileness and His goodness, if nothing else. If there were nothing written at all, I still would have cause to try to shuck off my bad nature and strive to have His, however limited that may have been. That type of heart, I believe, is what separates the wheat from the tares, the truly chosen as opposed to mere talkers and actors. All the words ever written by Man are just that, words; some are words that form pictures or ideas, roadmaps to guide us.

If all I were capable of doing was to bang on a hollow log in the woods, the worthiness of Him would still draw me into His goodness. If I were alone in the Chilean archipelago, having no books at all, and had only heard a rumor that 2000 years ago there was a man who said he was God's son, sent to bring me back, I would still respond.

As it turns out, this *is* all I knew when I was a boy of 7 walking the woods, 65 years ago...

September 22, 2015

Ben Issachar

¹ Encyclopedia Britannica

² I Cor. 10:6,11.

³ Is. 30:2-3; 31:1-3; I John 2:15-16, et al.

⁴ I Cor. 10:2

⁵ <http://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/40.html>

⁶ Ex.29:45

⁷ Ex. 30, 31; Issachar, Ben, *The Second and Third Realms, The Mosaic Tabernacle*.

⁸ Galatians 5:19-ff.

⁹ Eph. 3:19.

¹⁰ Romans 8:24; I Cor. 15:2; I Cor. 1:18; I Cor 3:15,5:5, Romans 11:26, I Cor. 10:23, et al cross-references.

¹¹ **There is no sanctification or transformation of one's corrupt soul-mind without the Spirit-inoculation of the Word. God the Father requires it, and so does the symmetry mentioned above.**

¹² Deut. 10:16, 30:6.

¹³ Col. 2:11

¹⁴ Col. 2:11.

¹⁵ Ephesian 6:12.

¹⁶ James 1:14-15, Col.2:11.

¹⁷ Col. 3:5.

¹⁸ Gal. 2:20.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

_____, RSV Bible, Zondervan Publ., Grand Rapids, MI.

Dake, Finis; *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible*, Dake Bible Sales, Lawrenceville, GA.

Henry, Matthew; *Bible Commentary*, Zondervan Publ., Grand Rapids, MI.

RAMBAN (Nachmanides); *Commentary on the Torah (Exodus)*, ca.1150 A.D., Shilo Publ., N.Y., N.Y.

Unger, Merrill; *Unger Bible Dictionary*, Moody Press, Chicago, IL.

Vine, W.E.; *Expository Dictionary of the N.T. Words*, Revell & Co., N.J.

Zodhiates, Spiros; *Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, AMG Publ., Chattanooga, TN.