

Jornada del Muerto, 16-36; Israelite Jornada, Intro

Please orient to this indisputable fact: Life itself is a struggle against a global environment which is doing its best to kill us.

There is only one effective means of adjustment to this dilemma: Faith and faith alone in a caring and loving God who unconditionally provides all our needs for life and godliness.

His guaranteed daily logistics to us begin with faith alone in Christ alone. Our ability to make it to Santa Fé is based upon our willingness to trust in God's grace, mercy, and faithfulness to provide all our needs along the way.

Look at what Peter said to us in the verse we just noted:

2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us ...

Please note that all our logistics are provided for both life and godliness. This means that God keeps us alive some way, somehow.

But simply being alive is not the Christian way of life. A pioneer trail rider could have Santa Fé as his objective but have no idea of how to get there. Prosperity lay in Santa Fé. But if he wandered off the wheel-tracks and wound up in northern Old Mexico, he would indeed be alive but think he'd gone to hell.

Such is the case for the believer in Christ. His objective is experiential sanctification. God's desire is to lead and guide him to that level of spiritual growth. But He has decreed that the means by which this is accomplished is through the leadership and guidance of His Word.

We must learn that in order to make the trek from Kansas City to Santa Fé we must be ever reliant upon God's divine grace, divine provision, and divine guidance. Grace will find a way, provision is a daily guarantee, and guidance is obtained from the Scripture.

The Spanish looked upon the 60-mile-wide desert between the Cimarron and Arkansas Rivers as the *jornada del muerto*, the "journey of death."

This is an excellent way to describe the life of any person who is without doctrine to guide his way through life. Life winds up being an *jornada del muerto*, a "journey of death." In fact, the original meaning of the Spanish word *jornada* referred to the measurement of land. It was equivalent to as much land as could be plowed in one day.

This whole world can be viewed as one massive *jornada* and those who are born into it become involved in a lifelong *jornada del muerto*. The only thing that can convert it into a *jornada de la vida*, a "journey of life," is faith alone in Christ alone.

The Jews of the Exodus generation completed a self-fulfilling prophecy during their *jornada del muerto* in the Sinai peninsula.

Exodus 14:11 - Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the desert? What is this you have done to us?

Every Jew who entered this Middle-Eastern Jornada was a believer in Jehovah Elohim, the God of Israel, Jesus Christ. All but Caleb and Joshua died in that desert.

Our next study will take up their 40-year struggle. It's major theme will be the fact that God provided for these believers every necessary asset to reach the promised land alive and in good health. That they didn't make it is not a reflection upon God's grace, Moses' leadership, or the desert's sparse resources, but rather, upon their lack of faith.

The Exodus Generation's Jornada del Muerto

I. Introduction

Genesis 17 informs us that Abraham was transformed by a miracle of God from a Sumerian Gentile into history's first Jew.

Genesis 17:5 - No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.

This was the genetic adjustment necessary to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant, repeated by the Lord several times in Genesis, the first in, "*I will make you a great nation.*"

That nation gets its start with the birth of Isaac, promised by the Lord to Abraham in:

Genesis 17:19 - Sarah your wife shall bear you a son and you shall call his name Isaac and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

The birth of Isaac is recorded in Genesis 21:1-Genesis 21:7 and the Abrahamic Covenant is confirmed to him in:

Genesis 26:4 - I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and will give your descendants all these lands and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

To Isaac and his wife Rebekah were born twins, named Esau and Jacob. Esau rejected the Gospel and was never more than a genetic Jew.

However, Jacob believed in the Lord and thus not only had the genes of Abraham and Isaac but also the God of Abraham and Isaac. It is from that same God that Jacob also received the promise of the Abrahamic Covenant:

Genesis 28:13 - I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

Genesis 28:14 - Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south. In you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:15 - And behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

The immediate “descendants” of Jacob totaled thirteen, 12 sons and one daughter. Here's how the family tree looks:

- a. Of Leah were born to him: Reuben, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Levi, and Judah. Levi is the line to Moses. Judah is the line to David, and ultimately to Jesus the Messiah. Leah was also the mother of the only daughter Dinah.
- b. Of Zilpah were born Gad and Asher.
- c. Of Bilhah were born Dan and Naphtali.
- d. Of Rachel were born Joseph and Benjamin.

Later we learn that the Lord changes Jacob’s name to Israel. Genesis 32:28.

Ultimately Joseph winds up in Egypt where he came to impress the one of the Pharaohs of the XII Dynasty, who promoted him to Secretary of State.

During this period of Joseph’s prosperity, Jacob moved his entire family down to Egypt. Each son’s household is mentioned by name in Genesis 46. We learn the total number that made the trek from Canaan to Egypt from:

Genesis 46:26 - All the persons belonging to Jacob who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, were sixty-six persons in all.

Genesis 46:27 - The sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob who came to Egypt were seventy.

Sixty-six sons and grandchildren, plus Joseph and his two sons, plus Jacob equals 70. These twelve sons of Israel over the next 430 years of Egyptian captivity multiplied into the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Jewish population at the time of the Exodus was over 2-million people. It was this body of people who, by means of the miracles of the 10 plagues, executed by the Lord through Moses, won their emancipation from Pharaoh Amenhotep II.

Immediately following the first Passover, these liberated Jews headed east toward the Sinai and a chance at freedom from slavery. Their adventure on the Canaan Trail is about to begin, but not without a test of their faith at the Little Bitter Lake just north of the Red Sea.