

Next Time Yahuwah Will Take Egypt out of Israel

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*Yahuwah desires to replace our carnal minds with his perfect thinking.
Here's how you can succeed where ancient Israel failed.*

More than 34 centuries ago, Yahuwah saved Israel from oppression in Egypt-

This remarkable Exodus stunned the world. It is the stuff of films: More than one movie director has tried to recreate the event. Ancient Egypt typified the sinful and idolatrous life.

Oh, Egypt's accomplishments were astounding-pyramids, advanced learning and sophisticated culture. But Yahuwah was not pleased with the nation's life-style. "Against all the idols of Egypt I will execute judgment," said the Creator (Exodus 12:12).

Missed opportunities

Yahuwah had a purpose in rescuing Israel from ancient Egypt's misguided way of life. He wanted to create a model society based on his wise laws. If the nation had followed Yahuwah's direction, its citizens would have enjoyed the truly abundant life.

What Yahuwah asked in return was quite straight forward. He called on Israel to love him (Deuteronomy 10:12) and fellow humans (Leviticus 19: 18).

Yet the nation failed on both counts. Israel returned to the slavery represented by Egypt-to the worship of false god's and harmful values.

The reason for Israel's failure was simple: Yahuwah took

Israel out of Egypt, but he didn't take "Egypt" out of Israel!

Unless our thinking changes, we carry old and hurtful ways with us wherever we go. That's what Israel did. Without the changing power of Yahuwah's Ruwach Ha'Kadosh in their lives, it was impossible for the Israelites to obey and serve Yahuwah.

Ever hear the story about a drifter looking for a new place to live? He came to a certain village and accosted a passerby on the main street to ask him about the villagers.

"What kind of people live in this town?" he asked.

The villager answered with a question: "What kind of people lived in the town you came from?"

The drifter said: "They were mean. Wouldn't help me at all. Terribly unfriendly. Bad people."

The townsman replied, "Then that is the same kind of people you will find in this village."

The problem with ancient Israel was similar. The nation dragged "Egypt attitudes" with them like excess baggage across the Red Sea. The suitcases of sin they carried in their arms blocked their view of Yahuwah.

Paul says Israel of old was instructed about Yahuwah and the good news about our purpose of life. "But the word which they heard," wrote Paul,

"did not profit them, not being mixed with faith" (Hebrews 4:2).

Faith allows us to understand who Yahuwah is and what his loving purpose for us involves (Hebrews 11:6). It gives us the motivation to cast out sin from our minds.

But that kind of faith-the faith required for salvation!-only comes to us **as** a gift from Yahuwah as a fruit of his Ruwach Ha'Kadosh. (Ephesians 2:8, Galatians 5:22). Except for a few individuals with whom Yahuwah specially worked, Israel did not have this faith!

Slouching toward Egypt

The Israelites did not have Yahuwah's faith within them. The people lacked the quality of trust that comes through Yahuwah's Spirit. Their minds were filled with the things Egyptians thought important (Exodus 16:3, Numbers 11:4-6).

"If only we had died in the land of Egypt!" the Israelites lamented (Numbers 14:2). They accused Yahuwah of dragging them into the wilderness to kill them. "Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" they asked (verse 3). They voted Yahuwah *out* and the Promised Land *down*. "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt" was their rallying cry (verse 4).

Israel's legs were able to carry the nation out of Egypt, but Egypt wouldn't dislodge its

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hold on Israel's mind. "How long will these people reject Me?" Yahuwah asked Moses (verse 11).

During many centuries in the Promised Land, Israel bobbed up and down in a sea of immorality. The nation turned into a spiritual disaster area that couldn't be repaired. Finally, all 12 tribes went into captivity. Most of those tribes became "lost" in history.

Yahuwah will remedy Israel's spiritual weakness-its lack of faith. He will rescue Israel in a second exodus. Isaiah, the Hebrew prophet, said that Yahuwah will "set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people" (Isaiah 11:11).

This time they will come "from the four corners of the earth" (verse 12). Israel will at last come out of this unrighteous society-this "Egypt" world physically *and* spiritually to reenter its Promised Land. This time an exodus of the mind will be part of Yahuwah's rescue operation. He will take "Egypt" out of Israel as well. Israel will finally shed its Egyptian skin. "All Israel will be saved," Paul wrote of that time (Romans 11:26).

'The power that liberates

The mechanism of Israel's coming liberty from spiritual Egypt is a new way of thinking. Jeremiah expressed Yahuwah's promise to Israel: "I will put My law in their minds, and write it

on their hearts; and I will be their aluhym, and they shall be My people" (Jeremiah 3 1 :33).

Ezekiel echoed this guarantee: "I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them" (Ezekiel 11:19).

Yahuwah will not limit redemption to Israel, however. All nations will come to trust, love and obey Yahuwah (Isaiah 2:2, 11:9-10).

What does Israel's experience tell us? Their past failure points the way to our success. Paul tells us the events surrounding Israel's coming out of Egypt "were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (I Corinthians 10:11).

Yahuwah calls on us to renounce our past heritage of sin just **as** Israel should have. We must come out of spiritual Egypt and extract its thinking from our minds as well.

Chips off the old block?

Israel's failure to come out of sin ought to give us pause. The complainers, murmurers and idolaters in the wilderness were no different from us. We are their spiritual descendants.

Had we been in their place, we also would have failed to trust Yahuwah. We, too, might have yearned for the fleshpots of Egypt, accused Yahuwah unjustly, tempted HIM or gone back to idolatry and sexual immorality (I Corinthians 10:6-10).

We cannot reach into our minds and pull Egypt out without Yahuwah's help. Only one quality separates the ancient Israelites from the spiritual children of Yahuwah. That is the gift of his Ruwach Ha'Kadosh.

If Yahuwah had given Israel the gift of faith, the Old Testament record would have been different. The Israelites could have patiently borne the temptations and problems they faced. They would have demonstrated trust in and obedience to Yahuwah.

Has Yahuwah taken Egypt out of your mind through his Ruwach Ha'Kadosh? If so, you should be motivated to serve and please him. That's because Yahuwah has given us "exceedingly great and precious promises" (II Peter 1:4). We are, said Peter, "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world."

If we are numbered among the people of Yahuwah, we have access to his Ruwach (Romans 8:9, 14). This divine nature within us can drive the Egypt of sin out of our minds. We can become "chips off the Creator's block" and as Galatians 6:16 says, citizens of the true "Israel of Yahuwah."