

# Total Victory International Ministries

Pastor John A. Davis, Sr.

<http://www.totalvictoryexperience.com>

## Life in the Promise Land

*“A Greater View of the Wilderness Experience”*

Base Scriptures: Hebrews 4: 1 – 3

### Understanding the Wilderness from God’s Perspective

Hebrews 4: 1 – 3

The Promised Land for Israel was Rest in the Land of Canaan; the Promised Land for us is Rest in Christ and His Finished Work!

The problem with most Believers is our failure to understand what that means!

The mixing of Faith has to do with our failure or willingness to understand God’s Finished work from His perspective!

The greatest type and shadow in the Bible for the Church today is Israel’s exodus from Egypt, wandering in the wilderness and life in the Promise Land

In Egypt is where God Finished His Work for Israel

The only thing left for Israel to do was to learn of the Finished Work, and then enter the Promise Land and live in that Finished Work!

At the Cross is where Christ Finished His Work for us!

The only thing left for us to do is to learn of the Finished Work, and then enter into His Rest from that Finished Work and LIVE in His Finished Work!

Ephesians 1: 10 and Colossians 1: 13 – 19

Our Relationship with God can be summed up in one single person – Jesus Christ!

He is the Good News from God to man; He is the Salvation of the Lord!

He is our Land of Peace and Stability; He is the Land flowing with milk and honey!

**Law of Realization: Your Relationship with God is NOT summed up by your obedience to the commandments; or how holy you live; or how well you clean up your life after you get Saved!**

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Most Believers don't know what they have been saved from; but most importantly, what they have been saved INTO!

It's the same as Israel, HOORAY, We are saved!!!!...Saved from what? Saved from the Egyptians!

Exodus 14: 10 – 12

Well, if that's true, why are you still longing to go back there; why are you building golden calves; why are your hearts still back in Egypt!

**This because salvation was NOT about getting out of Egypt!**

Exodus 19: 4

Salvation was about God bring Israel unto Himself!

It was about Israel coming into Relationship with God!

The same is true with us!

John 3: 16

Salvation is not about your NOT perishing or not going to Hell!

It's about God bringing you into Relationship with Himself through His Son!

This is why people get Saved, but never progress in their Relationship with God; because the church has made the purpose of Salvation be NOT perishing!

We are Saved from having NO Relationship with God; and brought INTO a Relationship with God through His Son!

- Ephesians 2: 12
- This is where all of us were prior to Salvation!
- Salvation is NOT about you being empowered to now be rich, or successful, or have a great marriage – because all these things can be done apart from Christ!
- But you CANNOT have a relationship with God apart from Christ and His Finished Work!
- Again, this is the mistake Israel made!
- They thought they had been saved from Egypt so THEY could go now and have a better life!

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- Therefore, when they got out of Egypt and into the wilderness journey to Canaan and DID NOT see the abundant life they were looking for; they immediately started to doubt God's Faithfulness! **The same is true with you and me today!**
- This is why the Wilderness Experience is such an important aspect in our Relationship with God; because it is there in the Wilderness that we BURY what God has already put to Death in His Son at the Cross!
- The Finished Work of Christ is broken into three distinct parts: His Death, His Burial and His Resurrection!
- Philippians 3: 10 – 11
- This is what Paul was talking about in these verses; it is to KNOW every aspect of His Finished work from God's perspective!

Genesis 23: 1 – 4

The burial is the putting out of sight, that which is dead!

This is what the Wilderness Experience was supposed to be about with Israel; them burying out of sight what God had put to death in Egypt!

**Well, how does this relate to us as Believers?**

Romans 6 is our Death in Christ; Romans 7 is burying that which is dead; and Romans 8 is the resurrection of this New Man in Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit!

But most Believers die in the Wilderness of Romans 7, never coming into the Reality of Romans 8!

Romans 6: 3 – 4 (Death); 7: 24 – 25 (Burial); and Romans 8: 14 – 17 (Resurrection)

In Romans 6 we see the death of our Old Man in Christ; but in Romans 7 we see Paul still trying to live by the Old Man that God put to death at the Cross!

And it's living in this Old Dead Man that becomes our "Wandering in the Wilderness" experience!

**Law of Realization: Dying to self is to the putting to death of self; it is the realization that self was already put to death by God in Christ at the Cross!**

Colossians 3: 1 – 3

I cannot stress this enough, the Wilderness is not God doing something to us; it is Him SHOWING

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us what He already did at the Cross!

It not a time when God is cutting away things that are bad; or pruning and purging you from sin; this is because PUT TO DEATH that Old You in Christ at the Cross (good and bad)!

But what happens when you refuse to see it from God's perspective; but continue to focus on our situations and circumstances that we don't like?

Not only do we wander in the Wilderness as Believers, but we do something that's unthinkable in our hearts...we build an image of who we think God is in our hearts!

This is realized in statements such as "God is doing this in my life; God is doing that in my life"; "have you heard about the move of God over here"; "God told me this or that"!

And many times, we exalt WHAT WE SAY GOD SAID or IS DOING above WHAT HE HAS DONE AND SAID HE DID IN HIS WORD!

**Law of Realization: The more we refuse to see the Finished Work of Christ from God's perspective; the more we begin to create an image of God based on our experiences, our understanding and our view of the Finished Work!**

## Matthew 11: 27

You are not going to learn God through your experiences; or through your journey through life; God has to be REVEALED to you THROUGH His Son, Jesus Christ!

So once again, like Israel in the Wilderness, we create in our hearts a God we can comprehend and understand!

## Exodus 32: 1 – 4

Notice that Israel DID NOT say "let's worship another God; or "let's denounce God and turn to some other god"

No! What they did was changed God INTO an image that they could comprehend and understand!

The Golden Calf is not about Israel worshipping another god; it's about Israel creating and fashioning an image of God that they could comprehend and understand!

**We are still creating a Golden Calf of God today!!!**

Because most of the Church does not understand the Finished Work of Christ; we have all creating a golden calf of God in our hearts!

Some believers god is one who gets angry every time you fail or sin; others is a god that you

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are earn and work for to receive; and to some it's a god who they believe would make everything all better in their lives after they got saved!

All these false images of God are based on our "vain imaginations" and NOT after an understanding of Christ and His Finished Work!

So we wander in the wilderness of an Unrenewed Mind!

**Well, what do we do?**

2 Corinthians 10: 3 – 6

The first thing we do takes Humility!

We cast down every vain imagination we had about God that tries to exalt itself against the Knowledge of God!

Anything that we think we know about God that DOES NOT center around Christ and His Finished Work, we humble ourselves and cast it down!

Colossians 3: 9 – 10

Notice that the New Man is RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE; not in actions or more of the worlds stuff!

The second thing is we PUT ON the New Man by renewing our minds in the Knowledge of Christ and His Finished Work!

**This is the beginning of the journey OUT of the Wilderness!**