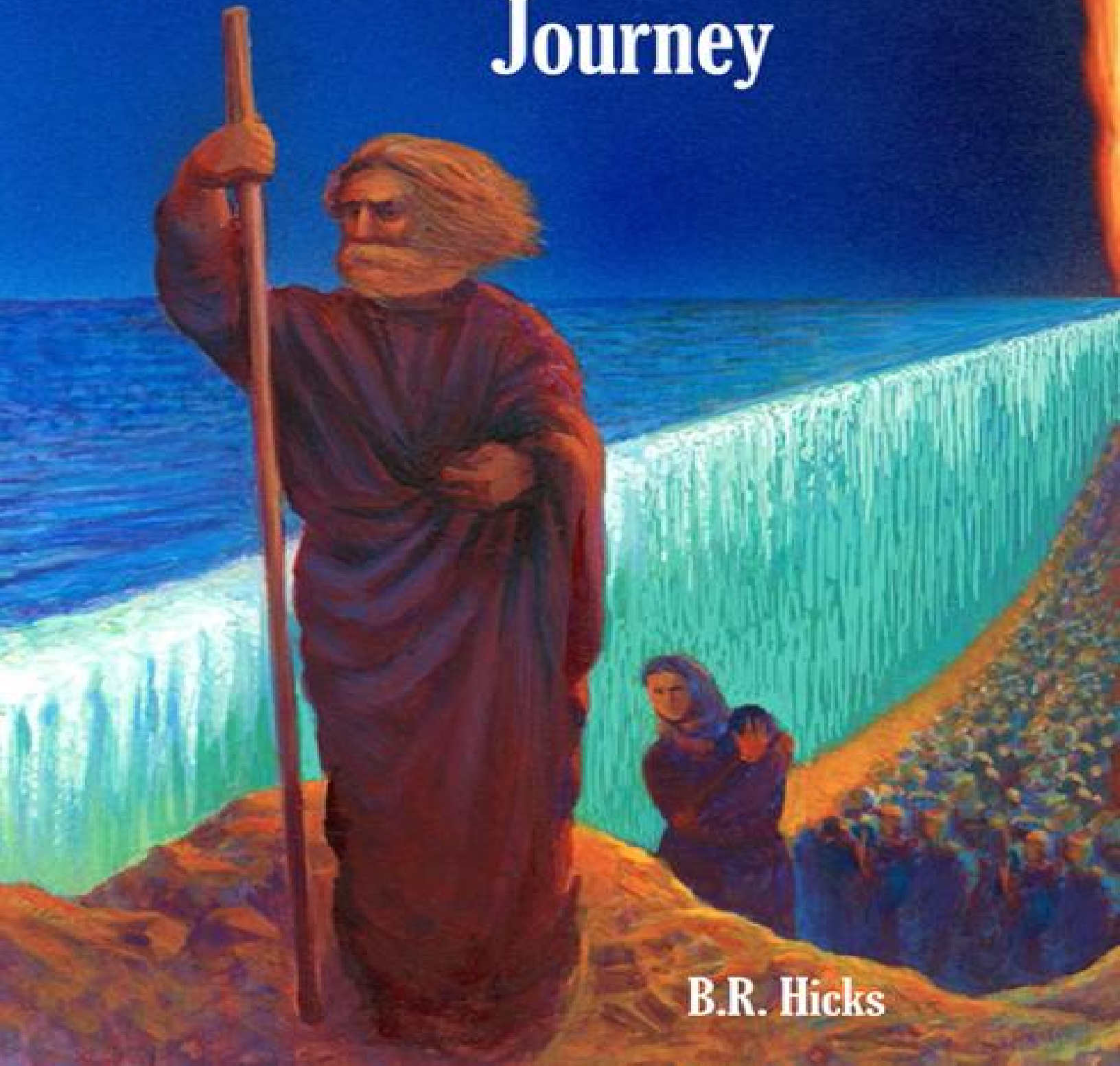


Patterns For Spiritual Growth Found In Israel's Journey



B.R. Hicks

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Patterns For Spiritual Growth Found In Israel's Journey

A further study of the Principle of Spiritual Growth to Maturity shows how God applied the same Principles of spiritual growth to Israel as a nation that He had used in the Blueprint in the Mosaic Tabernacle and that He used in His *Parable of the Sower* in the New Testament.

The truth that natural growth is progressive and gradual is evidenced everywhere a person looks. For example, giant trees have grown from tiny seeds. Likewise, all human beings, regardless of their mature statures, have had their origin in a tiny Seed. They all have passed through the embryonic stage of development.

Both spiritual and natural growth is progressive. One of the most graphic examples of the Law of Progressive Growth is seen in the spiritual growth that Israel experienced in her journey from Egypt to Canaan's Land, which is also comparable to the growth of a seed of corn to a mature plant that produces a full ear capable of reproduction.

First, the Nation of Israel had a *Seed* experience of spiritual growth when he was known as a *son* in *Egypt*.

And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, **Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:** (Exodus 4:22).

In the *wilderness*, Israel had *Blade* and *Branches* experiences of spiritual

growth when she was known as a *Church* and an *Espoused Bride*.

This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: (Acts 7:38).

Israel had an *Ear* experience of spiritual growth when she crossed over Jordan into *Canaan's Land* and entered into the Bridegroom and *Bride* Relationship as the Spiritual Wife of the LORD.

Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but **thou shalt be called Hephzi-bah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married** (Isaiah 62:4).

The experience of Full Fruitfulness or the *Full-Ear* stage of Israel's spiritual growth came at *Zion* and *Jerusalem* where, as a *Mother*, Israel had the glorious experience of travailing to birth both natural and spiritual sons and daughters.

Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? *or* shall a nation be born at once? for **as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.** Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut *the womb*? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon *her* sides, and be dandled upon *her* knees (Isaiah 66:7-12).

The experiences that happened to natural Israel, God's natural Bride, as she journeyed from Egypt to Canaan's Land, picture the spiritual experiences through which each believer must pass in his or her personal journey toward spiritual maturity in order to obtain the Prize of being in the Bride of Jesus Christ. The Prize is the place of perfect Marriage Union between the Bride's will and the Will of her Spiritual Bridegroom, the LORD Jesus Christ.

Retracing Israel's spiritual journey from Egypt to Canaan's Land (Married Land) reveals the progressive and the gradual growth process experienced by all who will be a part of the Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ.

I. Israel's Seed Stage of Growth in Egypt as a Son

The Nation of Israel began with the Invisible *Seed of Promise* given to Abraham. The LORD promised that Abraham's Seed would be like the stars of heaven, like the sand of the seashore, and like the sand of the sea.

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying **I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;** (Genesis 22:17).

God's Promise to make Abraham a nation was brought into visibility, in its infancy, through Abraham's grandson Jacob, whose name was changed to "Israel" by the LORD. The man named "Israel" was the father of the twelve sons who formed the tiny Seed Nation called "Israel." These twelve sons were the sons of Rachel and Leah, who were referred to in the Book of Ruth as the "builders of the house of Israel."

And all the people that *were* in the gate, and the elders, said, *We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel:* and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Beth-lehem: (Ruth 4:11).

All the people were so excited about Boaz's marriage to Ruth that they prayed that God would make Ruth fruitful, as were Leah and Rachel.

And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, *were* two souls: **all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten** (Genesis 46:27).

God had increased the natural growth of Jacob's progeny from twelve sons to seventy souls by the time they left Canaan's Land to go down into Egypt to escape the famine.

And **all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls**: for Joseph was in Egypt *already* (Exodus 1:5).

If one could add all the wives of the sons together with all the daughters and the grandchildren, which made up the total of the members of Jacob's family, it must have numbered in the hundreds.

God blessed the tiny Seed Nation of Israel, causing the twelve sons' families to multiply. Yet the nation would have perished in its infancy had God not preserved it in the time of famine, during Joseph's lifetime, by sending the tiny Seed Nation into the land of Egypt to be nurtured there for 430 years.

When testifying to his brothers who had sold him into Egyptian bondage, Joseph said:

And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now ***it was not you that sent me hither, but God***: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt (Genesis 45:7,8).

God was the One Who had sent Joseph to Egypt to save the children of Israel alive so that they might grow into a mighty nation, as He had promised Abraham and as He had also promised Jacob.

And he said, I *am* God, the God of thy father: **fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:** I will go down with thee into Egypt; and **I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes** (Genesis 46:3,4).

Jacob had good reason to fear going down to Egypt because God had forbidden his father Isaac to go down there. God would not allow Isaac to go down to Egypt because the tiny Seedling Nation had not grown sufficiently to be transplanted at that time. However, in Jacob's day, the Seedling Nation had grown sufficiently to survive transplantation. Therefore, God assured Jacob that He would go down with him, protect him, and help him achieve His Will concerning him and his offspring. God promised Jacob that his beloved son, Joseph, would be by him to close his eyelids at his death.

The Seedling Nation of Israel was still spiritually and naturally immature at its point of entrance into Egypt. However, through pleasure and pain, God allowed its development to increase progressively during its 430 long years of pleasurable and painful sufferings under Egyptian taskmasters.

The first thirty years of Israel's 430 years' stay in Egypt, which were during Joseph's lifetime, were a time of pleasant blessing under Pharaoh. However, the last 400 years were years of affliction and suffering, which God had prophesied to Abraham (Genesis 15:13). Israel's years of slavery did not begin until after Joseph's death. Thus, there is no contradiction in God's Word.

By causing the Egyptians to afflict the children of Israel and to render them bond servants, fallen Lucifer had purposed to destroy Israel in her Seed stage of growth. The Egyptian taskmasters hoped that the suffering and rigorous servitude would destroy the tiny Seed Nation.

How foolish Lucifer is to try to thwart God's Divine Plan and Purpose! God simply used this time of enslavement to give the nation its experiences of growing spiritual Roots of blood, Fire, and Water. God protected and nourished Israel in this Seed stage of development as a Son in Egypt.

A. Blood in Egypt: Israel's First Root of His Seed Experience as a

Son

While in Egypt, the Israelites grew to know God as their Father, just as a son knows his father in the natural realm and depends on him, completely, for food, shelter, and protection.

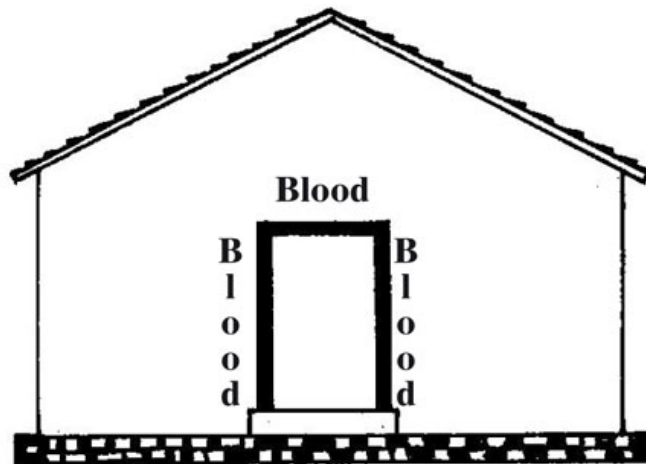
When the Israelites cried to their Heavenly Father for deliverance, the LORD heard them and raised up Moses to be their deliverer from Egyptian bondage and to be their leader to take them out of Egypt so that they could worship God as He had commanded. However, because the idolatrous Pharaoh was not interested in doing God's Will, neither for himself nor for Israel, he refused to let God's people go.

Pharaoh's sin was rebellion against God's Son and his rejection of Him as the true Owner and Master, so God finally pronounced the Judgment of Death upon all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt. God mercifully provided a covering of lamb's blood to protect His Son, Israel, from the plague of Death that He had decreed upon Egypt.

And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it (Exodus 12:7).

The following diagram shows how the lamb's blood that was applied to the side posts and upper door post of their houses became Israel's first experience of delivery from enslavement in Egypt, and it was his first step in his spiritual growth.

Israel's Seed Experience—Blood



When the plague of Death and the Angel of Death passed through the land of Egypt at midnight, the LORD passed over the doors of the houses of Israel where the blood had been applied. When the LORD saw the threefold covering of lamb's blood around the door, He saved Israel from Death, which is the penalty of sin. The natural lamb's blood represented the Living Blood of Jesus Christ, God's spotless Holy Lamb.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (I Peter 1:18,19).

The wise design in Christ's shedding His priceless, precious Blood was to redeem fallen man—not only from misery in the hereafter—but from the vain conversation in this present world.

B. The Cloud and Fire in Egypt: Israel's Second Root of His Seed Experience

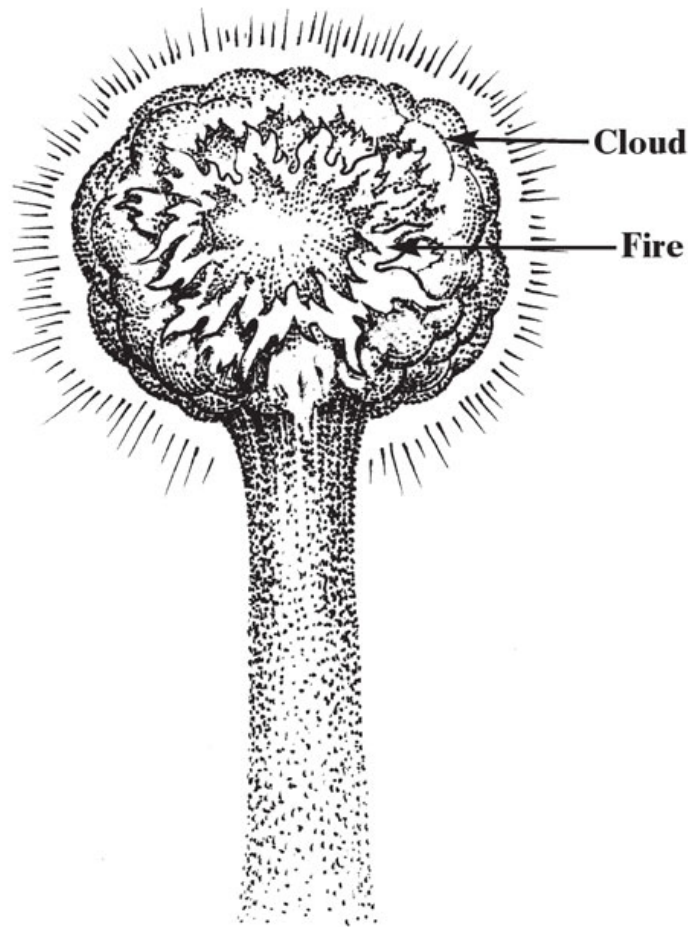
And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children (Exodus 12:37).

By the time Israel had left Egypt, the tiny Seed Nation of the twelve sons of Jacob or Israel had grown into a great number of more than 600,000 men, not counting the children. After the Israelites had departed from Rameses in Egypt, God gave them a Pillar of Cloud and Fire to lead them in the way.

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from* before the people (Exodus 13:21,22).

The following diagram shows a Cloud and Fire that represents the one that led Israel on her journey from Egypt to Canaan's Land.

Israel's Second Seed Experience—
Baptism in the Cloud and Fire



Israel's experience with the Cloud and Fire was called a "baptism" by the Apostle Paul.

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that **all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;** (I Corinthians 10:1,2).

Israel's *baptism* in the Cloud and Fire was a picture of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire. Just as the Holy Ghost leads and guides the believer into all Truth (John 16:13), the Cloud and Fire led Israel to all the Truth of the *Torah* at Sinai. God knew that Israel never would be able to find Mount

Sinai without a wise and faithful Guide to lead them by day and by night.

C. Baptism in the Water at the Red Sea: Israel's Third Root of His Seed Experience

It was God's Will that the way to the *Torah* led through the Red Sea. Therefore, the Pillar of Cloud and Fire guided Israel from Etham, in the Wilderness of Egypt, through the Red Sea, on to Sinai (to the *Torah*), and on into Canaan's Land.

The crossing of the Red Sea was a figure and type of Water Baptism in the Name, Death, and Life of the LORD Jesus Christ. The *Waters* of this *baptism* served as a protection from the pursuing enemy, and the icy walls on the right and on the left were a protection to Israel from the Waters of Death that were held back by the icy walls.

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left (Exodus 14:22).

God miraculously opened the Red Sea and froze its Waters of Death into beautiful icy walls.

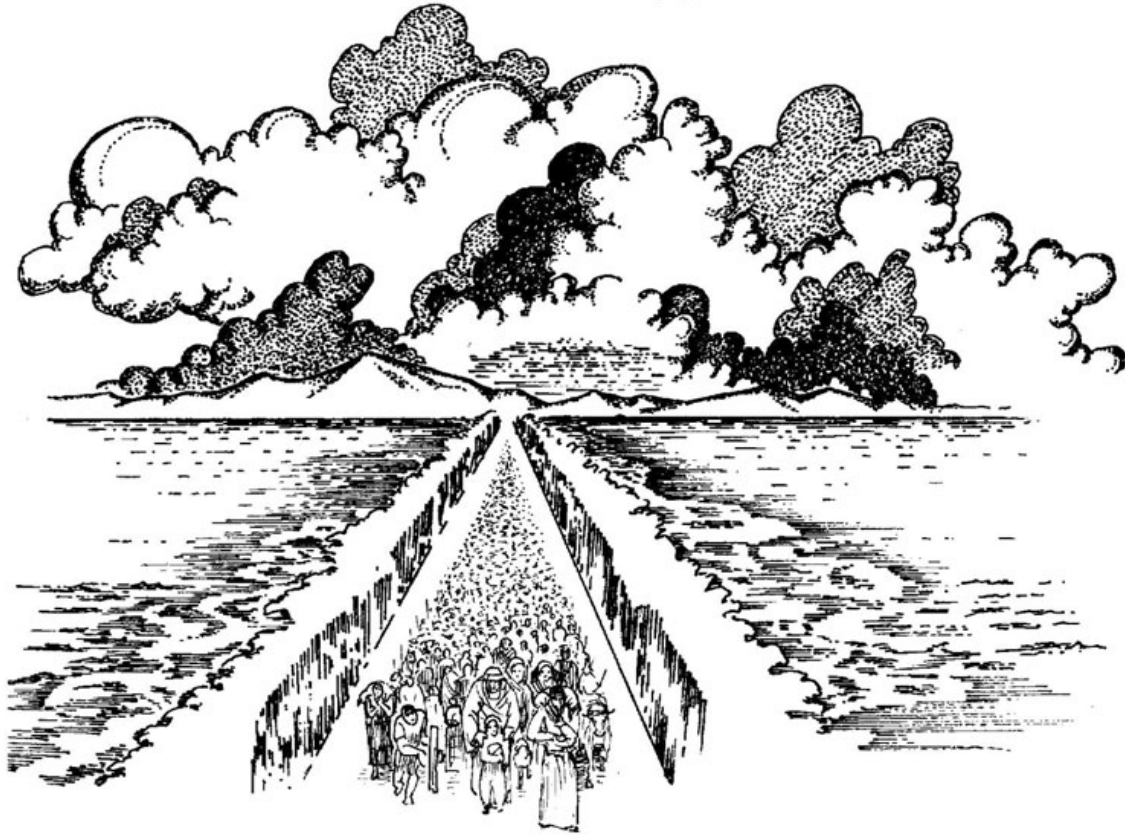
And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and **it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night** (Exodus 14:19,20).

God's Word also tells us that while Israel marched victoriously through the Waters of Death, their enemy, Pharaoh, and his army sat in darkness (Exodus 14:19,20).

The following picture shows how the Nation of Israel passed between the icy walls that held back the waters of the Red Sea so that they could walk

through the sea on dry land.

Israel's Third Seed Experience – Baptism in the Red Sea



Water Baptism in the Red Sea delivered Israel from the place in Egypt known as *Pihahiroth*, between *Migdol* and *Baalzephon*. Thus, the Nation of Israel crossed over into the wilderness, where the people entered into the *Blade* stage of spiritual growth and came under the LORD's Headship in a new relationship with him as a *Church* and an *Espoused Bride*.

II. Israel's Blade Stage of Spiritual Growth as a Church and an Espoused Bride in the Wilderness

Israel grew in her spiritual experiences from blood, Fire, and Water in Egypt to a mature Espoused Bride in the wilderness, with ears to hear the Oral (Spoken) *Torah*. Through Israel's ears, her heart and mind were made aware of the Power of God's Word, Will, and Rule.

When Israel was in the Wilderness of Sinai, encamped before the mount, the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel (Exodus 19:5,6).

The LORD God invited Israel to come out of Egypt to Mount Sinai, where He gave Israel a choice to continue the special relationship that the nation had started with Him as a *Son*, by choosing to enter into His service as special bearers of the *Torah* and by taking on a new bond of relationship as an *Espoused Bride*. The LORD revealed to Israel His fundamental condition: she must become a nation, and more than all other nations, she must be a unique treasure of the LORD God, her Owner and Master. The LORD God revealed to her that when she became His exclusive possession, He, as the sole Owner, would hold all rights to her in every phase of her being. Israel chose to enter into an *espousal* agreement with the LORD God, giving Him the Right and Authority to govern and to guide her whole existence and to meet every desire of her heart. The LORD God alone, as Master and Owner, had the sole Right to influence and to direct their lives and all their actions. At Mount Sinai, the LORD God assumed all the responsibility for Israel's spiritual education and moral development.

God's Covenant to take the Nation of Israel unto Himself as a peculiar treasure brought her into the *Blade* stage of spiritual growth. The LORD was true to His Covenant Word and gave the newly formed Church His Oral Law and His Written Law, the *Torah*, and He unveiled to Moses the revelation of the Tabernacle, which was a picture of the Full Stature of Christ.

After the Tabernacle had been built, God sent His own personal Presence and Glory to sanctify and to fill it. God also gave Supernatural *Torah-Fire* on the Brazen Altar to devour the sacrifices on His Altar Table, changing them into a sweet-smelling savor for His Nostrils. These marvelous revelations were given so that the Nation of Israel might know the LORD's Merciful Headship in the midst of His Church and so that God and Israel could feast together in holy communion.

One of Israel's first *Blade* experiences in the wilderness was the

miraculous Water supply that God provided for her. In answer to Moses' intercessory prayer, the LORD showed Moses the Tree to cast into the bitter waters of Marah, and they were made sweet. From there, God led her to twelve wells of water at Elim. Later, God satisfied the thirsting Israelites with Supernatural Water out of the Supernatural Rock at Mount Horeb. Out of the Rock also flowed Oil and Honey to give Israel, God's Espoused Bride, a foretaste of the Light and Sweetness that she would find in the Waters of God's revealed Word. When Israel hungered, the LORD mercifully and graciously fed her with His Manna, His Corn from Heaven.

When the enemy, Amalek, attacked them, God gave Israel strength to fight and to overcome Amalek through the Power of His Name on the Rod in Moses' hand.

Israel grew spiritually and naturally under the leadership of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and **I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam** (Micah 6:4).

When these leaders died, God raised up Joshua and put on him the same Spirit and Glory that had been on Moses so that Joshua could lead the nation from the *Church* or *Blade* stage of growth, as an *Espoused* Bride, to the next stage of development, as a *Spouse* or *Wife* of the LORD God. In Canaan's Land, Israel entered into a spiritual Oneness of Relationship with the LORD God. He became her Spiritual Husband, and she came under His Headship as His Spiritual Wife.

III. Israel's Ear Stage of Spiritual Growth as a Wife in Canaan's Land

When Joshua led Israel across Jordan, in obedience to God's Command, he instructed the Priests to descend into Jordan with the Ark of the Covenant, a symbol of the Headship of God's Word (Oral and Written), God's Glory, and God's Name.

And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the

covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people. And **the LORD said unto Joshua,** This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. **And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.** And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God. And **Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you,** and *that* he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites. **Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan. Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.** And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and **the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water,** (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) **That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam,** that is beside Zaretan: **and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan (Joshua 3:6-17).**

The following picture shows the Israelites passing under the Ark, which was held up by the Priests as they crossed Jordan to enter Canaan's Land.



After Israel had crossed Jordan, as a nation, she became the LORD's *Spiritual Wife* in her relationship with Him. This was the beginning of the *Ear* stage of her spiritual growth.

The Power of God's Word, His *Torah*, His Name, and His Glory from the Ark caused Jordan's waters to divide from above and below and to freeze into icy walls, just as the waters had done at the Red Sea, so that a Way could be made for Israel to pass over into Canaan's Land. The Priests who were carrying the Ark stood in the midst of Jordan while all Israel passed under God's Word (His *Torah*), His Name, and His Glory that were in the Ark, which signified that Israel was taking on the Name of the LORD God in Holy Spiritual Matrimony. As Israel passed under the Ark, she made a demonstration of her willingness, as a nation, to take on the Name of the LORD God as her *Spiritual Husband*.

This was the day that the Nation of Israel passed from the *Blade* stage of her growth into the *Ear* stage, as a married *Wife* in Canaan's Land.

Israel's experiences in her spiritual education and moral development progressively increased as she followed on to serve her LORD and to know

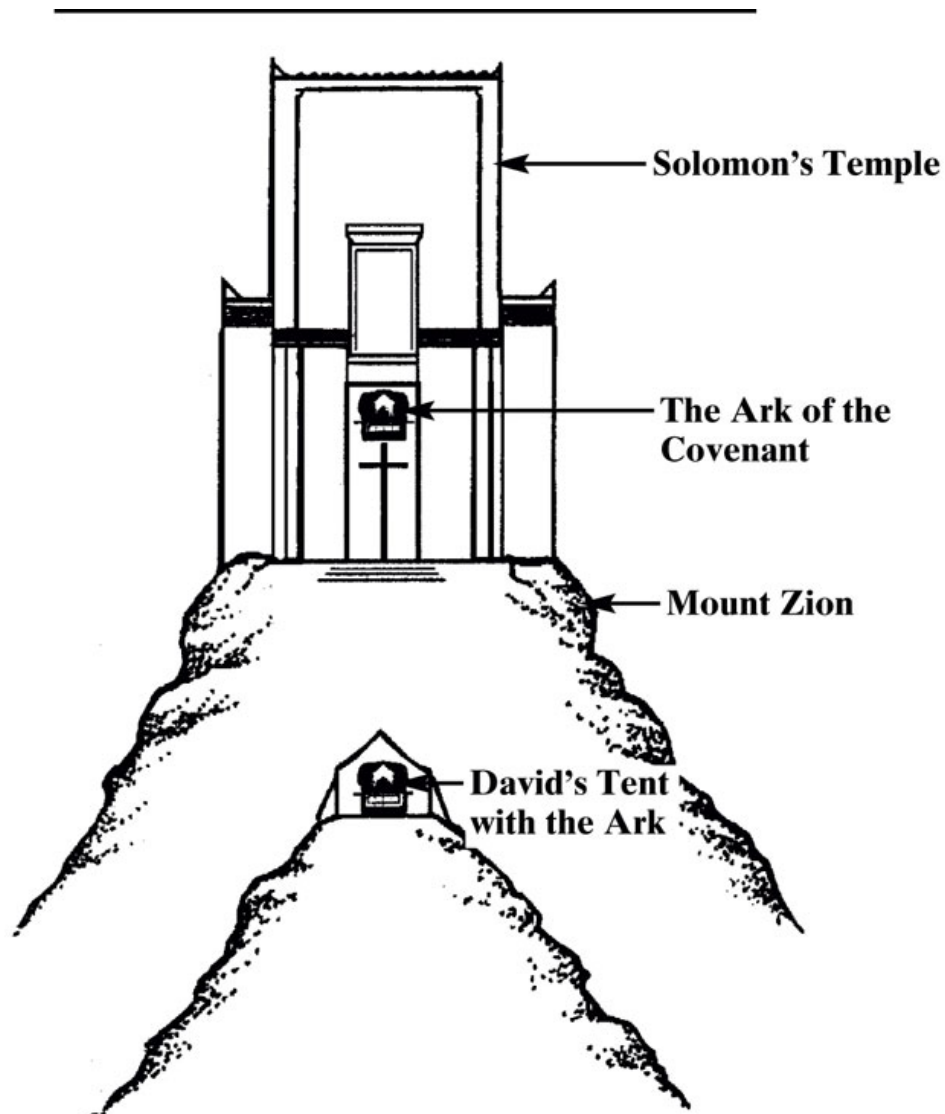
Him in the power of full growth and spiritual fruitfulness.

As a Spiritual Husband, God continued channeling His miraculous Power through Joshua to help His Bride, Israel, to possess and to conquer the Promised Land. Before his death, Joshua helped Israel to divide the land among the respective Tribes, according to God's Will.

In her Ear stage, Israel continued to grow as a nation through the time of the Judges, the time of Samuel the Prophet, and the reign of Saul, their first king, while the Ark, God's Headship, abode in places other than Jerusalem because the Jebusites still controlled Mount Zion and Jerusalem.

IV. Israel's Full-Ear Stage of Spiritual Growth as a Nation in Jerusalem and on Mount Zion as a Spiritual Mother

Israel's *Full-Ear* stage of spiritual growth as a spiritual *Mother* to all the nations of the world was reached at Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem on Mount Zion, which is depicted in the following diagram.



There could be no daughters of Zion and Jerusalem until King David had risen as a mighty warrior in Israel to conquer the Jebusites, taking the stronghold of Zion.

And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David (II Samuel 5:6,7).

David took the stronghold of Zion and called it the City of David or Jerusalem. Consequently, it was the city of Jerusalem that became a permanent abode for the LORD's Ark or His Headship in Israel.

In due season, King David, with great joy and gladness, brought the Ark of the LORD to Jerusalem. When the Glory of the LORD's Name and the Glory of His Oral Law and His Written Law (the *Torah*) were established as the Supreme, Sovereign Ruler over Jerusalem and Israel, she became a fruitful Mother who brought forth daughters of Zion and Jerusalem.

The glorious splendor of the LORD's governing Headship grew and flourished in the Holy City of Jerusalem. First, before it abode in Jerusalem in Solomon's Temple on Mount Moriah or Mount Zion, the LORD's Ark abode in Jerusalem in David's tent, which was a *temporary* tent or resting place for the Ark. However, David's tent was too small to provide the space necessary for the blessing, praising, thanking, and glorifying that the LORD's Holy Name deserved and demanded.

However, in Solomon's Temple, the LORD's glorious, exalted Headship was glorified. The LORD had given King David the Blueprints for a splendid Temple that was to be more elaborately furnished and elevated to a grander scale than the Mosaic Tabernacle. The Blueprints that the LORD had given to David for His Temple were also laid out in the form of the Cross, which followed the Pattern of the Mosaic Tabernacle in the wilderness.

King David had spent much time and effort in collecting the wealth of gold, silver, and precious treasures for building the LORD's great, magnificent Temple. However, he was not permitted to build the Temple because he had been a warrior who had shed much blood in order to establish the Kingdom of Israel. First, David had to subdue Israel's enemies, preparing the way for the peaceful reign of his son, Solomon. It was under his son's peaceful reign that the Blueprint and rich materials that David had amassed were used to build a glorious and splendorous Temple in which the Ark would abide. The Ark was a bearer of the LORD's Word, Glory, and Holy Name.

When the great Temple for the Name of the LORD was finished, and the Ark had been set in its place as Supreme, Sovereign Head and Ruler in the Temple and over Israel, the Glory of the LORD entered into the House, filling it so that the Priests were not able to stand to minister.

And it came to pass, **when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD** (I Kings 8:10,11).

The Glory of the LORD also came upon His House. When the people saw it, they fell upon their faces and worshipped the LORD.

And **when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever** (II Chronicles 7:3).

The Glory of the Word and the Glory of the LORD's Name filled the House inside, and it also clothed the House outside, ratifying Israel's new growth in the LORD's Ruling Headship in her life—in her thoughts, on the inside—and in her actions and deeds of righteousness, on the outside.

Israel's great natural and spiritual growth was so glorious as a nation that the "Queen of the South" came from afar to see God's Splendor and Glory and to hear King Solomon's Wisdom.

Spiritual growth in the Spiritual Stature of the LORD is powerful. The LORD promised that Abraham would be the father of *many* nations. This Promise began to be fulfilled when the Ark rested in Solomon's Temple. From that time, Israel became the Mother, as it were, of all the nations of the world. She begat believers out of many nations. Israel's powers as a Spiritual Wife inspired the world to show awe, admiration, and attraction for and to the LORD's Name, Word, and Glory.

All of Israel's power was attributable to her *Seed* stage of growth in *Egypt* as a *Son*, her *Blade* and *Branch* stage of growth in the *wilderness* as a *Church*, her *Ear* stage of growth in *Canaan's Land* as a *Wife*, and her *Full-Ear* stage of growth in *Zion* and *Jerusalem* as a fruitful *Mother*.

The progressive and experiential growth that the Spiritual Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ in the New Jerusalem will have achieved during her

journey through her lifetime on Earth will shine forth with such radiating rays of Glory that the splendor of the Bride and Bridegroom will excite divine, eternal awe, admiration, and everlasting attraction in all nations, and they will walk in the Light of the LORD's Name, Word, and Glory throughout the ceaseless Ages to come.

The Book of Revelation reveals that all nations on the New Earth shall walk in the Light of that New City, and the kings of the Earth will bring their glory and honour into it, just as the Queen of Sheba brought her glory and honour into the natural city of Jerusalem.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it (Revelation 21:24-26).

In His gracious Love and manifold Mercies, the Most High God, the Blessed and Only Potentate, the King of Kings and LORD of Lords, has condescended to share with poor, mortal, sinful creatures, His High, Holy Truth. Although believers' ears have been defiled by the sounds of the world and the lies of the flesh and the Devil that render them completely unworthy to receive such heavenly sounds of Truth, the LORD's great Grace has given Christians His *Torah* Treasures of Truth. To God be all the Glory!

Do not forget that those who have been given the opportunity to hear about the Prize of being in the Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ are a blessed people. And those who have heard and have been willing to follow in the Footsteps of the Bridegroom will have grown up in the measure of the Stature of the Fullness of the LORD Jesus Christ.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the

measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (Ephesians 4:11-13).

In His Mercy and Grace, the LORD has given His Only Begotten Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, to lead all believers, step by step, in the growth of His Spiritual Stature. Believers who follow Him are led, governed, and guided through each stage of spiritual development; thus, they hear Him, see Him, know Him, and serve Him, and they will have a fruitful Oneness of Spiritual Relationship with Him throughout Eternity in the New City. The Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ will be His adoring servant in the New City, the New Jerusalem, forever. Because the LORD Jesus Christ has willingly given His ALL for fallen mankind, He is most worthy to have His believers willingly give their all for Him. He deserves *all* adoration, *all* praise, *all* glory, and *all* honour—both now and forever!

All Glory and Praise go to the Unbegotten LORD and Father and to His Only Begotten Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, Whose Name is above all other names. Thanks be unto the LORD God for the unspeakable privilege of growing up in Him to the measure of the Fullness of His Spiritual Stature, which means that repentant mankind will once more be in His Image—the Image in which He created him in the beginning! To God be all the Glory!

