

God did not lead Israel toward the Philistines:

• Exo 13:17-18 TLV After Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them along the road to the land of the Philistines, although that was nearby, for God said, "The people might change their minds if they see war and return to Egypt." (18) So God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Sea of Reeds, and Bnei-Yisrael went up out of the land of Egypt armed.

• Israel had a broken spirit because of the cruel bondage:

• Exo 6:7-9 TLV I will take you to Myself as a people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am Adonai your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (8) So I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, and give it to you as an inheritance. I am Adonai." (9) Moses spoke this way to Bnei-Yisrael, but they did not listen to him because of their broken spirit and cruel bondage.

- They did not want to talk about it. They had no time for Moses.
 - קֿצֶר qôtser, ko'-tser
 - From H7114; shortness (of spirit), that is, impatience: anguish.
 - The only time this word in used in scripture.

Albert Barnes:

- For anguish See the margin; out of breath, as it were, after their cruel disappointment, they were quite absorbed by their misery, unable and unwilling to attend to any fresh communication.
- They were expecting immediate deliverance but were "put out" by the added burdens that came.

• It was not like the broken spirit that David talked of:

• Psa 51:18-19 TLV For You would not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it, nor be pleased by burnt offerings. (19) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

- The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a broken heart.
 - אַבֶּע shâbar, sha-bar'
 - A primitive root; to burst (literally or figuratively): break (down, off, in pieces, up), broken ([-hearted]), bring to the birth, crush, destroy, hurt, quench, X quite, tear, view [by mistake for H7663].
 - David's heart was broken because of his sin.

Moses takes the bones of Joseph:

- Exo 13:19 TLV Moses also took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made Bnei-Yisrael swear an oath saying, "God will surely remember you, and then you are to carry my bones away with you."
- The faith that Joseph had in God's promises.

• Joseph made his brothers swear to bury him in Canaan:

• Gen 50:24-25 TLV Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm about to die. But God will surely take notice of you and will bring you up from this land to the land that He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." (25) Then Joseph made Israel's sons swear an oath saying, "When God takes notice of you, you will bring my bones up from here."

- They kept Joseph's bones during the captivity, through the wilderness journeys, and the conquest of Canaan:
 - Jos 24:32 TLV Joseph's bones, which Bnei-Yisrael had brought up from Egypt, they buried in Shechem, in the parcel of ground that Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for 100 pieces of silver. It became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

- God deliberately led Israel into the wilderness so that Pharaoh would be enticed to come out against them:
 - Exo 14:1-4 TLV Adonai spoke to Moses saying, (2) "Speak to Bnei-Yisrael, so that they turn back and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. You are to camp by the sea, opposite Baal-zephon. (3) Pharaoh will say concerning Bnei-Yisrael, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land—the wilderness has shut them in!' (4) I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so he will follow after them. Then I will be glorified over Pharaoh along with all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am Adonai." So they did so.

• God was also testing Israel:

- Israel: Why did you take us into the wilderness to die? Exo 14.11
- Moses: Don't be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Adonai. Exo 14.13.
- Adonai: Why are you crying to Me? ... go forward. Exo 14.15.
- God parted the Red Sea.
- The pillar of cloud moved around between Israel and Pharaoh's Army.

• God destroyed all of Pharaoh's army. Exo 14.26-30

• Exo 14:31 TLV When Israel saw the great work that Adonai did over the Egyptians, the people feared Adonai, and they believed in Adonai and in His servant Moses.

How quickly Israel returned to their old ways.

- They complained about the bitter waters. Exo 15.23-24.
 - Exo 15:26 TLV He said, "If you diligently listen to the voice of Adonai your God, do what is right in His eyes, pay attention to His mitzvot, and keep all His decrees, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians. For I am Adonai who heals you."

They complained about not having food to eat.

• Exo 16:4-5 TLV Then Adonai said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. The people will go out and gather a day's portion every day, so that I can test them to find out whether they will walk according to My Torah or not. (5) So on the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather day by day."

- Some of the people went out on the Sabbath to gather manna.
 - Exo 16:27-30 TLV Yet on the seventh day, some of the people went out to gather and they found none. (28) Adonai said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep My mitzvot and My Torah? (29) See, Adonai has given you the Shabbat, so on the sixth day He gives you the bread of two days. Let every man stay in his place, and let no man go out on the seventh day." (30) So the people rested on the seventh day.

• They complained about not having water:

• Exo 17:3 TLV But the people thirsted for water there, and they complained against Moses and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt? To kill us with thirst, along with our children and cattle?"

• They tempted God:

• Exo 17:6-7 TLV Behold, I will stand before you, there upon the rock in Horeb. You are to strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people can drink." Then Moses did just so in the eyes of the elders of Israel. (7) The name of the place was called Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of Bnei-Yisrael, and because they tested Adonai saying, "Is Adonai among us, or not?"

Deborah and Barak:

- Barak had a reluctant spirit to go against the Canaanites who were oppressing them.
 - Jdg 4:8 TLV But Barak said to her, "If you are going with me, then I will go. But if you aren't going with me, I won't go."

- God blesses when the leaders and the people offer themselves willingly:
 - Jdg 5:2-3 TLV "When leaders take the lead in Israel, when people freely offer themselves, bless Adonai! (3) Listen, O kings! Give ear, O rulers! I, to Adonai I will sing, I will sing praise to Adonai, the God of Israel.
 - Jdg 5:9-10 TLV My heart is with Israel's rulers, who offer themselves freely among the people. Bless Adonai! (10) Riders on white donkeys, sitting on saddle blankets, traveling on the road, sing!

- There is a curse upon God's people who don't come to the aid of Adonai:
 - Jdg 5:23 TLV 'Curse Meroz!' said the angel of Adonai, 'Utterly curse its inhabitants, for they came not to the aid of Adonai, to the aid of Adonai among the mighty.'

- A similar instance when Israel fought against Benjamin, because of their sin (Judges 19-21)
 - When the Benjamite in Gibeah abused the Levites wife to death.
 - The Levite had specifically avoided Jebus (Jerusalem), because of the Canaanites.

- Because of the extreme nature of the sin Israel had promised NOT to give their daughters to the Benjamites.
 - Jdg 21:1 TLV Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpah saying, "None of us will give his daughter to Benjamin in marriage."

A hasty decision.

- They had to figure out how to get wives for Benjamin so that the tribe of Benjamin would not be wiped out.
 - Jdg 21:6 TLV Now Bnei-Yisrael felt sorry for Benjamin their brother and said, "Today one tribe has been cut off from Israel.

- They made an oath against anyone who did not come up to fight against Benjamin, because of their crime:
 - Jdg 21:5 TLV Then Bnei-Yisrael asked, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up to the assembly before Adonai?" For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who did not come up to Adonai at Mizpah saying, "He will surely be put to death."

• They found that Jabesh-Gilead had not sent anyone to the battle:

• Jdg 21:8-9 TLV Then they inquired, "Which one of the tribes of Israel that did not go up to Adonai at Mizpah?" Then behold, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly. (9) For when the people were numbered, behold not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was there.

- Therefore they attacked Jabesh-Gilead, and took the virgins as wives for the Benjamites.
 - Jdg 21:12 TLV So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins who had not known man by lying with him. They brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

• Representatives of the nations will go up to celebrate Sukkot:

• Zec 14:16-17 TLV Then all the survivors from all the nations that attacked Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, Adonai-Tzva'ot, and to celebrate Sukkot. (17) Furthermore, if any of the nations on earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Adonai-Tzva'ot, they will have no rain.

- There is a blessing upon those who serve Adonai freely:
 - Jdg 5:24 TLV Blessed above women is Yael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, above women in the tent is she blessed.
- Yael was not even an Israelite.
 - She was from the Kenites who were from Moses' father-inlaw.

• Let US seek Adonai's blessing by freely offering ourselves to His Service.