

# **JOURNEY TO THE PROMISE LAND**

**HINDERANCES AND THE  
HAND OF GOD**

# INTRODUCTION

- In John Bunion's book Pilgrim's Progress, He tells the story of a man named Christian who starts his journey from the city of destruction to the celestial city of God. As he begins his journey, he faces many hurdles to stop his progress.

# LIST OF HINDERANCES

- Slough of Despond
- Village of morality
- Wicket gate
- Difficult hill

# CONT.

- Valley of Humiliation
- Valley of the Shadow of death
- Vanity Fair
- Doubting Castle and Giant  
Despair
- Delectable Mountain

# CONT.

- Dark River
- After crossing all these hurdles, Christian and his friend Hopeful, finally reaches the Celestial city of God.

# CONT.

- In this story Christian and his friend also receive help and guidance to continue their journey. They receive guidance from:
  - Interpreter House

# CONT.

- The Cross
- Palace Beautiful
- Delectable Mountains
- Country of Beulah

On these stops they get help and refreshment.

# CONT.

- I believe John Bunion was inspired by Israelites Journey to the promise Land. They had the same kinds of hurdles on the way to the promise land.
- They faced powerful enemies like Pharaoh.



# CONT.

- They have to cross Red Sea
- Constant grumbling in the camp
- Lack of Trust on God and Moses
- Idolatry and Immorality
- Rebelliousness and disobedience
- Desire to go back to Egypt

# CONT.

- As we study these hurdles carefully, we find that some of them were allowed by God to test them and make them strong. But others were the result of their fleshly desires and the World system used by their main enemy the Satan.

# CONT.

- As believers in Christ, we also face the similar hurdles in our Spiritual Journey to heaven.
- We have enemy whose name is Satan and he has two weapons which he uses against us all the time. They are:

# CONT.

- World System 1 John 2:13-15
- Fleshly desires Ro. 6-7
- The good news is that God has given us victory over our enemy and his weapons.

# **I GOD HAS GIVEN US VICTORY OVER THE PROBLEMS**

- God parted the red sea and they walked on the dry land. Ex 14:21
- Sea is also a metaphor for the world in the scripture. Rev.13:1
- It can also mean the big problems we face in this world.

# CONT.

- We can defeat the world system with the power and the weapons of God. 2 Cor. 10:1-6
- God is bigger than any problem you face and with his power we can face every problem. Zec 4:6

# **II GOD HAS GIVEN US VICTORY OVER SATAN**

- God protected them from Pharaoh.
- He drowned the army of Pharaoh in the Red Sea. Ex 14:19-31
- God has given us the victory over our enemy.
- He has defeated Satan. Col 2:13-15

# CONT.

- We have The Armor of God to fight with the enemy. Eph 6:10-19



# III GOD HAS GIVEN US VICTORY OVER FLESH

- God gave them his promise and his presence to overcome the desires of their flesh.
- To increase their faith, He did many miracles for them.
- Even then, they failed to obey God and grumbled against God and Moses. 1Cor 10:1-13

# SIN OF GRUMBLING

- One of the main sin Israelite's committed against God and Moses was the sin of grumbling.
- We see in the book of Exodus and Numbers, that they constantly grumbled and were disciplined for that.

# REALITY OF GRUMBLING

- Let us examine some biblical passages where the people grumbled.
- Ex 5:20-21;14:22;15:22-24;16:2;17:2and32:1
- Nu 11:7;14:2 and 21:4

# REASONS OF THEIR GRUMBLING

- The study of above mentioned passages reveals that they grumbled for these reasons:
- Lack of trust in God and His Sovereignty
- Lack of trust in Moses and carnal nature.

# RESULTS OF THE GRUMBLING

- They were disciplined by God.
- They failed to enter the promised land.
- They became a bad example.
- They did not enjoy the blessing of God.

# HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

- We should trust God and his sovereignty .
- We should trust the authorities.
- We should pray and wait for God's answer.
- We should be contented.

# CONT.

- We should live a life which is controlled by The Holy Spirit.

# CONT.

- To overcome the desires of flesh, God has given us Holy Spirit.  
Roman 8; Gal 5:16
- We have the example of OT believers. 1Cor 10:11-13
- We have the promises of God.



# CONCLUSION

- Satan has two weapons, World system and Fleshly desires, which he uses all the times against the believers to halt their spiritual progress but God has given us victory over Him and his weapons.

# CONT.

- Therefore, let us continue our Journey with the help of God the Holy Spirit. Eph5:16
- Let us continue to wear the Armor Of God. Eph6:10
- Let us learn from the example of the Israelites. 1 Cor10:1

# CONT.

- Let us resolve not to grumble. It is a serious sin which leads to the discipline of God and loss of many spiritual and material blessing.