

# Our Journey to the Promised Land

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 4/17/2017

Today is the **Last Day of Unleavened Bread** and we will begin with the Holy Day Offering. We do not appear empty before the Lord today. Today is the second day on our journey to the Promised Land.

Without a show of hands, let me ask you a question, “How many think that they will make it to the Promised Land?” Put a little check mark in your notes – yes or no. We all think ... or we all “know” that we are going to make it.

Yesterday, Sunday, was the Wave-Sheaf Day – Day Number 1 on our journey to the Promised Land.

Leviticus 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete:

Israel came through the Red Sea today - out of Egypt - out of Sin. If you study out the chronology of the events when Israel left Egypt – you will find that more than likely – Israel came out this “Morning” – the Last Day of Unleavened Bread – They came completely out of Egypt, crossing through the Red Sea – they came completely out of sin. God parted the Red Sea – and Israel passed through. Paul described it this way:

1Corinthians 10:1 ... All our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; [the Red Sea - today]

That has to do with repentance (coming out of sin and baptism)

1Corinthians 10:2 And they were all **baptized** unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1Corinthians 10:3 And did all eat the same **spiritual meat**; [God gave them manna].

That was a futuristic picture of God giving us Jesus Christ – the bread of life – the true bread from heaven.

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

1Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that accompanied them: and that Rock was Christ.

Exodus 13:21 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:

We come to the **first warning** – do not expect for everyone to make it to the Promised Land.

1Corinthians 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

1Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Or, we'll be overthrown in the wilderness as well.

1Corinthians 10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

God's way was attractive – but **secondary** to their desires and wants. Why did so many things happen to the Children of Israel on their trek from Egypt to the Promised Land?

1Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things **happened** unto them for examples: and they are written for **our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

The warning is to us – at this time of Unleavened Bread. **Another warning** from Paul: And this goes back to his trick question about who will make it to the Promised Land?”

1Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that **thinks** that **he stands** take heed lest he fall.

Paul is saying that if you think you’ve got it made – this lesson is for you. Paul also adds the concept of **believing** in what God is doing:

Hebrews 11:29 By **faith** they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

Today is a solemn Feast Day – a High Day. We have eaten Unleavened Bread for the last seven days. We have not eaten any leavened bread for the last seven days. This pictures putting sin out of our lives, and today, especially, it pictures coming completely out of sin.

Where are **we** going, and how long will it take to get there? What is **our goal**? For Christians today, what is our Promised Land? The Promised Land was first promised to Abraham on that Night To Be Much Observed in:

Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have **I given this land**, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

As God expanded His promise to Abraham – we realize that **we are his heirs** in Christ – and that God has promised us an incredible inheritance. How **thankful** must we be? We will now take up the Holy Day offering.

Special music is by: Frederic Chopin Fantaisie Impromptu in C sharp minor, Opus 66

We are talking about:

### **Our Journey to the Promised Land**

The Promised Land is described as “**flowing in milk and honey**,” 20 times in the Bible.

However the phrase, “**Promised Land**” does not appear exactly in the Bible. But these verses show where the concept comes from:

Exodus 12:25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the **land** which the LORD will give you, according **as He hath promised**, that ye shall keep this service.

Even though the exact phrase “**Promised Land**” is not in the Bible, we certainly find the thought. This is where God gives us the charge to make doubly sure that we teach His commandments, statutes, and judgments to generation after generation of our children in perpetuity.

Sharon and I were getting a cup of coffee recently – and in the booth next to us was young Jewish boy – about 10 years old – and he was very arduously and zealously being schooled by his older teacher about all of God’s instructions. God says be sure that the chain is not broken.

Deuteronomy 6:1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

Deuteronomy 6:2 That thou might revere the LORD thy God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command thee, thou, **and thy son**, and thy **son's son**, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Deuteronomy 6:3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath **promised thee**, in the **land that flows with milk and honey**.

Deuteronomy 27:3 And thou shall write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou may go in unto the **land** which the LORD thy God gives thee, a land that flows with **milk and honey**; as the LORD God of thy fathers **has promised** you.

Our Journey starts out with our **crying out** to God that we need His help. We must cry out to God – we must plead with Him to help us. We need the power of God’s Holy Spirit. God said:

Exodus 3:9 Now therefore, behold, the **cry** of the children of **Israel** is come unto **me**: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

We cannot reach our goal without God’s complete intervention in our lives. God’s involvement in our lives is total – He does not just help – He brings it about - He brings us to our goal. What is our goal – and do we believe that God is able to bring us to it – no matter what?

Our goal is **not** that piece of land in the Middle East that has been war ravaged for years... Yes, God will revitalize that piece of earth and in the Millennium breathe fresh life into it to make it fertile ground – but that is not our goal.

I mentioned that today is the **second day** on the journey God has set us on. We are told to "Remember His Holy Covenant," and what He has **promised**.

We are in **week number one** of seven weeks. Seven times seven equals 49, picturing completeness and **perfection**. This time period prior to Pentecost pictures our **going on to perfection** – the perfection that is Christ.

Coming totally out of sin – as the Last Day of Unleavened Bread pictures – is only the very beginning of our journey.

Yesterday, Sunday, was the “morrow after the Sabbath” in the days of Unleavened Bread – **Day #1** of our journey of going on to perfection.

Leviticus 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete:

And then, the instant the seventh Sabbath is fully complete, in the evening – Pentecost begins – the 50th day.

Pentecost is a picture of our goal. It means not only the absolute requirement of coming out of sin completely – it has an even higher spiritual significance of putting on Jesus Christ – taking on His character, values and attributes.

That is why we have been eating Unleavened Bread all this past week – it pictures **putting on** Jesus Christ.

Exodus 12:16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, [That was last Sabbath] and in **the seventh day** [Today] there shall be an Holy Convocation to you;

Exodus 12:17 And ye shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your hosts [all the tribes of Israel] out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.

The fundamental reason that God gives for this Feast is found in verse 17, beginning with the word “for”: “for on this same day I will have brought your [mass of people] out of the land of Egypt.”

The reason for this Feast is to memorialize God’s deliverance. And because it is a Feast, God intends for it to be a time of rejoicing. This Feast is an appointed time for us to remember God’s deliverance.

We understand that Egypt is a **type of sin**, and Pharaoh is a type of Satan. So we know that physical Israel kept this Feast as a memorial of God delivering them from Egypt, while we, today, **spiritual Israel**, keep it as a memorial of God’s even greater, **spiritual** deliverance. That is a battle that we are utterly unable to fight for ourselves.

God requires that we fully believe – without doubt – that God is performing His work of redemption in us. It is God who brings us to our goal. Paul said it so well to the Philippians:

Philippians 1:6 Being **confident** [that word means having the faith to believe it] of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Who brings us to our goal? The only answer is:

Galatians 1:4 That He, Jesus Christ, might deliver, [rescue us, free us]...”

Our deliverance is an indescribable and rare blessing. And like with Israel, it is only because of what God has done, not what we are able to do on our own.

We learned this week that: Without the Unleavened Bread of Life in us, Jesus Christ, we have no means of overcoming this present evil world, let alone ourselves. Our human spirit is entirely too weak and insufficient for the task.

Colossians 1:27 ... Christ in you, - that is the hope of glory:

We must be abiding in Christ (John 15 all).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread shows us that just accepting Jesus’ sacrifice to pay for our sins is not enough. The name of the “Feast of Unleavened Bread” gives us a clue to what God intends our focus to be. Primarily, we must focus on the unleavened bread. We put on Christ by following after righteousness.

Romans 13:14 Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,...

In order to reach the goal in the journey to our personal “Promised Land,” we must attain to the righteousness of Jesus Christ – even the perfection of Jesus Christ.

These Days of Unleavened Bread picture our putting sin out of our lives so that we might put on the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

The world has been taught that they can wallow in sin – and still “come to the Lord.” We do not give our heart to the Lord and come to Him “just as we are.” That is a false faith. We are told to go on to perfection – as Jesus is perfect.

2Corinthians 5:21 He [God the Father] has made Him [Jesus] **to be sin** for us, who knew no sin; that we might **be made** [into] the righteousness of God in Him.

In the same way that God made Jesus to be “sin,” He has made us to be Righteous. God in turn, substitutes the righteousness of Jesus to us! God the Father made Jesus Christ, who never sinned, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

These days picture – with exactness – that it is Jesus, today, who is leading us out of our spiritual Egypt.

The first generation of Israelites **failed** to enter the Promised Land because they did **not** truly **believe** that God meant what **He said**, and they did not properly set their sights on their goal.

Moses relayed God’s promise to the Israelites:

Deuteronomy 3:18 ... The Lord your God has **given you this land** to possess it:

It was a sure promise of God. Oh, they said that they believed, but they let every incident that popped up – deter them from their goal. Any excuse that came along caused them to lose sight of their goal – the Promised Land.

Sadly, except for Joshua and Caleb, not a single one of those Israelites ever made the personal commitment “I’m going into the Promised Land – no matter what.” **Nothing** will get between me and what God has commanded.”

You know the story of how Korah did not have faith that God would perform His promise. Korah thought that he was a **good man**, maybe better than most. But, he had some **thoughts** of his own. He thought that that he had every right to do things his own way – even when God had said do things another way.

And Korah convinced a lot of people **not** to follow Moses as God was leading him. Impatient and rebellious Korah said to Moses:

Numbers 16:14 Moreover thou have **not brought us into** a land that flows with milk and honey,

“You had your chance Moses, and you failed,” Korah said. Moses, a man of **faith**, called for a showdown between the two of them. Moses told Korah, “We will let God decide between you and me – and see if He really means what He says:

Numbers 16:16 And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the Lord, thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow:

Moses said, Let’s meet at the Tabernacle before all the people – so that they too can see that **God’s word is good**.

Numbers 16:19 And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

Numbers 16:20 And the LORD spoke unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Numbers 16:21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.

Numbers 16:28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

Numbers 16:30 But if the Lord make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have **provoked** the Lord.

Numbers 16:31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

Numbers 16:32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

Numbers 16:33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Numbers 16:35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the **two hundred and fifty** men that offered incense.

No stranger, who is not of the seed of Aaron was to offer incense – strange fire.

Korah's attitude of **unbelief** spread like wildfire among the Children of Israel, so God sent a plague on them.

Numbers 16:49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred (14,700), beside them that died about the matter of Korah.

We consciously and continuously ask God to guide our every thought and action – to be in full accord with His will – His way – His perfect standard. We do not accept any **reason** or **excuse** for not doing exactly what God commands of us.

For example, God tells us to keep the Sabbath Holy. If we need a job, we do not say, “I had to work on the Sabbath because there was nothing else.” That is how we show our **faith** – that we will follow God no matter what.

A deep-rooted connection to Christ includes **trusting** in all of His words, and greatly appreciating His forgiveness. It also includes looking to God in **faith**, realizing our total dependence on our Creator while demonstrating the fruits of God's Holy Spirit, and expressing true Christianity through good works.

When we are rooted in Christ, it means that we know His ways, and love His ways **more than our own way** of doing things.

That is the way of the world, doing its own thing, that we've actively been trying to eradicate from ourselves this past week – “putting the leaven out.”

Jesus Christ as our Savior – is the only way to life eternal. That **faith** and **belief** that Jesus Christ means what **He says** is what this Holy Day is all about.

Let me give you two words that apply to this process of **going on to perfection**:

First the Old Testament Hebrew word: '*Tamiym*' pronounced tau meem. It means entire, perfect, complete, whole, upright, sound, with integrity, full age, or without spot or blemish.

In the New Testament Greek, it is the word '*Teleios*' pronounced tell-ee-os, and it means the same thing: Perfect, complete, whole, upright, sound, integrity, full age, or without spot or blemish.

Picture for a moment a **perfect** young virgin bride arrayed in her white wedding dress of purity. That is a picture for every member of Christ's Body when we arrive at Pentecost. We have put out sin – now we redouble our effort to put on **righteousness** in order to be prepared for our wedding at Pentecost.

Matthew 22:2 The Kingdom of Heaven [Kingdom of God] is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Matthew 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Matthew 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

Matthew 22:5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

Matthew 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

Matthew 22:7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Matthew 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Matthew 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Matthew 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Matthew 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

Matthew 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him **into outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins also tell us to bide our time.

Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Matthew 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Matthew 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

Mat 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Brethren, the **goal** of the Church of God brethren is **not** the Promised Land – that piece of land in the Middle East... Our journey of this life is to be at this wedding altar arrayed in fine linen, clean and white – which is the righteousness of the saints.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath **made herself ready**.

How long have we been saying that the Church of God is not ready for the wedding? We only have until Pentecost – seven weeks – to measure up to the **perfection** that Jesus requires of His Bride. That is what this seven week time period represents – and that is the Way God wants us to look at it.

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the **righteousness** of saints.

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

“These are the true sayings of God,” means that we do not try to put some kind of spin on these words. Have Faith that it is going to be exactly as Jesus describes it.

Do we truly **believe** that we are to do what God says – and not seek for some excuse to avoid those things He would have us to do?

From the very beginning, Jesus Christ has made known to us His intention to marry a most exquisite Bride. The marriage of the Lamb to His spouse will commence the eternal covenant longed for by Jesus Christ from time immemorial. From the days of Israel’s espousal in the wilderness (Jeremiah 2:2) up until the marriage of the Lamb, Jesus Christ has loved His Bride-to-be with a perfect love that surpasses anything remotely imaginable.

Ephesians 3:19 To know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.

The wedding between Jesus Christ and His perfect Bride will be the most superb ceremony the heavens and earth have ever witnessed. Though this may sound like a dream or a fable, it is, in fact, a magnificent reality.

That is what Jesus means when He says, “These are the true sayings of God.” Brethren, we have only a short time to prepare. Many of those who consider themselves to be a part of the Church of God are **not** prepared to be the Bride of Jesus Christ.

The seventh doctrine of Jesus Christ is, “Go on to perfection;” this is what the Bride must be doing (Hebrews 6:1-2).

It should go without saying that Jesus is going to be extremely selective when taking His wife for ever more. Though the world prefers to believe that Jesus accepts us in our current condition – “just as you are” – it is obvious from the Scriptures that His Bride will be arrayed in the purest white wedding gown – symbolizing her perfect love for Him, her spotless spiritual condition, and her **eternal faithfulness** in marriage.

A Bride is faithful even before marriage to signify her faithfulness within her marriage covenant. Are we absolutely certain that we meet that criteria – in other words, are we as ready and prepared as we can possibly be? Anyone who assumes that they have attained to the perfect measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, underestimates the supreme perfection of Jesus Christ. To what **degree of excellence** must the Church brethren attain in order to be ready?

Ephesians 4:12-13 For the perfecting of the saints... We are to 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 fullness of Christ:

Ask yourself this question: Who is the Bride? Remarkably, it is revealed that not everyone will participate in the marriage supper. Blessed are they who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! What can we do to ensure that we will be invited to take part in Christ’s wedding?

Even now, we are engaged. This is the only time of preparation for us to become a virtuous, chaste and pure virgin betrothed to Jesus Christ our Bridegroom.

2Corinthians 11:2 I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Jesus Christ is going to enter into an eternal new covenant marriage relationship with spiritual Israel – the Church of God – which will never be broken.

Jeremiah 31:31-32 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. (Hebrews 8:8)

But brethren, understand this, today, the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, pictures our coming out of sin and beginning the process of putting on Christ. The Church of God is not yet ready for the wedding. We are a sad lot. We need to make sacrifices. We need to do things that we do not feel like doing. We need to do things that are uncomfortable. We need to lay our lives down for others. We need to reconcile where it is possible. You cannot reconcile with the unconverted. They are of a different mind and a different spirit. But before you conclude that someone is unconverted – you go the extra mile, you try to reconcile. You lay your life on the line to make it work – you do everything possible, generously willing to lose it all, that is how important it is – that’s where you lay your life down.

After years of Christian living sermons explaining how we must let our light shine – sometimes the fruit of our lives is hardly distinguishable from those in the world.

Think of how perfect everything will be in the Kingdom of God. We are not living according to the rules of the Kingdom – now – as we should be. If we did, we would be, “A light to the world – and our light would so shine before men... that they would be glorifying our Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

What will the Bride of Christ be like? How can she be spiritually pure? The Bride will be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white – meaning that she will be an innocent, virgin Bride.

Jesus has done His part in washing His Bride to make her righteous. She will be perfect and spotless – her attributes matching Christ's own perfection and glory – because He has made her spiritually pure.

Ephesians 5:25-27 Christ loves the [Bride], and gave Himself for her; that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and without blemish.

What an exceedingly beautiful ceremony it will be for the select Bride who looks for Christ's coming.

As we saw a moment ago, The glorious Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will come; and [only] those who are ready will go in with Him to the marriage: and the door will be closed." (Matthew 25:10)

The reality of God's promise will far exceed our most sublime expectations of the Bride. We do not want to miss out! We cannot miss out! Let us make ready, and ensure that we are among those whom Jesus Christ will choose to be His Bride.

Maintaining God's highest standard is not optional – our very salvation is at stake. The question for us is not simply a matter of waiting until Christ gets here – we must rise to the occasion. It is a matter of our preparing ourselves so that we will be spiritually groomed in accordance with Christ's expectation of His Bride.

Who among us is willing to break away from the status quo to be doing exactly what is necessary to be prepared? Here is the answer:

Luke 12:43 Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing. [Being faithful to every word of God]

Jesus is perfection, holiness, purity, sinlessness, and righteousness personified. We are not to remain in sin, but we are to come out of sin and put on the righteousness of Christ (Romans 13:14).

God is filling positions for His Kingdom even now, and He's been training us up to be blameless:

Ephesians 1:4 According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

We are qualifying even now to be ready to **take up positions** of teaching and leadership in tomorrow's world.

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions [offices, positions, place to abide]: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

We have been chosen to fill those appointments. God has a people and He is very specific about who His bride is. In these coming seven weeks – especially – we will be going on to Perfection. As Christians, we live a life of continuously going on to perfection. We understand that we never will arrive at perfection in the flesh, but we strive for it.

Jesus is not going to accept a shabby wife. Jesus Christ, who never sinned, is our role model. We are to strive for perfection, **as** He is perfect. Jesus Christ leads us **out** of sin – and **into** His righteousness by the power of the Holy Spirit – looking forward to the next step in God's great Plan of Salvation – Pentecost.

When Israel was headed for the Promised Land, Jesus Christ was over them, in front of them, in back of them – accompanying them.

Exodus 14:19 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:

Exodus 14:20 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.

The Israelites were led by Jesus Christ. He was over them, in front of them, in back of them, along side of them. There is a difference for the Church brethren today – **God is in us!** He is leading us in our journey to our “Promised Land” – the resurrection of the saints, the wedding supper, and the Kingdom of God.

Now is the time to prepare – and go on to perfection.

End: Our Journey to the Promised Land