

# GREATER THINGS

October 19, 2014

Psalm 105 and Exodus 1 & 2

James 1

God intends to use every trial, every failure and every difficult situation in your life to expand you, make you stronger and connect with you at a deeper level.

- We have all faced difficult seasons in our personal lives.
- Personally and corporately we have a choice—focus on your situation and how hard it is and get stuck OR embrace the Lord and what HE is doing and move forward despite what you see or feel.
- We usually want the quickest and easiest route—that’s not always the case.
- Greater things await you on the other side of your difficult season if you hold on and don’t give up.

False witnesses rose up to take David’s life and the life of his friends.

- Psalm 27:13 (KJB) – *“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”*
- In that moment, David CHOSE to believe God would fulfill His word.
- There are blessings, treasures, new things on the other side, but a lot of them are purchased in the process.
- You are going to step into all the Lord has for you. We are going to step into all the Lord has for us as a house, but we have to keep our eyes on Him.

James 1:2-4 (NIV) – *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

- Written at a time when the early Church was facing heavy persecution.
- Perseverance – to remain in one’s spot; to keep a position; to resolve to maintain some territory that has been gained; to never give up
- Longevity and endurance—Abraham never waived in his faith while he waited for fulfillment of his word.

It could be written this way: *“But let patience have her perfect work—I’m talking about the kind of attitude that hangs in there, never giving up, refusing to surrender to obstacles and turning down every opportunity to quit...”*

## ***The Israelites Journey to Fulfillment***

### **THE LORD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAM (Genesis 15)**

- While still childless, the Lord told him his offspring would be as numerous as the stars.
- He promised him possession of the land for the Israelites.

### **THE ISRAELITES ENTER EGYPT**

- Joseph (an Israelite) was sold into slavery and later put in charge of Egypt.
- God told Jacob to leave Canaan and go live in Egypt (not the promised land) and He would be with them.
- They were the fewest of all people at that time (66 plus wives).
- They settled there and began to grow.
- This was part of the fulfillment of the word to Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars.
- They grew in numbers and stuck together.

### Keep yourself in community

- People that will pray with you
- People that will speak the truth and remind you of it
- People that will help you live from a Godly perspective and keep you focused
- People that build you up and don't tear you down

### Wildebeests

- When the seasons change, they migrate (leave where they were) so they can continue to graze on grass—if they stayed, they would die.
- They sense thunderstorms up to 30 miles away. They follow the rain in their migration to the best grass.
- **Face their fears** to cross the water with crocodiles because they're compelled to get to the other side.
- They live in large herds in order to protect each other. Alone in the wilderness, they are defenseless and vulnerable. When danger is spotted, they use a groaning call and run together, creating a stampede. This protects them by intimidation and escaping.
- When you stand in the wilderness alone, you are vulnerable and defenseless. There is power in standing and moving together—it intimidates the enemy.

### **THE ISRAELITES BECOME SLAVES**

- They became too numerous for the Egyptians (Exodus 1:9)—they were afraid they would grow more, join Egypt's enemies and leave the country.
- Their slavery was unparalleled in bitterness and demands.
- In addition, the heartless ruler destroyed all their male children at birth.

- Exodus 1:12 – *“the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread”*
- Egypt was the opposite of what had been spoken—it didn’t look like the promise, yet they experienced increase.
- In the place of suffering and before the promise is fulfilled, there is fruitfulness and multiplication.

### **MOSES RECEIVES A WORD OF DELIVERANCE**

- Exodus 4 – The Lord told Moses He would free them from Egypt.
- The first of two announcements of coming deliverance—they are elated with hope and their spirits leapt, they quickly accepted it and worshiped.
- Moses then pleads numerous times with Pharaoh for their release and it only leads to greater misery.
- Exodus 6 – The Lord reminds them of His word to deliver them and lead them into the fulfillment of His covenant.
- When Moses tells the Israelites, they don’t believe him because of their *“discouragement and cruel bondage”* (v. 9).
- *Discouragement* – swallowed up by trouble of mind and grief of heart; being so pressed that they could hardly breathe, and so were incapable of attending to what was spoken to them; they had lost all heart
- This promise should have revived them and made them forget their misery.
- They were so overwhelmed and focused on their troubles and disappointment, that they could not hear and receive God's promise.
- Even Moses is discouraged until he receives a word from the Lord.
- Part of the promise: *“WHEN you leave you will not go empty-handed.”*
- He tells them it’s going to get hard, but this will not last forever and you’ll leave with great reward.

Remember the promises and words God has spoken to you

- Psalm 105:5 (AMP)– *“Earnestly remember the marvelous deed that He has done, His miracles and wonders, the judgments and sentences which He pronounced upon His enemies, as in Egypt.”*
- Trust Him—unlike the Israelites who let their discouragement and bondage keep them from believing the Lord would rescue them and fulfill His promise.
- Joshua 21:45 (NLT) – *“Not a single one of all the good promises the LORD had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.”*
- Psalm 145:13 (NIV) – *“The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.”*
- Don’t stop hearing, believing and receiving from the Lord.

## THE ISRAELITES LEAVE EGYPT

- The Lord kills the firstborn sons of Egypt and Pharaoh releases Israelites.
- They lived in Egypt 430 years.
- We think we wait a long time for promises to be fulfilled.
- Psalm 105:37 – they left Egypt with gold, silver and clothing—what was most valuable to the Egyptians
- Verse 37 – *“and from among their tribes no one faltered”* even after their long and intense oppression—they were strong and were not full of disease
- They lived in Egypt as slaves, but left as conquerors.
- Psalm 105:43 – He brought them forth with shouts of joy—they didn’t come out heavy laden, exhausted, oppressed, depressed, but with joy.
- 600,000 men on foot, besides women and children when they left Egypt
- *Exodus* – “exit” or “departure”—the intention that they would not live this way forever, but depart from it and enter into the promise places of the Lord
- All this good came from a long season of being in a place that wasn’t the fulfillment of a promise.
- Sometimes the blessing that comes from the process is greater than the blessing from the fulfillment of the promise.

### Don’t give up

- Isaiah 35:2-4 (NIV) – *“Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear: your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”*
- *Strengthen hands* – so you can continue to hold on to something
- *Steady the knees* – the firmness to keep your ground and not be dislodged

### We are powerful people (Danny Silk)

- You cannot control circumstances or other people, but you can control you and your response, words, thoughts, actions, etc.
- React vs. respond
- Sometimes we just need to choose—Choose to look up. Choose to face your fears. Choose to quit complaining. Choose to stay on course. Choose to have a heavenly perspective. It's there for the taking.