



## “Now And Then”



Every time that the Bible speaks of God’s people becoming discouraged, it was because they no longer believed the words God had spoken, and the promises He had made to them.

The first time was after He had rescued them from bondage to their enemies, the Egyptians. The Bible says the soul of the people was much discouraged because they had to walk a long way and they were tired and hungry. They spoke against God saying, *“Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread, or water; and our soul hates this light bread (manna).”* Numbers 21:4,5.



They forgot the wonderful things He did for them to save them: He divided the Red Sea and held back the water until they all passed through. He led them with a cloud in the day time to protect them from the heat, and at night with a light of fire to keep them warm. He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them water abundantly. He opened heaven and rained down manna (the angel’s food). Yet, they spoke against God and said, *“Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?”* because they didn’t believe in Him, and didn’t trust His salvation. No matter what all He had done, they still sinned and didn’t believe all of his wonderful works.



The other two times were when some of the leaders of Israel tried to talk the other tribes out of crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land that God had promised them; a rich, fertile land that would be their home forever. Moses said, *“Why do you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the Land which the Lord has given them? Your fathers did the same thing when they saw the land forty years ago, when they discouraged the heart of the people, and God’s anger was kindled against Israel and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years until all who rebelled had died, and only those who believed God’s Word remained.”* Numbers 32:7,8,10.

Just about now you are probably asking yourself, “What does this have to do with me?” Let’s take a closer look at what we have just read and find out.

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**THEN**

- God rescued His people from bondage to their enemies.
- Instead of being thankful for what God had done to save them, they became discouraged when they got tired and hungry.
- He gave Moses the power to split the Red Sea and hold back the water till all had passed through the way and were saved.
- God split rocks in the wilderness and great springs of water came out of the rock, making streams in the desert that overflowed giving them fresh water to drink.
- He rained down manna (the angel's food), and the corn of heaven, for their bread.
- Their soul hated the bread from heaven (manna) that God gave them.
- They spoke against God and said, "*Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?*" after all the miracles they had seen Him do for them, because they still didn't trust Him to feed them.

**NOW**

- God has rescued you from people who use you and mistreat you.
- Instead of looking at all of the blessings of our salvation that Jesus did for us, we become discouraged when any hardship comes instead of being thankful.
- He made Jesus the way for us to be saved. "*I am the Way, the Truth, the Life, no one comes to the Father, but by Me.*" (John 14:6)
- He gave us Jesus, the rock of our salvation. "*Whoever drinks of the water I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water I give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*" (John 4:14)
- Jesus is our bread, "*I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*" (John 6:51)
- Jesus was hated. "*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.*" (John 15:18)
- We see the many things God has done in our lives, and the gifts He has given us, but we still don't trust God to provide our food, and we question Him when the rent money is due, instead of trusting Him.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior – we enter into our Promised Land. A land of safety, where we can't be destroyed. Where we live forever in the presence of God as a member of His family. We become an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus of all the blessings of heaven forever.

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A passive attitude will not conquer and possess the blessings of your Promised Land. It takes the strength to rule in the circumstances, instead of being ruled by circumstances that bring discouragement to your soul. It takes learning to walk by faith under the authority of God in every area of your life. It takes a decision to occupy all of the land of promises. It takes determination to hang on to God's promises and not let go no matter what. It takes reading God's Words and praying. It takes a commitment to leave past hurts and remembered wounds at the border crossing into your Promised Land.



Jesus is waiting just across the border. Step into His waiting arms and come home to your Promised Land – for all eternity.



## *“Now And Then”*

1. Why did God’s people become discouraged?

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2. What did they think He had brought them out of Egypt for?

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3. Why did the people have to wander in the wilderness 40 years?

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4. Why was crossing the Red Sea like accepting Jesus as Savior?

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5. How is Jesus like the rocks God split in the wilderness?

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6. Why is Jesus like manna?

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7. How do we enter into our Promised Land?

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8. How do we have to walk in our Promised Land?

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9. How long can we stay in our Promised Land?

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10. What is the only way to come to God? (John 14:6)  
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

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## *“Now And Then”*

1. Why did God’s people become discouraged?

Because they no longer believed His promises.

2. What did they think He had brought them out of Egypt for?

To die in the wilderness.

3. Why did the people have to wander in the wilderness 40 years?

Because of rebellion and unbelief against God.

4. Why was crossing the Red Sea like accepting Jesus as Savior?

They were both the way to being saved.

5. How is Jesus like the rocks God split in the wilderness?

Springs of water to give life came out of both of them.

6. Why is Jesus like manna?

He is the bread of life that came down from heaven.

7. How do we enter into our Promised Land?

When we accept Jesus as our Savior.

8. How do we have to walk in our Promised Land?

By faith under the authority of God in every area of our life.

9. How long can we stay in our Promised Land?

For all eternity.

10. What is the only way to come to God? (John 14:6)

MEMORY VERSE “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me.”