

# PREPARATION FOR POSSESSION

**Psa 23:5** *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*

**Isa 40:3-5** *A voice of one who cries: **Prepare** in the wilderness the way of the Lord [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth in the desert a highway for our God! Every valley shall be lifted and filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked and uneven shall be made straight and level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.*

**Isa 62:10-12** *Go through, go through the gates! **Prepare** the way for the people. Cast up, cast up the highway! Gather out the stones. Lift up a standard or ensign over and for the peoples. Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the Daughter of Zion, Behold, your salvation comes [in the person of the Lord]; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work and recompense before Him. And they shall call them the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, a City Not Forsaken.*

**1 Cor 14:8** *And if the war bugle gives an uncertain (indistinct) call, who will **prepare** for battle?*

- When I last shared it was about possessing the land, beginning with our land and then extending the Lord's dominion outward from there [family, work, neighbourhood, city, beyond].
- That message was to envision us with God's purpose and process for possessing the land.
- All of that presupposes that we are prepared to possess and extend His dominion.
  
- Never in all of history has there been as many xtens and so many "churches" in so many lands, preaching & teaching so much with so little visible, tangible impact upon the communities, nations and world. It makes me ask why?
- Firstly, because most xtens don't know that God's purpose has always been for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth ...as it is being done in heaven. Our mandate is fight not flight!
- Secondly, even the small minority of xtens who know God's purpose have been inadequately prepared for the task of dominion and their role in it.

**Gen 12:1-3** *1NOW [in Haran] the Lord said to Abram, Go for yourself [for your own advantage] away from your country, from your relatives and your father's house, to the land that I will show you.<sup>(A)</sup>*

*2And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others].*

*3And I will bless those who bless you [who confer prosperity or happiness upon you] and [<sup>a</sup>]curse him who curses or uses insolent language toward you; in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed [and by you they will bless themselves].*

- The first time the word nation is mentioned in scripture is when God called Abram and promised to lead him to a land and make of him a great nation that He would bless and would become a blessing to others.

**Ex 1:1-1-14** *These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, 4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 5 In all, Jacob had seventy<sup>[a]</sup> descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there.*

*6 In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. 7 But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.*

8 Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. 9 He said to his people, "Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. 10 We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.<sup>[b]</sup>"

11 So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king. 12 But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became. 13 So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. 14 They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.

- The first evidence of God fulfilling His promise to Abram is when seventy people come into the land of Egypt as "freemen" as a result of Joseph's faithfulness in serving Pharaoh..
- By the time a new king [pharaoh] who had no history with Joseph came on the scene, the seventy had multiplied many times over and actually outnumbered the Egyptians.
- Their strength of numbers became a threat and the freemen became slaves.
  
- The Pareto principle (also known as the 80-20 rule, the law of the vital few and the principle of factor sparsity) states that, for many events, 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. Business management thinker [Joseph M. Juran](#) suggested the principle and named it after Italian economist [Vilfredo Pareto](#), who observed that 80% of income in Italy went to 20% of the population. It is a common [rule of thumb](#) in business and other matters; e.g., "80% of your sales comes from 20% of your clients, we wear our 20% most favoured clothes about 80% of the time, perhaps we spend 80% of the time with 20% of our acquaintances, etc.
- It only takes about 20% of society believing anything to influence, even lead, the other 80% in a given direction. Remember God calls people sheep and sheep follow.
  
- Repeatedly in the first few chapters of Exodus Moses declared the word of the Lord to Pharaoh, "Let my people go" and each time Pharaoh refused. Finally when all the first born in Egypt were killed Pharaoh released the people.

**Gen 46:26-27** *All the persons who came with Jacob into Egypt--who were his own offspring, not counting the wives of Jacob's sons--were sixty-six persons all told. And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob [including Joseph and Jacob himself], who came into Egypt, were seventy.*

**Exo 12:30-31; 36-40** *Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. He called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites; and go, serve the Lord, as you said..... The Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they gave them what they asked. And they stripped the Egyptians [of those things]. The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 men on foot, besides women and children. And a mixed multitude went also with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. They baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought from Egypt; it was not leavened because they were driven from Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared for themselves any food. Now the time the Israelites dwelt in Egypt was 430 years.*

- We don't know for certain how many people came into Egypt to begin with or what the total was when they left since only adult males were counted. When factoring in the women and children it is estimated that close to 300 people came into Egypt. Since a mixed multitude also joined Israel it is estimated that Moses may have led more than 3 million people out of Egypt into the desert.

- Consider the logistics of the exodus just in terms of raw survival. The amount of water, food, fuel, etc. it would take to feed, water, warm/cook, etc. for this many people would be astronomical, even in our day.
- Now consider the fact that Israel had been in exile in Egypt a total of 430 years, 300 of those years as slaves.
- Moses led 3+ million people who had been slaves for 300 years into the wilderness to fulfill God's promise to make them a nation. These 3+ million people were:
  - Oppressed and victimized, had a slave/welfare mentality,
  - Poor and had only what they could carry with them on their backs., They have no industry, no agriculture, no economy,
  - They are uneducated and have no schools,
  - They have no sense of government and have an underdeveloped social system,
  - They have no real spiritual experience
- Moses began his mission as a deliver. Moses led 3+ million people out from Egypt, one of the greatest civilizations in history, so that they could become the largest, most underprivileged, underdeveloped mass of people that ever existed.
- It didn't take very long for these people to forget their flight from Egypt and shift their focus to their plight in the wilderness. As the peoples' complaining and murmuring increased Moses the deliverer took on the role of a mediator [priest] to this group of unhappy wanderers/wonderers.
- It wasn't until the 50th day into their journey that God reminded Moses why he and these 3+ million people were where they were. ***Exo 19:5-6** Now therefore, if you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation [consecrated, set apart to the worship of God]. These are the words you shall speak to the Israelites.*
- God told Moses to remind those 3+ million people that the reason they were where they were was because they were fulfilling His promise to Abram and were to become a nation who would bless and be admired by other nations.
- Did these people really hear [obey] Moses or did their bewilderment, scepticism, unbelief and cynicism cause hearing [obeying] loss? The fact that the generation who came out of Egypt all died in the wilderness tells me/us they had partial hearing at best.
- Does that mean those 40 years wandering/wondering in the wilderness were wasted? No, because after 40 years the new generation born and raised in the wilderness was commissioned to fulfill the promise to possess the land.
- Since the previous generation had died in the wilderness, it was important for Moses to repeat and expound to this new generation what he had received from the Lord before they entered the promised land, hence the book of Deuteronomy, which means second [deut] law [nomos].
- Deuteronomy is a very important book and here's why...

***Deut 4:5-14** 5 See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. 6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." 7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? 8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?*

9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. 10 Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children." 11 You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. 12 Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. 13 He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets. 14 And the LORD directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

- Moses began his mission as a deliverer of people, for 40 years he also served as a mediator but I believe his greatest role, example and success was as a discipler of a nation.
- Moses taught the *decrees and laws* received from the Lord and these became the foundation of Israel becoming a nation.
- Did Moses succeed in his mission? Within about 300 years, Israel had become one of the greatest nations in the earth and their reputation spread around the then known world. Israel was so well thought of that world leaders came to witness [see] for themselves what they had heard.

**1 Kngs 10:1-10** 1 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. 2 Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. 3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at <sup>[a]</sup> the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. 7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. 8 How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."

And she gave the king 120 talents <sup>[b]</sup> of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon

- How did it come about that this people who had been slaves for 300 years had attained such world wide prominence and influence? **They were a people prepared for possession.**
- Moses taught the *decrees and laws* as received from the Lord but they were external guides at best.
- It wasn't until millennia later, on the day of Pentecost, that the Holy Spirit came and wrote these external decrees and laws upon the hearts and minds, empowering and enabling people from every tribe and tongue to become and establish a new nation among nations, *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.* **1Pet 2:9**

- Bob Mumford – prophetic teacher – greatest lesson to hear and see God anywhere.
  - Timothy encounter – baler = contrite machine
  - Coke can – use people and then discard them. [Deacon [satan] & Marvin]
- **No deposit.....No return** – illustrate, demonstrate, educate

**A CHOSEN PEOPLE**

***By Jennie Klattenberg & Rick Powell***

*For we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood  
A holy nation,  
A people belonging to God  
That we should show forth the praises  
Of Him Who called us  
Out of darkness, into His marvellous light.*

**A PEOPLE OF POWER**

*God is building a people of power  
And He's making a people of praise  
Who will move through this land  
By His Spirit  
And will glorify His precious name.*

*Build Your Church Lord,  
Make us strong Lord  
Join our hearts Lord  
Through Your Son  
Make us one Lord, in Your Body  
To manifest Your kingdom and Your Son*

**BY YOUR GRACE & TENDER MERCIES**

***By Randy Klattenberg***

*By Your grace Oh Lord  
And tender mercies  
You have called us as priests to You.  
A holy people  
Your manifest glory  
To bring the nations  
To the feet of Your sons  
We will become Your Word  
Declaring Your victory  
Become Your standard and light to the world  
We'll sing hosanna  
To the King of glory  
Let Your kingdom reign forever more.*