**7. “A NATION ON ITS WAY TO A HOMELAND”**

**Section III:** THE PLAN ORGANIZED

**Biblical Basis:** Genesis 12 – Deuteronomy 34

**Objective:** That each class member may understand that Israel’s crisis migration from Egypt proved to be God’s opportunity to discipline and train a people to trust and obey Him.

**INTRODUCTION**

The children of Israel had suffered the bondage of Egyptian oppression for over 400 years. During this time they continually were driven by hope in their sense of destiny. Joseph’s bones were still with them, reminding them of God’s promise that one day they would come into their own land.

When the God of Israel finally convinced the Pharaoh of Egypt that it would be to his nation’s advantage to be rid of the Hebrew people, Pharaoh issued the order to go. That order from the Pharaoh produced a movement of a million or more people out of Egypt. During this critical and crisis experience, God scheduled, organized, taught and disciplined insecure slaves to become a powerful invading nation.

**I. THE CRISES MIGRATION**

 A. The preparations for Exodus.

 1. What was God’s purpose for the plagues upon Egypt? (Ex 3:19-22)

 2. What plague finally convinced Pharaoh to release the children of Israel?

 (Ex 12:29-32)

 3. Explain the experience and the significance of the Passover event to the Hebrews.

 (Ex 12:12-13, 23, 26-28)

 B. The insecurity of the Exodus.

 1. How could this mass migration be viewed as a crises? (Ex 12:33-34, 37-39; 13:21-22)

 2. What constant fears plagued these people? (Ex 14:9-12; 15:22-24; 16:1-3)

**II. THE CRISES BECAME A SCHOOLING**

 A. What was God’s basic lesson that He was teaching His people? (Ex 14:13-14)

 B. Through His providential care God instilled confidence in Hebrew hearts that He was able to provide for every need. What needs were met?

 a. Ex 14:13-14 d. Ex 16:11-15

 b. Ex 14:30-31 e. Ex 17:5-7

 c. Ex 15:1-2

 C. Why do we go through tough times? (II Cor 1:8-10; Rom 5:3-5; James 1:2-4)

**III. THE ORGANIZATION DEVELOPS**

The migration of a million people demanded intricate organization. Survival would not have been possible without it.

A. Organizational laws.

 1. What advice does Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, give to Moses? (Ex 18:24-27)

 2. Who was in charge of the religious duties? (Num 1:51)

 3. How was the encampment orders detailed and specific? (Num 1:52-53;

 Num 2:3,10,18,25,34

 4. What kind of communication system was devised? (Num 10:1-10)

 B. What was the focal point of the camp? (Num 1:53-2:2) Explain why?

**IV. THE LAW AND LEGISLATION APPEAR**

It becomes most important to understand the basic purpose of many of the laws that appeared in Israel. There were many practical aspects.

 A. Unique laws spoke to unique situations.

 1. Because of crowded conditions, complete lack of privacy, and discomfort of desert life, what kind of laws were essential? (Ex 21:12-14, 18-19)

 2. Without the advantage of permanent confines for livestock, man and beast had to live together. What kind of problems could be expected? (Ex 21:28, 33; 22:1-5)

 3. Why do you suppose God gave Israel laws that were later superseded by Jesus?

 (Ex 21:23-25; Matt 5:38-48)

 B. The full revelation of the perfect law awaited Christ’s coming.

 1. How did Christ’s law supersede the authoritative voices of old?

 Compare: Ex 20:13 vs. Matt 5:21-22

 Ex 20:14 vs. Matt 5:27-28

 Deut 24:1-4 vs. Mk 10:2-9

 Ex 21:23-24 vs. Matt 5:38-3

 2. Examine the true purpose of the O.T. law. (Gal 3:19-21; Rom 3:19-20)

**V. THE RIGID DISCIPLINES INTRODUCED**

If Israel was to fulfill her destiny – “to be a blessing” – then discipline had to be her constant companion.

 A. The corporate was more important than the individual.

 1. When the individual sins threatened the very life of the nation, what was God’s solution? (Lev 10:2-5; Num 12:1-3,15)

 2. What must Christians do to focus on the corporate rather than on individualism?

 (I Cor 9:12, 15; 10:23-24)

 B. Israel’s law in relationship to other laws.

 1. Why do you suppose God had Israel deal so severely with the people of the land? (Num 31:7-8, 17-18; Gen 15:12-16)

 2. Why does God deal so harshly with His own people? (Deut 29:24-28; 30:15-20)

 3. What is the difference between sentimentalism and true love? (Heb 12:5-11)

**CONCLUSION**

1. Look at these five areas in relationship to a new Christian’s life. See the similarities; having been freed by Christ what is the first thing he has to learn?

2. When he becomes a part of the Body of Christ, what new lessons must be learned?

3. Why is church discipline important to the local church body? (I Cor 5:6-7)