**8. “A DESTINY INSURED”**

**Section III:** THE PLAN ORGANIZED

**Biblical Basis:** Exodus 1 – Joshua 5

**Objective:** That the class members be able to identify seven key avenues of media God introduced in Israel’s life that insured her destiny.

**INTRODUCTION**

God’s plan was that through a special people He would reveal Himself and eventually produce that “one” who would “bruise the head of Satan.” The covenant people of God were in their infancy stage. They had experienced the unique deliverance from bondage by an almighty God. They were on their way to a promised homeland. They were united in achieving their destiny through the factors of circumcision, separation, dreams, common experiences and God’s laws.

All the hopes of the world depended on the success and faithfulness of these people. As they wandered through the wilderness in their early stages of history, they were weak and vulnerable. Knowing that sin and human failure might undermine His plan, God intervened to meet these threats. He introduced certain practical media into Israel’s life which were designed to insure her destiny.

**I. THE EXPERIENCES OF GOD’S POWER**

 A. What kind of picture do you have of Israel prior to the Exodus? (Economy, security, military)

 B. If Moses was to move these people into insecure unknown areas, what kind of fears did he have to contend with? (Ex 14:10-12; 16:2-3; 32:1-4)

 C. What do you suppose was God’s purpose for the divine miracles that took place?

 (Ex 4:5-8; Josh 3:7-10)

 D. Where there has been no tradition in a community there is more apt to be miracles to call attention to the power and confirmation of God’s presence. Faith that is tried and matured does not need dramatic evidence that God is true to His promises; however a faith that has no roots or is just beginning does. How is this demonstrated in the New Testament? (John 20:30-31; Acts 3:6-10; 4:16; 5:12-14)

**II. THE EXPOSURE TO GOD’S DEMANDS**

 A. What kind of picture do you get of Israel and Moses in Exodus 18:13-18?

 B. The chaos of a disordered life was a constant threat. How was this threat overcome?

 (Ex 21-23)

 What function did they serve?

**III. THE EXHIBIT OF VISUAL AIDS**

A. What do nations do to perpetuate national memories? (Josh 4:20-24)

 B. What two key visual aids did Israel have?

 1. Numbers 6:1-5

 2. Numbers 15:37-40

 C. What key messages did these visual aids memorialize to Israel?

 (Num 15:39-40; Ex 19:5-6; Lev 11:44)

 D. What value do you see in having Christian plaques and pictures in homes, and religious symbols in churches? (Deut 6:6-9; 11:18-20)

 **IV. THE EXERCISE OF MEMORIAL FEASTS**

 A. What feasts did Israel celebrate and what was the reminder?

 1. Lev 23:1-3

 2. Lev 23:4-8

 3. Lev 23:9-14

 4. Lev 23:15-16

 5. Lev 23:23-25

 6. Lev 23:26-28

 7. Lev 23:33-35

 B. Israel’s tomorrows were dependent upon how much she remembered her yesterdays. What special “memorials” do we celebrate as Christians? Why?

**V. THE EXPRESSION OF GOD’S PRESENCE**

 A. What did the tabernacle symbolize to Israel?

 1. Ex 25:8, 22

 2. Lev 4:27-30

 3. Num 9:15-17

 B. Courage and heroism were born as Israel gathered around that Sanctuary. The sight of it was perpetual evidence that Israel never walked alone. This sense of God’s closeness was a vital factor toward insuring her destiny. What visual aid is available today for people to know of God’s presence in their community?

**VI. THE EXTENSION OF GREAT LEADERSHIP**

 A. Why were great leaders so important for Israel’s destiny to be insured?

 B. What factors made these leaders great?

 1. Abraham Gen 12:4

 2. Isaac Gen 26:1-6

 3. Jacob Gen 32:22-28

 4. Joseph Gen 29:6-9

 5. Moses Num 12:6-8

 6. Joshua Num 14:6-10

 C. Beyond the spiritual qualifications which marked these men for leadership, notice also their special training. How were Joseph, Moses and Joshua prepared for their responsibilities?

 D. Why is it important that we have good, spiritual leadership in the church?

 (Acts 20:28-35; I Tim 3:1-13)

**VII. THE EXPLANATION CONCERNING THE LAND**

 A. How does God graphically reinforce to Joshua the attitude and perspective Israel is to have toward the land? (Deut 11:10-12; Josh 5:13-15)

 B. On this hallowed ground a great nation must grow and flourish. These citizens would ultimately touch the whole world with the blessings of God. What is God’s call to the Christian today in terms of material blessings? (I Cor 4:7; II Cor 9:6-8)

**CONCLUSION**

All these seven factors became visual aids to help remind Israel of her destiny. They reinforced that she would become the blessing which God had called her to be. What are the factors God has used in your life to insure His destiny for you?