

Title: The Believing Sinners Path  
Text: Deut 32: 10  
Date: Dec 17, 2023  
Place: SGBC, NJ

In Deuteronomy 32, we have the second to the last sermon that Moses preached to the children of Israel before his death. They had come to the end of their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. God was about to deliver them into the land of Canaan.

God sent Moses with this word. Moses preached God's works in redeeming them from Egyptian bondage. Moses preached God's works in providing for them and leading them through the wilderness.

Also, Moses preached on the unfaithfulness of those in Israel who rejected God for their idols.

**Deuteronomy 32: 15: But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered *with fatness*;**

Jeshuran means "upright ones." It was a symbolic name because they thought themselves upright. They went after false gods.

**Deuteronomy 32: 15:...then he forsook God *which* made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation...20:...they *are* a very froward generation, children in whom *is* no faith.**

Be sure to understand. God never fails to save his people who Christ redeemed. They forsake God only because God never worked effectually in their hearts.

But in the midst of Israel was an elect remnant who God saved: Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Caleb, Joshua are examples given in scripture. Speaking of God's elect and of the Lord who saved them, he said,

**Deuteronomy 32: 10: He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.**

**Proposition:** This one verse declares what God does for every sinner who God saves.

## THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD FINDS US

**Deuteronomy 32: 10: He found him...**

God finds his elect. The Lord Jesus gave three parables by which he declared this good news (Lu 15): the lost sheep found by the Shepherd, the lost silver found by the woman and the lost son whose father saw him afar off. The Lord's point in each parable is that Christ is our Shepherd who finds his lost sheep, his lost elect. It is not the sinner that seeks God, but God who seeks the sinner. Think of how many people in this world make the boast that they sought the Lord. But what does the Lord's word say?

Romans 3:11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Christ our Shepherd seeks and he saves. He finds some when we are young, some in middle age, some in old age, but every true child of God have this same testimony, "*He found me.*"

## HE FINDS US IN SIN

**Deuteronomy 32: 10: He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness**

Our sinful self is a desert land—a waste—a howling wilderness. In scripture life is often described as water. But without the Spirit of God, without Christ our Life, we are as dead and dry as the desert sands. It is Christ sending the Spirit of God that creates life in his child.

Isaiah 35:6: Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7: And the parched ground shall become

a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

John 7: 38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Our sin-nature is the waste place. It is the waste howling wilderness.

Isaiah 51:3: For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 52:9: Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

Our sinful flesh is a desert land, a waste howling wilderness. It never ceases to be so. That is one of the lessons he is teaching us the whole way through this pilgrimage. Do not trust in self. Do not lean to your own understanding. Do not walk by sight. Believe the Lord Jesus Christ. Walk by faith. Trust Christ our Wisdom to lead us.

## HE LEADS AND TEACHES US

**Deuteronomy 32: 10: He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him...**

This is what our Shepherd does for us. Christ is our Shepherd. He leads his sheep. He instructs his sheep. That is the reason Christ has left us in this world and left us with this sinful nature.

He did not take them directly into Canaan. Why? *Unbelief*. He led them around in the desert for 40 years. The Lord does not take us directly into heaven. He leads us throughout this desert for years to instruct us and teach us more and more that Christ is All. The Lord is leading us to teach us more and more of himself. He is increasing our faith in him. Christ is instructing us to submit to him in all things and wait on him to save.

The children of Israel had been in Egypt. They worshipped the idols of Egypt. Their gods had been idols they could see. But when Christ calls us the Spirit of God gives us faith and Christ begins instructing his child to walk by faith. We see it in all the places the Lord led them and in the things the Lord instructed them.

*He delivered them by the Passover Lamb* (Ex 12). Christ is the Passover Lamb. He gives us faith to believe that he bore our judgment and made us righteous. The same as all the children of Israel died in the passover lamb so all God's elect died in Christ on the cross. Christ is the Head of the house who applies the blood to our hearts so that we believe on him. God passes over us because he beholds Christ our Righteousness. But the Lord teaches us more and more that Christ is our Passover, our Salvation, our Righteousness.

*He led them to the Red Sea and hemmed them in all sides* (Ex 14). They began to murmur against Moses. The Lord told them to sit still, hold their tongue and see the salvation of the Lord. Then the Lord delivered them and destroyed Pharaoh and his army. Christ is Salvation who delivered his elect, is delivering and shall deliver.

*Then he led them three days in the wilderness so that they found no water* (Ex 15: 22). Then the Shepherd led them to the bitter waters of Marah where they could not drink. Christ did it to prove them, to test them. He did it to show them what was in their hearts. And again they began to murmur against Moses. He cast in a branch that made the waters sweet to drink. In every bitter trial, the Lord is proving us. He is showing us that we are the sinner and that it is Christ and him crucified that is our Water of Life. It is with his stripes that we are healed. Like the branch cast into the bitter waters, Christ healed his people bearing our stripes on our behalf.

Exodus 15:26...for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

*Two and half months after bringing them out of Egypt, the Lord led them to the wilderness of Sin to prove them (Ex 16). They got hungry. Again they murmured against Moses.*

Exodus 16: 3: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

The Lord gave them bread from heaven. The Lord Jesus is the Bread from heaven (Jn 6). Each time, in each trial, the the Lord taught them he is our Life and our Provider. He proved them whether they would believe him or not by telling them to only gather enough bread for each day. He told them on the sixth day, the Lord would give them enough for two days so all could rest on the Sabbath. But they did not believe he would give grace for today. Christ is our Bread for today. He provides our needs today. But they gathered more and the Lord made it breed worms and stink. The Lord leads us into every trial to prove us. Again and again we see we are sinners. But he instruct us again and again to believe and submit to him. Christ is our Life providing all for us.

*Then our Shepherd lead them to Rephidim to prove them (Ex 17). Again there was no water to drink. Again they chided Moses and were ready to stone him to death. But each time they did so it was not merely Moses they spoke against,*

Exodus 17: 7:...they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

Our Shepherd will teach his child that our murmuring is not against man, it is tempting the LORD. But by continuing to save us, he teaches us salvation is all of grace! When we see how we have tempted God and murmured against the Lord, yet he saves us, then we know salvation is all by God's grace for the sake of Christ. There he commanded Moses to smite the Rock and water gushed out for them to drink. Every trial is to make us behold Christ crucified in the room and stead of his people. He is our Righteousness. He bore the stroke of the law in place of his people and satisfied justice for us. It is just for God to show us grace and mercy. Christ is the Bread and Water of Life. He is with us at all times, leading us, instructing us, saving us.

I Corinthians 10: 4:...for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

*The Lord teaches us our need of the gospel of Christ. We see this when the Lord permitted Amalek to attack them in Rephidim (Ex 17: 8). As long as Moses held up the rod of God, Israel won. When Moses let down the rod, Amalek prevailed. That rod held up pictures Christ exalted in the preaching of the gospel. When Moses hands were heavy, they sat him on a rock and Aaron and Hur held up his hands—it is a picture of the Spirit of God using faithful brethren to strengthen his pastor so that he continues to hold up Christ our Banner. As Moses held up the rod, Joshua defeated Amalek: through the preaching that exalts Christ our Banner, Christ our Joshua defeats Amalek on our behalf.*

Exodus 17: 15: And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: [Jehovah our Banner]

Isaiah 59: 19: So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a STANDARD [a Banner, the Gospel of Christ] against him.

Christ has redeemed his people. He find us. He leads us. He instructs by bringing us into circumstances in which we cannot save ourselves. Then he saves us through the preaching of the gospel to show us again and again he alone is our Salvation and we need the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10: 5: But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6: Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 7: Neither be ye idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8: Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. 9: Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 10: Neither murmur ye, as some of them also

murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 11: Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12: Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13: There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*. 14: Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. 15: I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

## **OUR SHEPHERD KEEPS US**

**Deuteronomy 32: 10: He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.**

The apple of the eye is the pupil, the tenderest part, the most frail, weak member of the body. The strongest child of God is yet utterly weak.

But Christ keeps us as the apple of HIS EYE. His child is one with Christ. Those born of the Spirit are of his flesh and of his bones. We are kept by the power of God; "preserved in Christ Jesus." No enemy prevails. No weapon injures. We are like sheep counted for the slaughter. But we are made more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. He provides all our need. Their shoes did not even wear out. At last, the great Shepherd delivered them into Canaan.

That is the believing sinners path from the day Christ our God find us until the day he brings us into the promised land.

**Deuteronomy 32: 10: He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.**

**Amen!**