

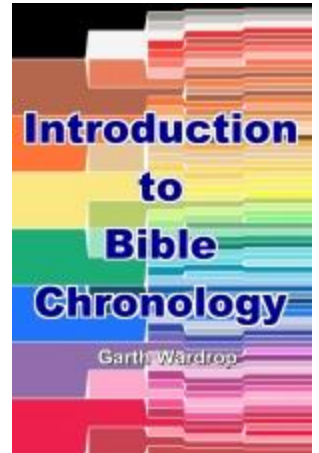
# Pilgrimage Mentality

The “**pilgrimage mentality**” emphasizes the journey toward a specific destination with a sense of purpose & anticipation.

As we consider the first Holy days of spring, we are reminded of:

- God’s Salvation through the death of the Passover lamb
- Leading to the freedom & journey of Israel - out of Egypt - & toward the promised land ... CoG research puts this at about **1443 BC**

As Christians, we know of the dual fulfilment of the Holy Days - that puts even ***more focus on Jesus Christ*** and the Plan of God for mankind. **We need** to view **our lives** as a pilgrimage toward the ultimate destination of being with God in eternity. This perspective shapes our priorities, values, & actions as we journey through life.

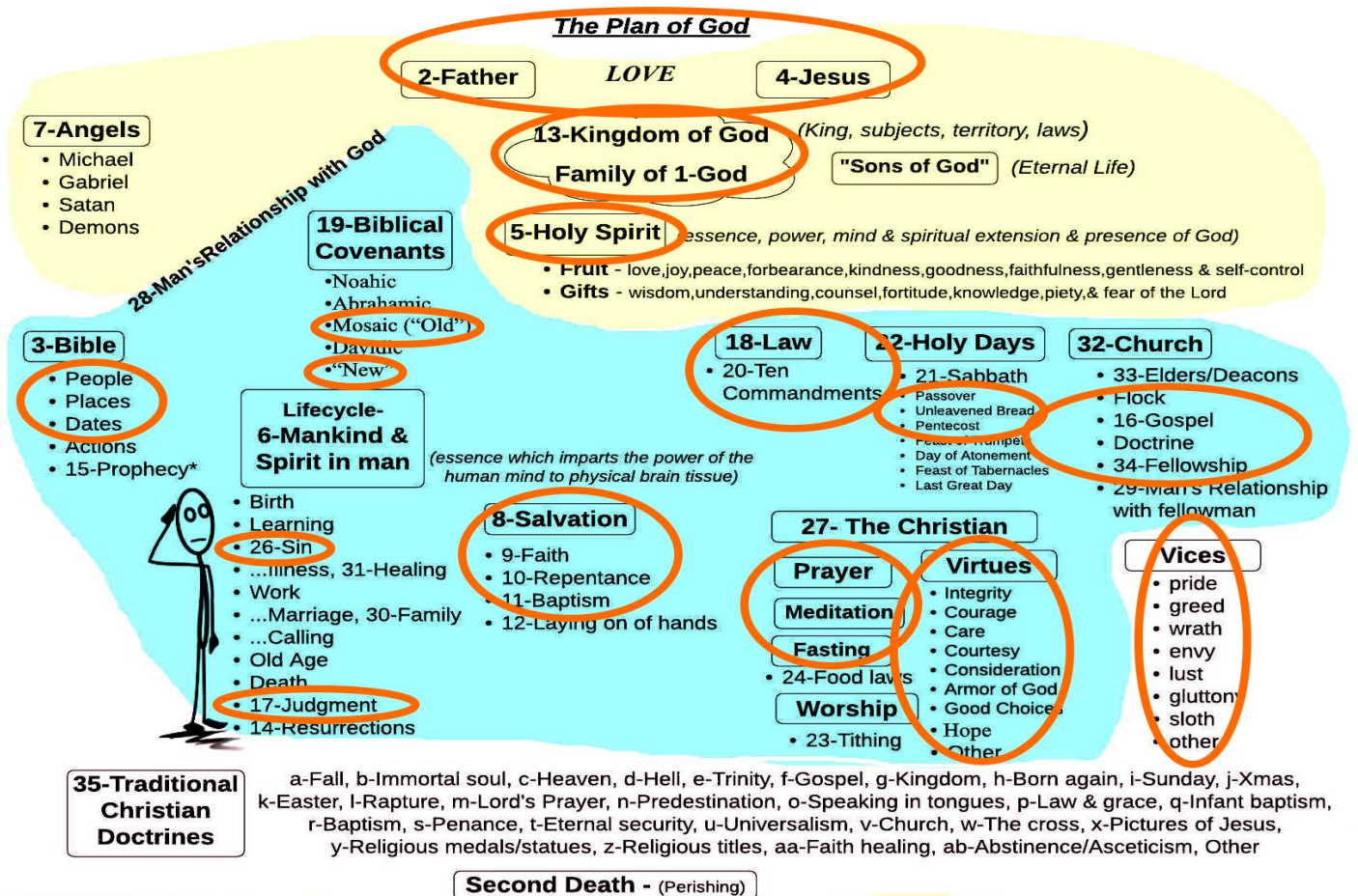


Ancient Israel has finished **their** pilgrimage ... what “was done - is done!” But Paul (nearly 2000 years ago) spoke to the church ...

1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,  
1Co 10:2 all were **baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,  
1Co 10:3 all **ate the same spiritual food**,  
1Co 10:4 and all **drank the same spiritual drink**. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.  
1Co 10:5 But with **most** of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.  
1Co 10:6 Now these things became **our examples**, to the intent that **we should not lust** after evil things as they also lusted.  
1Co 10:7 And **do not become idolaters** as were some of them. As it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT & DRINK, & ROSE UP TO PLAY."  
1Co 10:8 **Nor let us commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;  
1Co 10:9 **nor let us tempt Christ**, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;  
1Co 10:10 **nor complain**, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.  
1Co 10:11 Now **all** these things happened to them as **examples**, and they **were written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.  
1Co 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Today we will explore the “pilgrimage mentality” *of Christians* ... “**Our Journey**”

- men & women who **understand** about Law & Sin & Covenant
- who have **repented** of our sin & accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour & our example
- who have the **Holy Spirit** - the Comforter - indwelling & inspiring
- & who exist & navigate in **this world** while **focused on** the Kingdom of God



## Our Christian Pilgrimage is Scriptural ...

**Psalm 84:5-7:** Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on **pilgrimage**. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion

- This passage expresses the joy & strength found in the **pilgrimage** to Zion - the journey of faith toward God.

**Hebrews 11:13-16:** These all died in faith, **not having received the promises**, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them & confessed that they were **strangers & pilgrims on the earth**. For those who say such things declare plainly that they **seek a homeland**. & truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

- This passage describes the faith of believers who considered themselves **pilgrims** on earth, seeking the city of God that will come down out of heaven (**Rev 21:2**)

**1 Peter 2:11:** Beloved, I beg you as sojourners & **pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

- We Christians are encouraged to see ourselves as pilgrims & sojourners on earth, reminding us to live lives separate from worldly desires

**Philippians 3:20-21:** For our **citizenship** is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

- The Christian's ultimate citizenship (laws & kinship) is in heaven & we anticipate the return of Christ ... to setup the prophesied Kingdom of God on earth ... we pray (per Jesus' model... Mat 6:10 ... Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven)

**Hebrews 12:1-2:** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight, & the sin** which so easily ensnares us, & let us **run with endurance the race** that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, & has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

- This verse encourages us Christians to persevere in our journey of faith, keeping focus on Jesus as we run the race set before us

**Deuteronomy 10:12-13:** & now, Israel, what does the Lord your God **require** of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways & to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul, & to keep the commandments of the Lord & His statutes which I command you today for your good?

- **Requirements!** Gulp! The requirements for the Israelites (& us!) is to fear God, walk in His ways, & keep His commandments as we journey through the wilderness

**Micah 6:8:** He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

- This emphasizes the importance of **walking humbly** with God, reflecting on the **attitude** of our pilgrim journey

**Psalms 119:105:** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- This clearly expresses the **reliance** of us pilgrims on God's Word as a guide & source of illumination on our journey



**Matthew 7:13-14:** Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate & broad is the way that leads to destruction, & there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate & difficult is the way which leads to life, & there are few who find it.

- Jesus speaks of the narrow & difficult path that leads to life, underscoring the pilgrim's journey of **faith** as one that requires **dedication & perseverance**

**Romans 12:1-2:** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. & **do not be conformed to this world**, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good & acceptable & perfect will of God.

- Christians need to live lives of dedication & transformation, offering ourselves as living sacrifices & renewing our minds according to **God's will** as we journey through life



The **Christian walk** can be seen as similar to the **journey of the Israelites** to the promised land in several ways:

**1. Journey of Faith:** Just as the Israelites were called to trust in God's guidance & provision as they journeyed through the wilderness toward the promised land, Christians are called to walk by faith & trust in God's leading in our lives.

**2Cor 5:7** For we walk by **faith**, not by sight.

**Heb 11:6** But without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**2. Trials and Testing:** Like the Israelites faced various trials, challenges, and temptations during their journey, Christians also encounter difficulties, struggles, & temptations in our spiritual walk. These trials serve to refine & strengthen our faith.

**James 1:2-3** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

**3. Promised Inheritance:** The promised land symbolizes the inheritance & blessings that God has prepared for His people. Similarly, Christians have the promise of eternal life & inheritance in the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ.

**1Co 2:9** But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

**Rev 21:1-4** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven & the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. & I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, & He will dwell with them, & they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them & be their God. & God will wipe away every tear from their eyes..."

**Joh 14:2** In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

**4. Obeying God's Commands:** Just as the Israelites were given commandments & instructions to follow in order to remain in God's favor & receive His blessings, Christians are called to obey God's commands & live according to His teachings as revealed in the Bible.

**Joh 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

**1Cor 6:9-11** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **& such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus & by the Spirit of our God.





**5. God's Presence and Guidance:** Throughout the journey, the Israelites were led by the presence of God in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Similarly, we Christians believe in the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who guides, comforts, & empowers us in our walk.

**Joh 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

**6. Faithfulness & Covenant:** Despite the Israelites' failures & disobedience at times, God remained faithful to His covenant promises. Likewise, Christians trust in God's faithfulness & rely on His **grace & mercy** despite our own shortcomings.

**Deu 7:9** Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who **keeps covenant & mercy** for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

**Luke 22:20** Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant** in My blood, which is shed for you."

**Jer 31:31-34** "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel & with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put **My law in their minds**, & write it **on their hearts**; & I will be their God, & they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, & every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they **all shall know Me**, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, & their sin I will remember no more."

**7. Ultimate Fulfillment:** Just as the Israelites eventually entered the promised land & experienced the fulfillment of God's promises ... Christians look forward to the ultimate fulfillment of God's Kingdom when Christ returns & establishes His reign over all creation.

**Rev 19:11-15** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. & He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS.

**8. Wandering & Wilderness Experience:** Just as the Israelites spent years wandering in the wilderness before reaching the promised land, Christians may go through seasons of spiritual wilderness, where they face uncertainty, trials, and spiritual growth before experiencing the fullness of God's promises.

**1Tim 6:10** For the **love of money** is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith & pierced themselves with many griefs.



**9. Victory through God's Power:** The conquest of the promised land by the Israelites was accomplished not by their own strength, but through God's power & intervention. Similarly, we Christians rely on God's strength & guidance to overcome spiritual battles & challenges in our lives.

**Eph 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. *(Therefore...Not Armor of men but Armor of God!)*

**10. The Importance of Community:** The journey of Israel to the promised land was undertaken as a community, with each tribe playing a role in the journey. Similarly, Christians are called to **walk together in community**, supporting, encouraging, & holding one another accountable in our faith journey.

**1Co 12:12-14** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.

...

**1Co 12:24-27** ... God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. & if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now **you are** the body of Christ, & members individually.

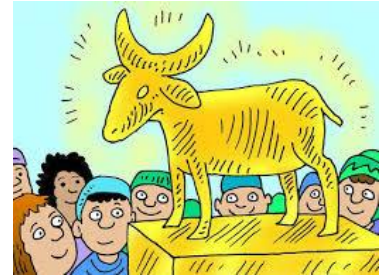
**11. Consequences of Disobedience:** Just as the Israelites faced consequences for their disobedience & rebellion against God, Christians are reminded of the importance of obedience & the potential consequences of straying from God's commands.

**Num 14:22** ... all these men who have **seen My glory** & **the signs** which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, & have **put Me to the test** now these **ten times**, **AND** have **not heeded** My voice

**God was prepared to destroy them ALL & build a nation with Moses' offspring - but Moses **successfully** reasoned with God**

## What were the **ten times** the Israelites tested the LORD?

- (1) **Lacking faith** before the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:11–12)
- (2) **Complaining** over the bitter water at Marah (Exodus 15:24)
- (3) Complaining in the Desert of Sin (Exodus 16:3)
- (4) **Collecting more manna** than they were supposed to (Exo 16:20)
- (5) Attempting to collect manna on the **Sabbath** (Exodus 16:27–29)
- (6) Complaining over the **lack of water** at Rephidim (Exodus 17:2–3)
- (7) Engaging in idolatry in the **golden calf** incident (Exodus 32:7–10)
- (8) Complaining at Taberah (Numbers 11:1–2)
- (9) Complaining over the **lack of food** (Numbers 11:4)
- (10) **Failing to trust God** and enter the Promised Land (Num 14:1–4)



Truly the LORD is “slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression,” just as Moses said (**Numbers 14:18**). Were it not for the LORD’s patience and mercy, **judgment** would have occurred earlier. God’s mercy toward Israel is a powerful illustration of **2 Peter 3:9**, “The Lord is . . . patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

**Mat 25:30** & cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Mar 9:43** If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched...(*metaphor*)

**12. Preparation for the Promised Land:** Before entering the promised land, the Israelites had to prepare themselves spiritually & mentally for the challenges that lay ahead. Similarly, we Christians are called to prepare ourselves for the promises & blessings of God through **prayer, study of Scripture, fasting, meditation & obedience** to His Word.

**Heb 2:1** Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

...

**Heb 2:3** how shall we **escape if we neglect** so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

**So ...** as we Christians maintain our **Pilgrimage Mentality** through the days of Unleavened bread & the Last Day of Unleavened bread, & beyond ... in our count to Pentecost ... & to the Kingdom of God... We hope we have all learned lessons about putting leaven (sin) **out** of our lives & putting the unleavenedness of Jesus **into** our lives. The Holy Days remind us to (Point 12) - Prepare for the Promised Land - To draw closer to God & Jesus in Prayer because ...

**Rom 14:10-12** ... we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, & EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD." So then **each of us** shall give account of himself to God.

For **baptised** Christians, we **have given** an account of our lives in our repentance before baptism & in our **ongoing prayers & repentance & relationship** with Jesus our Saviour & High Priest.

**1Jn 5:11-12** & this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, & this life is in His Son. **He who has the Son has life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.