

A sunset over the pyramids of Giza. The sky is a mix of dark orange, red, and black, with some clouds. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb partially obscured by the pyramids. The pyramids are dark silhouettes against the bright sky.

# Going Home to Egypt

Hebrews 3:12-19

# Previously

- Israel Dominated By Egypt
- Israel Delivered From Egypt



# Keeping The Back Door Open

- Few people can let go of the past enough to prevent it from hindering the present and destroying the future
  - Heb. 11:15 - “And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.”
  - Matt. 12:43-45 - “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

# What Conditions Are Necessary To Move One To Long For A Bad Past?

- Hard times in the present lead one to look for an escape; everyone has to deal with this; hard times do not make our situation special or unique
- A selective memory that recalls only the pleasant or fun things from the past and excludes the bad things
- A deliberate choice to believe that returning to the past is an acceptable option for the children of God

# Israel Desired Egypt

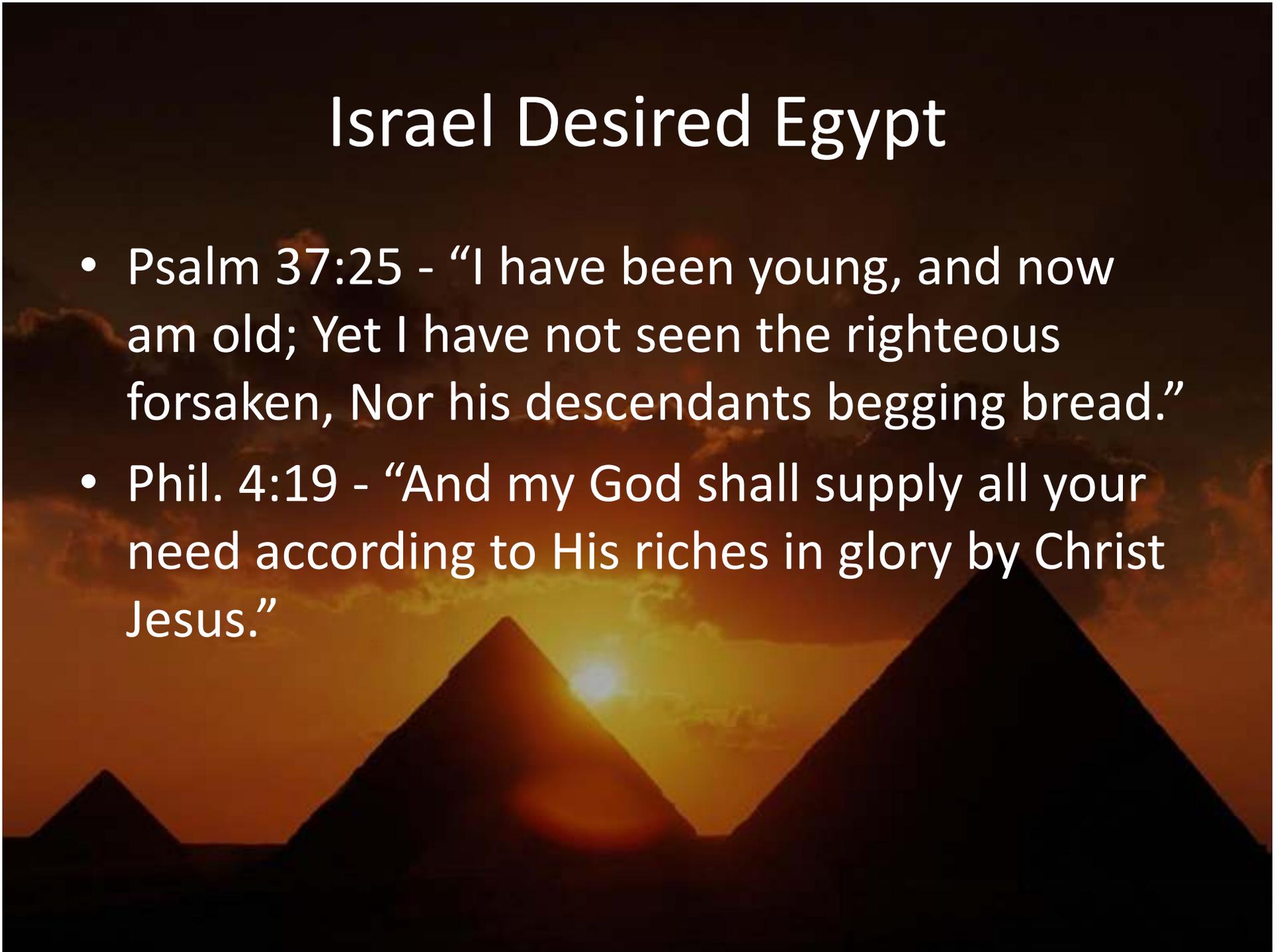
- Desired the worldly safety of Egypt
  - Ex. 14:10-11 - “And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. 11 Then they said to Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?”

# Israel Desired Egypt

- Desired the supplies of Egypt
  - Ex. 16:2-3 - “Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 And the children of Israel said to them, Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”
  - Ex. 17:3 - “And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”
  - Num. 20:4 “Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here?”

# Israel Desired Egypt

- Psalm 37:25 - “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.”
- Phil. 4:19 - “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”



# Israel Desired Egypt

- Desired the spirits of Egypt
  - Ex. 32:1-8
  - Luke 9:62 - “Jesus said to him, No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”
  - 2Peter 2:20-22 - “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit, and, a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

# Israel Desired Egypt

- Desired the stability of Egypt
  - Num. 21:4-5 - “Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.”

# Israel Desired Egypt

- The question becomes, do you prefer stability here for a little while or stability forever in heaven?
  - Heb. 12:1-4 - “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 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, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”

# Israel Desired Egypt

- Despised the savior from Egypt
  - Deut. 1:27 - “You complained in your tents, and said, 'Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.’”
  - Heb. 6:6 - “if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”
  - Heb. 10:28-29 - “Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”

# Israel Dying To Egypt

- The majority died in a polluted land
  - Num. 14:3 - “Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”
  - Num. 14:29 - “The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.”

# Israel Dying To Egypt

- Heb. 10:26-27 - “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.”



# Israel Dying To Egypt

- Heb. 3:12-19 - “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

# Israel Dying To Egypt

- The minority died in the promised land
  - Num. 14:30 - “Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.”



# Israel Dying To Egypt

- Phil. 3:13-15 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind”
- Phil. 1:21-22 - “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.”

# Israel Dying To Egypt

- 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

# Going Home to Egypt

- It can happen to us.
  - Gen. 19:26 - “But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”
  - Luke 17:32 - “Remember Lot's wife.”
  - Heb. 11:15 - “And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.”