INTRO: We want to take note of two facts from O.T. history, and then make a N.T. application of those facts. (1) Egypt, the wilderness, & the promised land are all different places. (2) All who made it to the promised land had to first journey thru the wilderness.

I. ISRAELITES IN BONDAGE TO EGYPT.
   And I also have heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, & I have remembered My covenant. (Ex. 6:5)

   A. God sent Moses to deliver them. READ EX. 3:16-17
   B. Moses led believing Israel thru the Red Sea. READ EXODUS 14:21-28

   C. Once they were safe on the other shore, Moses & all Israel sang the song of deliverance. READ EX. 15:1

   D. In time, Israel’s faith faltered & the vast majority of them fell away from God & never entered the promised land. READ NUMBERS 32:10-13

   E. Eventually, the faithful crossed over the Jordan River & entered the land that had been promised to them. READ JOSHUA 1:10-11

II. NEW TESTAMENT APPLICATION. PEOPLE TODAY ARE IN BONDAGE TO SIN. READ JOHN 8:31-36

   A. God sent His Son to deliver us. Rom. 6:23; JN 3:16-17
   B. For the believe in Christ, N.T. baptism corresponds to Israel’s crossing of the Red Sea. READ I COR 10:1-2

   C. The Israelites in the wilderness, freed from bondage, were a foreshadow of the N.T. church

      This [Moses] is he, that was in the church in the wilderness... (Acts 7:38 KJV).
D. Just as Israel rejoiced after crossing the Red Sea, N.T. believers rejoiced after their baptism into Christ.

Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; & he went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:39).

And he took them the same hour of the night & washed their stripes. And immediately he & all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; & he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. (Acts 16:33-34).

E. The faithful Christian has no reason to fear death. It stands between him & the promised land of heaven just as the River Jordan stood between Israel and the land of Canaan

For I am hard-pressed between the 2, having a desire to depart & be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. (Phil. 1:23-24).

O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? (1 Cor. 15:55).

CONCLUSION: Israel’s unfaithfulness & its consequences must be a warning to us. READ I CORINTHIANS 10:1-12.

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, April 25, 1965
Cox Springs, TX, June 27, 1965
Jonestown, TX, September 8, 1968
Springhill, LA, October 27, 1974
La Porte, TX, December 20, 1981
Exton, PA, July 2, 1989
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 27, 1999