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4/26/15

“The Egyptian Option”

“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord! (Isaiah 31:1)”

Isaac’s Victories

Genesis 26:1-4, 12-13 – (1) “Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. (2) And the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. (3) Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. (4) I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,’ (12) And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, (13) and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.”

Genesis 26:18-22 – (18) “And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. (19) But when Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, (20) the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac’s herdsmen, saying, ‘The water is ours.’ So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. (21) Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. (22) And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, ‘For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.’”

Egyptian-Option Failures

1 Kings 3:1 – “Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He took Pharaoh’s daughter and brought her into the city of David until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem.”

Isaiah 30:1-3, 7, 15 – (1) “‘Ah, stubborn children,’ declares the LORD, ‘who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; (2) who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! (3) Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation. (7) Egypt’s help is worthless and empty; therefore I have called her ‘Rahab who sits still.’ (15) For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, ‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.’ But you were unwilling.”

Jeremiah 42:19 – “The LORD has said to you, O remnant of Judah, ‘Do not go to Egypt.’ Know for a certainty that I have warned you this day”

Response:

(1) Identify Your ‘Egypt-Reflex(s)’

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous (*an idol*) way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” (Psalm 139:23-24)

(2) Key Point: Know the Lord is Your Source

“O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.” (Hosea 14:8)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Who or what have I placed my trust in? (Prov. 3:5; Is. 2:22)

What is my particular “Egypt Reflex”?

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)