

The Double Blessing

“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future He has promised to those He called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance He has given to His people.” Ephesians 1:18

In the book of Exodus, God delivered the Hebrew nation *from* Egypt and *to* the Promised Land. This Old Testament story represents a “type and shadow” of what God has done for us in the New Testament. Moses was a deliverer (foreshadowing Jesus as our Savior), redeeming God’s people *from* Egypt, which represented bondage, death, sin and darkness. Here is the interesting part. God didn’t just free His people *from* their bondage and lack, and then merely tell the Hebrew multitude to go and make villages, raise sheep and live happily-ever-after. No, He intended to give them a double blessing. God wanted to deliver His people *to* a glorious inheritance, the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey—the double blessing. Today, we have a more glorious inheritance promised to us than the Old Testament Israelites.



God did not require the Israelites to amass a mighty and fierce army to invade the Promised Land. Why should He? God had previously used His awesome power to deliver the Hebrews from the deadliest army of the known world. Likewise, God does not require us to be powerful or famous to have victory in Him. If you are yielded to God and willing to walk in *His strength and His ways*, His great promises and provisions are yours to enjoy.

The double blessing is a remarkable and marvelous truth, almost too much to grasp. Like the Israelites, God not only saves us *from* something but also saves us *to* something. Consider this modern-day illustration: A wealthy businessman has empathy for an indigent man and “saves” him *from* an alleyway. The businessman provided the means for the poor fellow to have a second chance by giving him a good paying job—a very generous and righteous act. But God’s heart goes beyond the natural. Suppose in this example, the wealthy businessman then appoints the rescued man *to* his board of directors. This over-the-top generosity does not make sense to a temporal mind.

However, in God’s Kingdom, His mercy, grace and love, rescues us from the hopelessness of an indigent to become the child of the King. As His children, He doesn’t relegate us to the bunkhouse; He takes us into His home and gives us a rich and glorious inheritance. Galatians 4:7 says it this way, “*Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are His child, everything He has belongs to you.*”

The story of the prodigal son is another good example of the double blessing. It perfectly illustrates the unmerited favor that God bestows upon us. The father in this story redeemed his son *from* destitution and restored him *to* an honorable state. From a human perspective, the prodigal son did not deserve (merit) the father’s lavish love that he bestowed upon his rebellious son. The father could have just given him a position in the family business, and that would have been more than a gracious gesture. But to fully restore his wayward son, the father gave him: his best robe (of righteousness), a signet ring (authority) and sandals (son-ship), and then extravagantly celebrated his return. The father’s excessive love in this story is a “picture” of God’s unconditional restoration that is difficult for the human intellect to fathom.

God has provided for, and desires to deliver you *to*, His “here and now” restoration; the second half of the double blessing. You should desire it too. Why? Because it brings Him glory. God wants to take you beyond His provision of mercy—*He wants to restore you and make you whole*. Like the Israelites, God didn’t just forgive you with His mercy and then leave you to survive the best you can by your own strength. *He wants to elevate you to the abundant life through His infinite grace*. Through His grace, God doesn’t just deliver us *from something (the wages of sin)*; He also wants to deliver us *to something (the abundant life)*.

 Information and Revelation
 Transformation

Heavenly Father, You are amazing in Your extravagant love for me. Thank You for looking ahead in time and giving Your Son, Jesus, to redeem me from bondage, death, sin and spiritual darkness. I ask You to work in me the complete redemption that You have provided for me through Your son, Jesus, so my life will be a living testimony of Your love. I receive Your mercy, grace and love that rescues me from a hopeless life without You. Therefore, I receive wholeness in my body, renewal of my mind, and I receive restoration for my wounded soul, I now receive Your robe of righteousness, Your ring of authority and the sandals of sonship, so that I fully reflect Christlikeness to those I know and meet. I ask this for Your glory, in Jesus’ precious name. Amen.