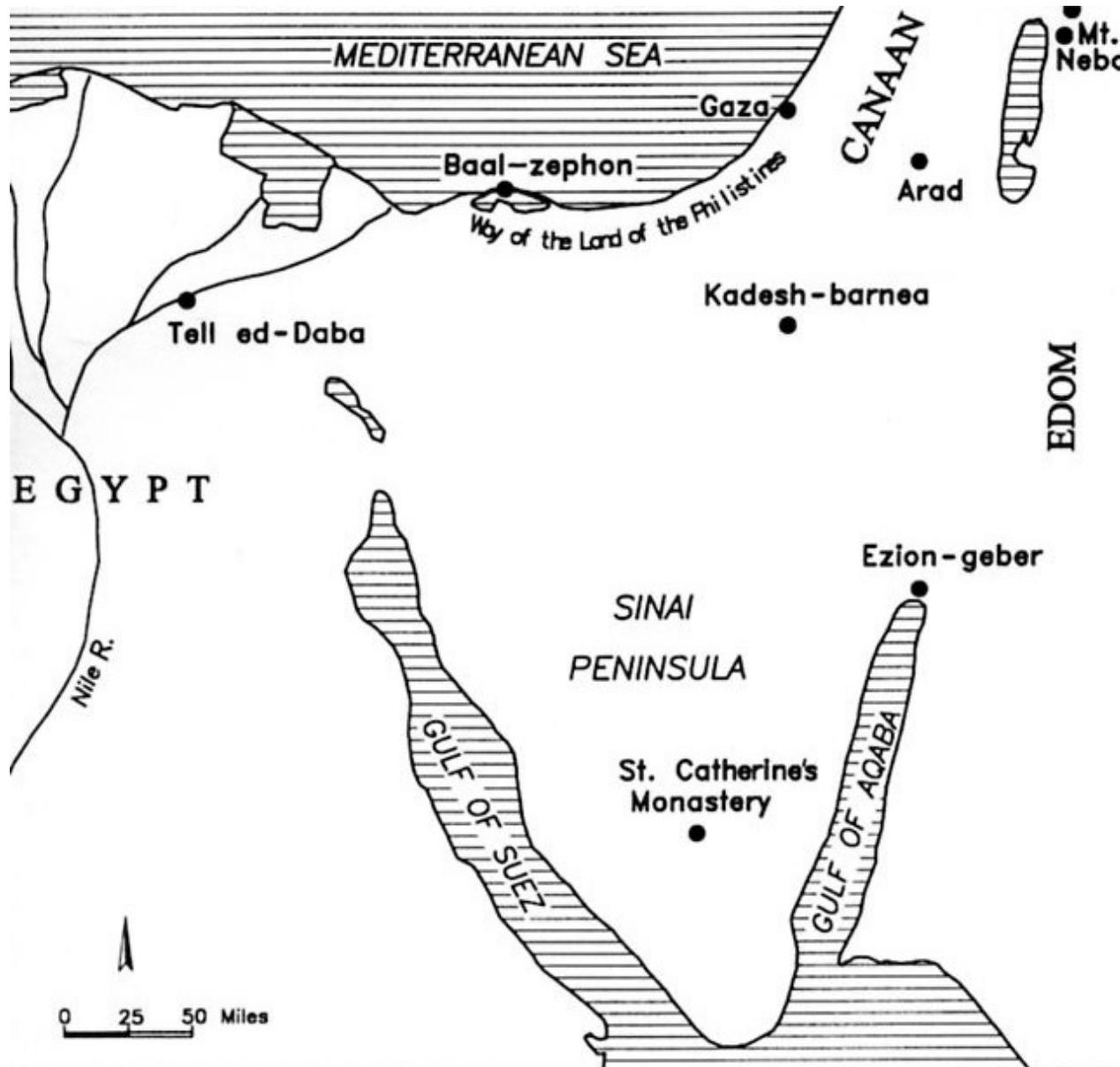


Psalm 105: Exodus Story



Psalm 105 (104) (Mode 3. 3....12 / 4.....271)

The previous psalm was one of praise and thanksgiving for creation. Now the psalmist focuses on what the Lord has done in the history of his people.

Compare the other historical psalms 78, 106, and 136. The psalmist is calling the people to seek the Lord continually and to obey God's will, for they are God's chosen people.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,
Tell all the peoples what the Lord has done.
Sing to the sound of instruments;
tell of all the wonderful things the Lord has done.

Sing Alleluia to God's holy name.
May the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek continually for the presence
and the power of the Lord.

You offspring of God's servant Abraham,
you children of Jacob, the chosen of the Lord,
remember God's wonderful deeds,
God's miracles, and judgments.

'You, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend'(Isaiah 41:8).

The Lord is our God, judge of all the earth.
God is ever mindful of the covenant, [P. 'commitment']
the promise made to Abraham,
the oath to Isaac, confirmed to Jacob,
the everlasting commitment made to Israel
fixed for a thousand generations.

God said 'To you I will give a land,
Canaan, as your inheritance.' [Genesis 15:18]

‘The Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them; he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’(2Kings 13:23

‘I will choose among their descendants the heads of the stock of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob’(Jeremiah 33:26).

‘Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many’(Isaiah 51:1-2).

Jesus' followers are the beneficiaries of God's promise to the patriarchs.

See Romans 4; 9:6-9; Galatians 3:16-18; 26-29.

However, we must heed the words of the Baptist:

'Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.'

(Matthew 3:9)

When they were few in number, of little account,
and strangers in the land,
wandering from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another,
God allowed no one to oppress them,
rebuking kings on their account:

‘Do not touch my anointed ones;
do my prophets no harm.’

The Lord protected Abram in Egypt (see Genesis 12:10-20),
and in Gerar (see Genesis 20:1-8).

He also protected Isaac in Gerar (see Genesis 26:1-11).

God caused famine to ravish the land,
and took away their sustenance.

Joseph was sent on ahead,
sold as a slave.

His feet were bound with fetters,
his neck with a collar of iron,
until what he had said came to pass,
and he was vindicated by the word of the Lord.

The Joseph saga is found in Genesis 37-50.

Pharaoh released him;
the ruler of nations set him free.
He made him master of the palace,
steward of all his possessions,
to instruct his officials at his pleasure,
and to teach his elders wisdom.

Then Israel came to Egypt; [Genesis 46-47]
Jacob lived there as an alien.

The Lord made Jacob's people fruitful,
stronger than their foes,
whose hearts God then turned to hate Israel.
They were eager to enslave them. [Exodus 1]

God sent Moses, the servant of the Lord, [Exodus 3:10]
and Aaron, the chosen one. [Exodus 4:27]

They performed signs among them,
and miracles in Egypt.

[Exodus 10:21-29]

God covered the land in darkness,
but still they resisted.

In Exodus the defeat of the sun-god is the 9th
plague. The psalmist mentions it first!

God turned their waters into blood, [Psalm 78:44-51]
causing their fish to die. [Exodus 7:14-25]

Their land swarmed with frogs, [Exodus 7:26 - 8:11]

even in the chambers of their king.

God spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
and gnats throughout their country. [Exodus 8:12-15]

God sent hail to pound them,
and lightning to strike the land. [Exodus 9:13-35]

God struck their vines and fig trees,
and shattered the trees throughout the land.

God spoke, and the locusts came, [Exodus 10:1-20]
young locusts without number.

They devoured all the vegetation,
the fruit of the land.

God struck Egypt's first born,
the first issue of their strength,
and led Israel out with silver and gold.
Not one among them faltered.
Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread had fallen upon them.

[Exodus 12:29-36]

God spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire glowing by night.

[Exodus 13:21-23]

Israel prayed, and God sent quails, [Exodus 16:1-36]
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

God opened a rock, and water gushed out,
flowing through the desert like a river. [Exodus 17:1-7]

God remembered the holy promise,
given to Abraham, the servant of the Lord.

God brought the people out with joy,
the chosen ones with shouts of rejoicing.

God gave them the lands
where others had toiled,
that they might keep the commandments
and observe God's law. Alleluia!