

CASE STUDY: NOT HEARING THE PROMISES OF GOD!



- **SETTING:** The Ancient Israelites were still slaves under the yoke of Pharaoh.
- **STORY LINE:** God promises rescue and a fresh start in a new land.
- **TRAGIC ENDING:** They could not hear God. They could not get past their circumstances.
- **“I am GOD ... The Strong God ... I am GOD ... I will bring you out from under the cruel hard labor of Egypt ... I will rescue you from slavery ... I will redeem you, intervening with great acts of judgment ... I will take you as my own people ... and I will be God to you ... You will know that I am GOD, your God ... I will bring you into the land that I promised ... I AM GOD.”**
- But ... **they didn't even hear him**—

(From Exodus 6:2-9 The Message)



- For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV).

• “Blessing Gone Wrong” ... Growing fat and forgetful ...

(Deuteronomy 31:20 ESV) For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant.

The Blessing of the Crown of Life ...



- The crown of life is the emblem, not of royalty, but of highest joy and gladness, of glory and immortality (R. C. Trench).
- Man cannot earn the crown of life, for God gives it to him full and free. God asks that man place his complete confidence in him and love him wholeheartedly (Simon Kistemaker).
- The blessing is not in being delivered from the trial, but is something found within and through the trial by means of the practice of endurance (Motyer, J. A.).
- But what attracts the reward is not their endurance, but the love for God which prompted it. The crown of life is his gift to those who love him. What a key truth for the whole of life (Ibid)!
- Our progress to the crown is expedited not by our powers of endurance but by the depth and reality and pervasiveness of our love for him. We live by what we love; the shape of our lives is determined by the joys of our hearts (Ibid).
- The blessings God will give are summed up in the gift of the crown of life. Specially, it is the reward of faithful endurance. Those who are prepared to use this life as an arena of endurance for Jesus' sake will find that an abundant life awaits them from the hand of God (Ibid).

