

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

NEWS & EVENTS – September 2025

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*The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in **Egypt**, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with **milk and honey**, to the place of the **Canaanite** and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.” **Exodus 3:7-9***

Moses was advanced in age when he saw the burning bush and heard the voice of God. At some point in his past, an awareness emerged that Egypt was not his home or his heritage. When this spiritual encounter occurred, Moses was in exile in Midian, tending the sheep of Jethro, his father-in-law. Perhaps he thought that he would live out his days in the desert, doing the same things every day. But in the perfect timing of the Most High God, He delights in revealing His presence and the power of His promises. As Moses turned aside to see this marvelous sight (*a bush ablaze with fire without being consumed*) God saw him looking. When the Lord God Almighty engages people in their lives, He designs the engagement that can be hard to miss. Moses didn't miss this one. He saw the bush and he heard the voice. This revelation of God's presence and promise was connected to familiar things.

Milk and honey. The combination of these two words has been with me for a long time. As a boy, I remember these words being associated with a different kind of place...a land of milk and honey. I didn't quite know what that meant but I heard it a lot in church. As I am now advanced in years, at least according to the culture I inhabit, most of these 70 years I have heard about this land. But I've never stopped to think about the words and get a sense of the taste. Is this just poetic language of Scripture or does it have some practical meaning? What does the Spirit of God want me to understand? One morning some months ago, before leaving home into the wilderness of the work-a-day world, I prepared the breakfast I normally consume. Multigrain cereal with milk, mixed with cashews and blueberries. In my mind these things seem compatible for human intake. But that morning we were out of Splenda. So, I used a substitute for the artificial sweetener. Honey was added to the milk and became my first meal of the day. What a combination! After hearing about this phrase for much of my life, I have tasted its goodness. I see now why God talks about it so much!

Several books of the Old Testament connect these words to the promise that God made to Moses that day...the promise of deliverance. Take note that the passage reveals that God will take them from a place of evil oppression to a good place of plenty. We can also realize that this good place will still be influenced by the presence of evil. *From Egypt to Canaan.* Here is the meaning I am gleaning. We live in this world, oppressed and bound by the evil intention of spiritual entities rebellion against the Most High God. Sin's oppression is still around and within us. When we become weary of living under this bondage, the Good Shepherd is ready to deliver. We are promised a place where God will bless His people with His Presence without sin's presence. We aren't quite there yet. Discouragement can plague us when we forget God's promise to deliver. Deliverance is a process. Moses is promised a reality for the children of God. They're going from Egypt to Canaan. In this world we are given hope. The hope that God gives us in His promise is that we will experience moments of milk and honey in this age. The most comforting thing in my milk and honey moment is realizing that God provides us with His presence. He is with us in every promise, in every age, especially when I hear Jesus speak these words...

*"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." **John 14:3***

*O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! **Psalm 34:8***

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam

(If you are unable to attend Mt. Olivet's 11 AM Sunday worship service in person, can go to website www.mobic.org and click on "Worship Services" for live streaming or prior messages.)