Out of the Land of Egypt

The phrase, "Out of the land of Egypt" is found numerous times in our Bible and holds great significance. God told Abraham that Israel would be servants in Egypt for 400 years (Genesis 15:12-16). Exodus 12:40 reveals the Hebrews exiting Egypt and celebrating the occasion by keeping the Feast of Passover. The apostle Paul tells us that God removed His people with a "high arm" (Acts 13:17).

Egypt shared world power status with the Hittites during the days of Hebrew servitude. Ramses II was likely the Pharaoh at the time of the Bible events recorded in the book of Exodus. The mind of man would give the Hebrew slaves a zero percent probability of removing themselves from such a world power. Man was to learn that with God there is nothing too hard to accomplish (Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:16-19, 26-27).

God chooses Moses to deliver the Hebrews from their long standing bondage in Egypt. Moses, through the hand of God, performed some of the mightiest wonders recorded in the Bible. The apostle Paul writes, "For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, For this very purpose did I raise thee up, that I might show in thee my power, and that my name might be published abroad in all the earth" (Romans 9:17). The supreme, eternal, and universal sovereignty of Jehovah God was made known to the world then and forever more when Jehovah removed His people from Egypt. The crippling plagues that fell upon the Egyptians were catastrophic and incredible to behold. The event made an imprint upon the minds of men that should have never been shaken. Yet God's people soon forgot.

The Bible phrase, "Jehovah their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt..." is found so many times throughout the Old Testament that one would have to be blind and dumb not to see that God intends for man to recognize the great significance. The Northern Kingdom of Israel heard this phrase one last time before they fell to Assyria (see 2 Kings 17:7). Israel had sinned
against Jehovah their God in that they put him out of their mind and out of their lives.

What would bring a people to the point of not putting their faith and trust into the God that crippled a world power such as Egypt? This same God loved them, cared for them, and protected them. The Lord said, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be mine own possession from among all peoples: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:4-6).

That which brought Israel to forget the all powerful, mighty, and loving God was their hardened hearts. Israel had adopted the ways of the world around them to the point of forgetting all that God had done for them (see 2 Kings 17:13-16). The Lord tried to stir up their remembrance by sending prophets and performing other miracles in their sight yet they continued to reject him. Eventually, the patient and loving God was provoked to so much anger that he "removed them out of his sight" (2 Kings 17:18).

The lesson for you and I today is, "Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1). God had removed Israel from the Egyptians and was to fulfill his promise to them regarding the land of Canaan. Likewise, our heavenly Canaan land awaits us if we would put our faith, trust, and hope in him. The Lord has continued his love for man by giving his only beloved son as a ransom for mankind's sin (John 3:16). Will we conform our lives to this world or to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29; 12:1-2)? Will we be grateful for the Lord's magnificent loving sacrifice or will we be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13)? God has done much for us what shall we do in return?

The Lord continues to this day to be patient and longsuffering with man yet like in the days of Israel His divine patience will one day run out and man will give an account for all his deeds (see Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:15). Let all consider God's great power as he delivered Israel out of Egypt. Let us also remember God's great power as he delivers man from the power of sin today.
All of the Dead Shall Rise

Introduction:

The resurrection of the dead was a topic preached and believed by man during the days of Christ and the apostles (see John 11:24; Acts 17:18, 32). While Christians believed and taught a resurrection of the dead there were others who believed and taught otherwise. Some were teaching that the resurrection had already passed (2 Timothy 2:16-18) and thereby overthrew the faith of some (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). Some were teaching that even though Christ was raised from the dead no one else will be (1 Corinthians 15:12). Still others, such as the Sadducees, did not believe anyone at all would be raised from the grave of death (Matthew 22:23-33). The subject of man's resurrected body is a peculiar and defining doctrine in the gospel message (1 Corinthians 15:1ff). The hope of a bodily resurrection is to be that which gives mankind an incentive to live godly in Christ Jesus. Let us examine this important topic in God's word.

I. Resurrections in the Bible:
   A. The widow's son (1 Kings 17:17-24).
   B. Moabite man who came in contact with Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:20-21).
   C. Lazarus (John 11:1-46)
   D. Eutychus (Acts 20:7-10)
   E. Jesus / first fruits of those who will never die again (1 Corinthians 15:20).

II. Jesus' Resurrection proved the Truths Taught on the Subject (Matthew 28:1-10):
   B. Paul preached on the resurrection (Acts 17:18, 32; 24:21; Philippians 3:10-11).
   C. The gospel on the resurrection:
      1. God's power is manifest in the resurrection (Romans 1:1-4).
      2. All will be raised (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).
      3. Christ resurrection is proof that all will be raised (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

III. Paul answers Three Questions about the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15):
    A. How will the Dead be Raised (1 Corinthians 15:35-38)?
    B. What Type of Body will the Resurrected Have (1 Corinthians 15:39-49)?
    C. When will the Resurrection Occur (I Corinthians 15:51-57)?

Conclusion:

The apostle Paul concludes the discussion over bodily resurrection by saying, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). The gospel message is that man hear, believe, confess, repent, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins that you may live eternally with the heavenly Father. Most of the gospel message; however, is about "abounding in the work of the Lord... i.e., labor." Our labor in the Lord's work will not be vain if we will keep pressing forward (Revelation 2:10). Let us be reminded of why it is that we continue to labor and strive for godliness. Jesus said, "The hour comes in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28-29). Every person will spend eternity somewhere (Revelation 20:10-15).