

# FROM ASHES TO EASTER

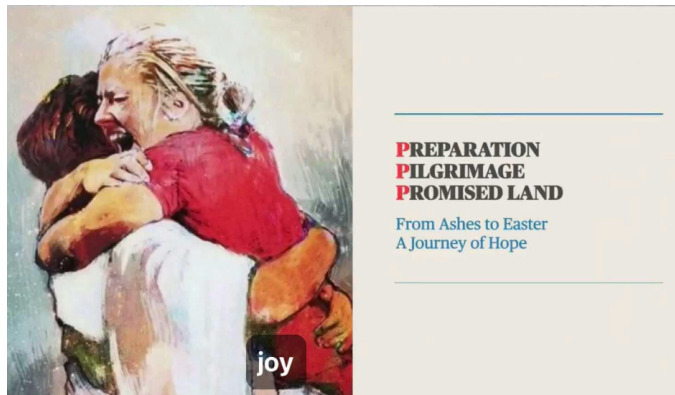
## (A Journey of Hope)

### A Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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March 15, 2025

From Ashes to Easter is a spiritual journey beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. A transition we can call "**A Journey of Hope**," a constant reminder of our mortality and the need for repentance, faith, and obedience to God to be able to reach His Promised Land, the eternal life in heaven, through Jesus Christ.



Hence, this journey teaches us how we are to live this pilgrimage through the desert called "life"

### THE 3Ps IN "A JOURNEY OF HOPE"

**1. Preparation.** To prepare, one needs to know where he/she is going or where the journey ends. For us believers, the end of our journey is the Promised Land, the eternal life in Heaven, a life after death.

The preparation begins with our interior being acknowledging our mortality, repenting, and turning for God's mercy and grace. A public declaration we make on Ash Wednesday.

Moreover, knowing death is necessary to get to the Promised Land, it could cause us to let go of the non-essentials in life (i.e., unforgiveness, grudges, material possessions, etc.) and hold on to what is essential- God.

#### Ash Wednesday Symbol of Paradoxes

PARADOX	STATEMENT		REMINDS US
To Remember	From Dust (Gen 2:17)	To Dust (Gen 3:19)	We are mortals; we will all die
To Repent	Lowest Point (Jer 15:6)	Turning Point (Ps 51:19)	To repent and return to God
To Rediscover	Ugly In Us (Gen 3:7)	Beauty in Us (Ps 139:14)	The ugliness of sin and beauty of the redemptive love of God
To Reconnect	To Give Up (Gal 5:17-19)	To Give In (Mt 6:6)	To give up things of this world and give in to a relationship with God

**2. Pilgrimage.** Traveling through life is difficult, thus, He made us a covenant: "I will be your God, and you will be My people." So that we would not be lost in our journey.

Indeed, He is a faithful God who fulfills His covenant, though we have become ungrateful (2 Tim 2:11-13). His covenant, our hope, and consolation, assures us His guidance through Jesus Christ. Hence, He requires our faithfulness and obedience. Also, Lent reminds us of the dryness of our journey and the hope we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3. Promised Land.** Moses and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea to be freed from slavery and sin. Joshua and the Israelites passed through the Jordan River to be liberated from death and reach the Promised Land. In both scenarios, they crossed a body of water, which is impossible to cross unless God made them. Similarly, for us to reach the Promised Land (Heaven), we need to face death, but we cannot do it on our own. For No man can conquer death except Jesus. We must follow Jesus and allow Him to be the first in our journey to cross over this life and enter the Promised Land.

### Conclusion:

Lent is a reminder that we are not meant to stay in the desert called "life", we are bound for the Promised Land (Heaven.) God showed us the way through Jesus Christ. He knows the way because He is the way. Thus, God invites us to be Jesus's disciples. How? In Matthew 16:24-26, Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to follow me must ..."

- 1. Come after me** (to enter the Promised Land)
- 2. Deny himself** (turns his back on the desert)
- 3. Take up his cross** (face death) and
- 4. Follow Me.** (through Him, with Him, and In Him)

To enter the Promised Land, we must follow Jesus.

### Reflection:

1. How does Lent deepen your relationship with God?
2. What makes you fear death?

#### SCRIBES Ministry

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<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/digests>

Tags: #Repentance #Covenant #Promised Land