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Lesson nr. 6 – Tuesday, November 10, 2020. – 8th Grade HANDOUT number # 2

In the 8th Grade Public Schools – Norwalk school district – you cover a rather large section of so called Social Studies, where under the 8th Grade Curriculum Map Unit 1, Section called “ Core concepts: Colonial America” on Essential Questions you have begun your learning by studying: “How does geography influences the way people live?” and then in Unit 2: “What motivates people to act” (see www.norwalkps.org; NPS SS Grade 8 Curriculum Map). To achieve the goal – in other words – to answer the Question asked, I could only imagine, you studied many maps, Google Earth scans, satellite images, etc. and also some RECORDS of historical significance to see how people act under: Leadership, Freedom, Pressure and maybe even OPRESSION?

Here, in our 8th Grade Religion Class, I would like to study with all of you several maps that will help us to anchor our FAITH and BELIEF – in a very visual, pragmatic way – in the times, places and individuals of Biblical Account of the EXODUS.

The primary account of the story of Exodus (that is, Moses, Hebrew Slavery in Egypt, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, Ten Plagues as a contest between the gods and goddesses of Ancient Egypt and God Yahweh, the name of God: I AM WHO AM, the actual Escape – the EXODUS, the Parting of Red Sea, Mount Sinai Covenant of 10 Commandments, etc.) – all these details are found in the SECOND BOOK OF THE BIBLE – the Book of EXODUS.

At some point, many of us have undertaken the task of reading the entire Bible – and that often proves almost impossible, as we get tired and discouraged after reading just several pages into the Bible. Why is that? What might be some other ways to read the ENTIRE BIBLE and not get bored, detached, and maybe even discouraged?

One of the ways that works for me and many of my friends along with number of people that come to the Bible Study Program I offer, is to try to read the Bible in a certain KEY (like music) – not from the First Book to the Last Book, not from the beginning to the end, but for instance:

- Start to read the Bible through the stories and accounts of its great CHARACTERS, i.e.: MOSES; Who was Moses? What Book tells us His story? Why Moses is so important to Jewish People that in His memory and the Memory of the events surrounding His life they – even today – celebrate important Holidays (Passover, Yom Kippur, etc.)? Why God gives Moses 10 Commandments and why we – all these centuries later – need to keep them? Etc., etc.
- You see, by starting your Bible study, as you begin to read the Bible not from the beginning, but maybe from its 2nd Book – the Book of Exodus, you build your – RELIGIOUS, SCIENTIFIC, CURIOSITY inquiry AROUND the character of MOSES – and then you extend it: into the past (Book of Genesis) and into the future – as far as Jesus and the New Testament (and even as far as today) – and then, it is bit easier to READ THE BIBLE – book, by book, not in order but in a special KEY (like Moses, but it can be someone else, or something else) journeying back and forth.
- So, as we RE- CAP the stories of the Book of EXODUS please, take a look at the additional handouts and while examining these, maybe we could try to build a nice – very easily accessible – LIBRARY, DATA of REFERENCES as it pertains to the Book of EXODUS.

