Seven Phases of Biblical Journeys – A Blueprint

# Introduction

The following document is inspired by the passages in Hebrews 3:7-4:11 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, which speak of different journeys leading to a Sabbath rest. In Hebrews, we see references to God's rest after creation, the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land, Jesus' journey, and the believer's striving to enter God's rest. This document aligns these journeys into seven phases, showing the parallels and connections between them.

* The **Creation Journey** outlines the seven days of creation, culminating in God's rest. Hebrews 4:4
* The **Hebrew Journey** follows the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. Hebrews 4:8
* The **Messiah Journey** traces Jesus' life from birth to ascension. Hebrews 4:10 (NASB)
* The **Disciple/Saint Journey** represents the believer's path from unbelief to entering the heavenly kingdom. Hebrews 4:11

Each journey is divided into seven phases, with a numerical relevance column highlighting symbolic numbers associated with each phase, drawn from various biblical references.

# Overview of the Phases

Below is a brief overview of what each phase represents across the four journeys:

* **Phase 0**: The initial state before the journey begins, characterized by sin, chaos, bondage, or unbelief.
* **Phase 1**: The beginning of the journey with light, belief, faith, or emergence.
* **Phase 2**: Separation or turning away from the old state to a new state, repentance.
* **Phase 3**: Birth or passage, often through water. Burial and new life.
* **Phase 4**: Guidance or the receiving of the law or Spirit.
* **Phase 5**: A time of testing or trials. Also, of favour/grace.
* **Phase 6**: A new creation or crossing over, often with judgment. Another burial and resurrection.
* **Phase 7**: The rest or fulfilment, holiness, the goal of the journey.

The table below details each phase across the four journeys, with relevant scripture references from the NASB.

# Table: Seven Phases of Biblical Journeys

| **Phase** | **Creation Journey** | **Hebrew Journey** | **Messiah Journey** | **Disciple/Saint Journey** | **Numerical Relevance** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phase 0**Initial state, chaos, bondage, absence, unbelief | Formless and DarkGen 1:2 | Slaves in EgyptExodus 1:8-14 | No appearanceJohn 1:1-2 | UnbeliefEph 2:1-3; 2 Cor 4:4 |  |
| **Phase 1**Light, belief, emergence, faith | Created Light and separated light from darknessGen 1:3-5; John 1:4-5; Acts 26:18 | Believed miraclesCame out of EgyptExo 4:31; Exo 10:21-23; Exo 12:31-33 | BornCame out of EgyptJohn 8:12; Matt 2:2; John 12:46; Isa 9:2; Matt 4:16; John 1:4-5 | Faith2 Cor 4:6; Eph 5:8; Acts 26:18 | Deut 6:4 |
| **Phase 2**Separation, turning, sinlessness, repentance | Separate water and turns expanse into heavenGen 1:6-8 | Turn from Egypt to GodSplit the watersExo 14:21-22; Exo 14:28; Gal 4:7-8; Rom 6:15-18 | Sinless LifeMatt 2; Matt 4:17; Heb 4:15 | RepentanceActs 3:19; Psa 51:7; Acts 2:38; Acts 26:20; Gal 4:7-8; Rom 6:15-18 | Lev 16:8 |
| **Phase 3**Birth, passage, baptism, death to self | Land sprouts vegetationGen 1:9-13 | Journey through Red SeaExo 14:29; 1 Cor 10:1-2 | John's BaptismMark 1:9-11 | First Death/BaptismRom 6:4; John 15:5; Col 2:12; 1 Cor 10:1-2 | Hos 6:2 |
| **Phase 4**Guidance, law, Spirit, light | Created lights in Heavens. Lights to govern Light and DarknessGen 1:14-19 | Giving of the LawPillar of Fire and CloudExo 20; Exo 13:21; 1 Cor 10:3-4 | Receives Holy SpiritMatt 3:16; Luke 3:22; John 16:13 | Holy Spirit2 Cor 1:21-22; Acts 2:3, 2:17; 1 Cor 6:19; Rom 8:14; John 14:26; Joel 2:28; Psa 119:105; 2 Cor 3:3; 1 Cor 10:3-4 | Eze 1:5-14; Eze 2:2 |
| **Phase 5**Testing, wilderness, trials | Created Sea Creatures/Monsters and BirdsGen 1:20-23 | Testing in 40 years wilderness, Moses tested 40 daysExo 16-20; Deut 8:2; Exo 32; 1 Cor 10:3-15; Psa 95:8-11 | Wandering desert/Temptations and PersecutionsLuke 4:1-13; Matt 24:9; Matt 4:1-11; John 16:33 | Testing, be ready, perseverance, do not fall away2 Cor 13:1-10; 1 Pet 1:6-7; Mal 3:2-3; James 1:2-4; Isa 40:31; 1 Cor 10:3-15; John 4:13-14; 1 Pet 2:24 | Matt 25:1-13; Matt 14:13-21 |
| **Phase 6**New creation, crossing over, resurrection, circumcision, judgement | Land brings forth Man and land creaturesGen 1:24-31 | Crossing the JordanWith Ark of Covenant. Circumcised before enteringJosh 6-12; Josh 7:1-26; Josh 3:14-17; Josh 5:2-9 | Death/ResurrectionRom 3:25; Col 1:15-20; John 12:31; Matt 28:18; Matt 25:31-46 | Second Death/ResurrectionHave to have circumcised heart before enteringRev 2:11; 1 Cor 3:12-15; Rom 6:12-14; 2 Cor 5:10; Rom 8:1; Col 2:11-13 | 1 Sam 17:4; Rev 13:18 |
| **Phase 7**Rest, promised land, kingdom, fulfillment | Holy and RestGen 2:1-3; Heb 3:7-4:11 | Promised LandJosh 21:43-45; Heb 3:7-4:11; Psa 95:8-11 | Heavenly KingdomRight hand of ThroneJohn 20:17; Acts 2:31-35; Acts 1:9-11; John 14:2-3; Matt 11:28; Heb 3:7-4:11 | Heavenly KingdomLuke 22:25-30; Heb 3:7-4:11; Dan 12:13 | Lev 25:8-102 Chro 36:21Josh 6:1-20 |

## Fun with Numbers

During the time of testing, trials and favour/grace (that is Phase 5) we will find:

* 40 = (1+7)×5: Be Faithful and Be Holy!
* 40 = (2+6)×5: Repent or face Judgement
* 40 = (3+5)×5: Be Baptized and get Ready and be ready for tests/trials
* 40 = (4+4)×5: Holy Spirit! Holy Spirit!

This section playfully explores the significance of the number 40, which appears in the time of testing (Phase 5) across the journeys. It suggests connections between the phases and encourages reflection on the symbolic use of numbers in scripture.

# Conclusion

By aligning these four journeys, we can see the overarching narrative of God's plan for rest and redemption. From creation to the believer's journey, each phase reflects a step towards the ultimate Sabbath rest. The parallels between these journeys underscore the consistency of God's purpose throughout biblical history, inviting us to strive to enter that rest, as encouraged in Hebrews 4:11 (NASB): "Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience."

# Addendum:

Possible studies in each Phase

Phase 0: Seeking God, Word of God, Messianic Prophecy, The Way

Phase 1: FaithObedienceGrace, Discipleship, Message of Cross, OldCovenantNewCovenant, YomKippur

Phase 2: Sin, Sin2, Repentance

Phase 3: Baptism

Phase 4: Holy Spirit

Phase 5: Communion, Church, Apostasy, Apostasy2

Phase 6: Judgment.

Phase 7: SevenPhases