

Exhort 1 February 2009

Exodus 5 & 6 Bro Con Mitsos

The exodus of the children of Israel can teach us many lessons about our walk in Christ.

The Apostle Paul said this to the Ecclesia in Corinth when speaking about the exodus.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 10:11-12.

The tragedy of the Apostle Paul’s words in this passage, is that all of the children of Israel experienced the miraculous deliverance of God who brought judgment upon Egypt; He freed them from slavery; He loaded them with all the treasures of Egypt; He cared for them as on eagle’ wings; He taught them His laws and statutes; He fed them; He gave them water to drink; He protected them and brought them to the borders of the promise land. Yet despite all of this, the apostle Paul says, *“But with many of them God was not well pleased”*. 1 Cor.10:5. The apostle Paul gives us the reason. He said it was because they lusted after evil things; they were idolaters; they committed fornication; they tempted God and they murmured.

We might wonder why the people of God became so wicked when God had done so much for them? Well we need to remember the state of the Ecclesia in the days of the exodus. We learn about this in the words of God to the Ecclesia in the days of Ezekiel the prophet. Yahweh rebuked His Ecclesia through the prophet Ezekiel because they had not learned from the failure of Israel when they lived as slaves in Egypt.

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the LORD your God;

In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness”. Ezekiel 20:6-10.

We can keep on reading, but we have read enough to know that the real problem was that the children of Israel did not turn wicked in the wilderness, they were wicked in Egypt and they would not change their ways despite all God did for them.

They were idolaters in Egypt, they were idolaters in the wilderness and God sought to change them from serving idols unto the living God and they refused to change. They refused to leave Egypt and all its pleasures behind.

He called upon them to repent, but they rebelled against Him in Egypt, therefore he brought upon them the bitter bondage to Egypt till they cried unto Him for help and their bitter cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. *“And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”*. Exod. 2:23-24

This covenant was a covenant that God made with Abram in Genesis 15.

God said to Abram, *“Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again”*: Gen. 15:13-16.

This covenant was the equivalent of the Lord’s Olivet prophecy to his generation and ours. It was a prophecy that all of the faithful in Egypt would have been encouraged by, as they saw the fulfilment of the “signs of the times” in Egypt that were undeniable proofs that the deliverer was soon to come to redeem them from their bondage in Egypt.

Prophecy Gen.15:13-16	Fulfilment
“a stranger in a land that is not theirs”	Israel went into Egypt in the days of Joseph. Gen.46:6
“and shall serve them”	The children of Israel served the Egyptians. Ex. 1:13
“they shall afflict them”	The children of Israel were put under cruel bondage. Ex.1:14
“that nation will I judge”	The ten plagues. Ex.7-12
“afterward shall they come out”	The exodus out of Egypt. Ex.12:37-51
“with great substance”	They spoiled the Egyptians jewels and treasures. Ex.12:35-36
“in the fourth generation”	Moses was the 4 th generation from Levi who went into Egypt (1. Levi, 2. Kohath, 3. Amram, 4. Moses)

God has always been faithful to His covenant. The sad thing was that Abraham’s descendants had forsaken Yahweh’s covenant. However there was a faithful remnant who knew this prophecy; who were watching the signs of the times; and who were waiting for the deliverer to come and deliver Israel from slavery.

The many rebellious Israelites and the faithful few- they all suffered together; they all worked together; they were all delivered together; they were all blessed together; but they will not be rewarded together.

As we examine ourselves before God this day, we need to ask ourselves are we a part of that faithful remnant or are we just an average Israelite.

The Apostle Paul said, *“they ALL passed under the cloud; they ALL passed through the sea; they were ALL baptised into Moses; they ALL ate the same spiritual meat; they ALL drank the same spiritual drink; **BUT** with MANY of them God was not well pleased”*. 1Cor.10:1-5

The Apostle Paul knew that this exhortation was very needful for the brethren and sisters in Corinth, for they also had been idolaters and God had called them to come out from the world and all of its corruption and leave “Egypt” behind with its worldly lifestyle and immorality.

This exhortation is just as needful for us today.

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians, *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God”. 1Cor.6:9-11

The Corinthian brethren and sisters had come into the Truth, been baptised, but had not totally changed their ways despite the fact that they had been washed and cleansed from the filth of their past in Jesus Christ.

In his second letter to the Corinthian Ecclesia, the Apostle Paul stressed the need for the Ecclesia to understand that there is no compatibility between the world and the Ecclesia. There needs to be a

clear separation between the Ecclesia and the world. So he said, *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”*. 2 Cor.6:17-18.

That separation is not a physical separation from people, for Jesus said as he prayed to His Father, *“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil”*. John 17:15.

It is a separation from the lifestyle of the world, from the evil in the world, from the wickedness of the world. *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”*. 1 John 2:16

This was Israel’s problem in Egypt, it was Israel’s problem in the wilderness. This was the Ecclesia’s problem in the days of Ezekiel as Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon, and the problem of idolatry was still there in the Ecclesia even in Babylon.

We need to take heed as the Apostle Paul said, that we learn the lesson.

We like Israel of old have been given the great covenants of God made to the fathers of old. We have been given the signs of the times as proof that the deliverer is near. We have been redeemed from slavery to King Sin by the blood of the Passover lamb, which was sacrificed for us, which we have come here to remember this day. We have been baptised into Christ and have been cleansed from the filthiness of the flesh. We have been brought out of the world to live separate lives unto God, we have been taught the Divine commands and have been brought to worship acceptably unto the greater tabernacle. We are ministered unto by the Great and Eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ and we have been brought to the borders of the promised land and have been given an eye witness account in the Scriptures of its glory by the Apostle John.

What more can God do brethren and sisters than what He has already done?

He has washed us; he has sanctified us; He has justified us in the name of the Lord Jesus. Therefore let us come out from among the world, and be separate, and touch not the unclean things; and God will receive us; and He will be a Father unto us, and we shall be His sons and daughters.

The Apostle John was given many visions of the Kingdom of the future age. One of these visions was a vision of the true Israel of God. The Spiritual Israel of God numbering one hundred and forty four thousand.

He sees an innumerable number of saints who have been granted immortality come before the throne of Jesus Christ to praise and honour Him.

He is the Passover lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. By His sacrifice they have been delivered from great tribulation. Their garments have been washed from all the stains of sin and have been made white in the blood of that lamb.

They will be the blessed ones who will be brought into the Kingdom with Jesus Christ and they will be given rest from their weary, wilderness wanderings.

Here is what John saw;
May we be in this picture.

*“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four living creatures, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes". Rev.7:9-17.