

Howards Corner

Knowing the Scriptures

Chapter 9 – Leaving Egypt

As I left you in chapter 8 the people of Israel had come into Egypt by the hand of God. They were brought by circumstances that God had created. Joseph was the beloved son of Jacob and Rachel and was Jacob's favorite son. But the other sons were jealous of Joseph, so they sold him into slavery to Egypt. But by God's hand he came to be the second in command in Egypt. As Joseph later said to them "You meant it for harm, but God meant it for good."

We have things in our lives that appear to be for harm, but God allows things to happen to us as we walk in His ways that we do not understand but through it all God works it for good. We do not always get it our way --when we want it -- how we want it but with faith we must be prepared to wait for God to do it His way and trust Him. What we want may not even happen in our life on this earth. That is part of the deal with living a Christian life. God is sovereign and we are to live in faith that He will do things by His will, and they are for the good of His kingdom and for His Glory.

So, the whole tribe of Israel (they are not a nation yet) are in Egypt and many years pass and Israel has become slaves to Egypt because Joseph has died and the new Pharaoh has become afraid of Israel because they have become a threat to him. He begins to treat them badly.

God already has a plan, but it takes a while for this plan to develop because He sees things from an eternal perspective. He is also waiting for another development to mature. Timing is critical to God's plan. He is preparing Israel to become a nation and to return to the land He has promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the land of Canaan forever, but the land is occupied by another people who are wicked, but their unrighteousness has not fully reached the time for their judgement and destruction. In the meantime, Israel is to stay in Egypt until His selected time.

God put Moses on the scene

God's hand then moves to begin His plan. Pharaoh is pressing Israel hard with slavery and much difficulty. He decides the Israelites are becoming too numerous and to stop the growth he declares that all male children are to be killed at birth. One such child however escaped his plan because God's hand intervened and the mother placed the baby in a basket in the Nile in hopes that he would be saved. This child was retrieved from the river and became an adopted son of the Pharaoh's daughter and lived in the palace. His name was Moses. God's hand has once again taken His chosen one and placed him in Pharaoh's palace just as He had done with Joseph.

Moses grew up in the palace and was in high regard and he was considered a prince of Egypt, but God's plan was still working in His sovereign power and the timing was still not right for Israel to be brought out of Egypt and slavery. Moses one day was walking in the land of his people and came upon one of the Israelites being mistreated and came to their aid and killed an Egyptian and thought it was in secret, but some Hebrews saw this, and he was exposed and had to flee the country.

God's hand is at work again although it has been at work the whole time. This is part of His plan. Moses then heads into the desert and spends 40 years there and has a family. Moses was forty when he flees to the desert. He must have been thinking that his life was over, and it had no divine purpose, but he had not seen the end of God's purpose.

Are we not like this? We think because we have not seen a big revelation happen in our life, we have nothing left to achieve in God's kingdom, but we are often looking in the short term and not with eternal eyes. God's plan for us has been ongoing since before we were born. The problem is that we have been called to be a part of that plan but along the way we have refused the calling and instead put our own plan into place and our plan will always fail. We must surrender to God's will in our lives and let Jesus's will take over. We are always being tested as to whether we are true believers. Are we able to survive the test and persevere to the end? We cannot do so without the Holy Spirit living in our hearts. This test is a personal test and cannot be taken by someone else. Your church nor your family nor your friends can take it for you.

God's plan for Moses began before he was born and had been hatched in his mother's heart long before she put him in the Nile. If you have understanding you

will realize that His plan was going on since the beginning. One day God appeared to Moses in the wilderness in the form of a burning bush and called Moses to go back to Egypt to bring Israel out of Egypt. He was hesitant and had his excuses of why he could not do this, but God then led him through this time and back to Egypt. I guess we all have had our times when we have offered God our excuses about why we cannot do a certain thing but if we are his and stay in His word and prayerfully in His presence, He will enable us to accomplish His purpose. Moses was now 80 years old when he began to lead Israel out of Egypt.

Interlude about my 80

Do we think we are too old to do the work of the kingdom? Has our time expired and it is too late for us? Is it that you are too old or is it that you do not want to pay the price of discipline and courage, giving up this world for the kingdom's sake? You and I have choices to make. As we have been going through this pandemic for the last two years what have you done with this downtime that has been forced upon you? Did you use it to get to know the word of God better or did you choose to please your own ways. What an opportunity wasted if you did not.

As for me I started my writings when I was 80. I do not know why I chose to write at this age except I had been seeking the Lord for quite a while and had not found what the Lord had called me to do but I knew He had called me for some reason. I did see however a real need for people to hear the word of God from a different perspective than it was being taught in many of the churches of today. I knew I had to do something, so I started writing and since I was backed into a corner not agreeing with a lot that was being taught in my church, I called it Howard's Corner.

I asked the Lord to help me understand His word better and He did answer me and connected me with an exceptionally good teacher that teaches the bible and not denominational views. I have now put in at least six hundred hours of study and have also been writing and studying about the subjects I was writing on. I have been maturing in my writings but am still learning. The Holy Spirit has been with me and is constantly filling me with what to write. I do not start with a plan but sit down to the keyboard and let the Holy Spirit guide my heart and mind and my fingers. It also helps that I was baptized in the Holy Spirit at age of thirty-seven and the Lord has been teaching me at His pace as I was able to receive so I know about God's timing. Sometimes we are not ready yet or the circumstances are not ready yet or the ones

to whom I am writing are not ready yet or the situation in the world is not ready yet, but God is preparing us for the time when it is ready. Maybe this pandemic is a wake-up call for some to get ready to receive God's message for our hearts. Is the time right for you to receive the message God has for you?

I don't know who are reading my writings although I think it is very small number but that is not a deterrent for me because God has called me and knows who the writings are for, and He will guide it to their hearts, but it is an issue for those who refuse to study and learn and to mature in the word and grace of the Lord. The churches are full of those whose eyes are closed and ears are plug up. It is not only the people in the pews for they may not be taught correctly but it is for those who are supposed to lead the flock. I beg all to go back and read again the word from a whole word perspective and not just a narrow lens of denominationalism. There is much error and incompleteness in today's teachings. You cannot teach the word partially but must read and study the whole word for it is in harmony and all the word is critical to its meaning.

Now back to Moses

Now having been called back to Egypt to deliver the tribe of Israel from their slavery and captivity Moses did go and he was given his brother Aaron to be a spokesman for him for he had given as reason for not coming was because he was slow of speech. So, he and Aaron began their task of going to Pharaoh and telling him to let the people go. Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let them go. God then proceeded to send plagues upon Egypt to drive them to let His people go. Pharaoh's heart was hardened by the hand of God so that the delivery would be very difficult and only by the hand of God could it happen. This was done so that the glory was to God to the surrounding nations and the word of this great deliverance would be spread to all the nations and also that the Israelites would understand that God had done the delivering. This story is still being spread to the whole world today but only a few truly understand the meaning.

There were ten plagues sent upon Egypt. And each time Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he refused to let the people go.

The first plaque was the Nile turned to blood.

The second was the infestation of frogs.

The third was swarms of gnats.

The fourth was flies everywhere.

The fifth was pestilence on all the livestock of Egypt but not on the Hebrew's livestock.

The sixth boils on men and animals.

The seventh hail on every man and animal left outside.

The eighth was locusts covering the land and devouring all that was left after the hail, and they were also in all the houses.

The ninth was darkness that could be felt and covered the land for 3 days.

Pharaoh's heart was still hardened and then God warned him that He would send a plague to kill the first born of all in Egypt. For the Hebrews God gave them instructions to put the blood of a lamb on their door and to stay in all night so that when the angel of death passes over, He would not kill those with the blood on their doors. This is the start of the Passover observance for Israel and for the people of today the greater message is given to us that the blood of Jesus was given to save us from the destruction of eternal death. Has this blood of the lamb Jesus been put over your heart to deliver you from that eternal death? I pray that nothing stops you from accepting this great gift of eternal life. This is another picture, type or shadow we have been given in the word. This is the picture of our salvation through Christ's blood which is the greater meaning.

What is the real meaning of all this?

I have attached a summary of all these plagues and how they are remarkably close to the plagues of the tribulation period. You may remember that I told you there are types and shadows in many of God's dealings with man. I see this is also one of those shadows which is lessor than the real event that is to come. So, the tribulation that is to come is the greater for the tribulation terrors are much more severe and are not just to Egypt but to the entire world which refuses to bow to God's will. We of today's world have also hardened our hearts and refuse to follow Jesus but instead follow the worlds ways. When the tribulation comes upon us, we will even then refuse to repent and turn with a repentant heart.

Get back to the word and study the full council of God. Start reading all the books of the bible and do not let denominations or human views keep you away from His great filling of the Holy Spirit. We have been led by denominational thinking which came out of the Catholic Church which was only a governmental structure to govern the world to spread the word of the gospel but itself did not know the truth themselves. They continued the structure of the church but were not the church, but the church is defined as only those who have been filled with the Holy spirit for only those of His Spirit are of the body. What we sometimes call the church is only a skeleton of the real church. For if you are in Christ, you will be filled with the Holy Spirit and not just have a head knowledge without spiritual life. Do not be fooled with “churchism” for it has no authority to save and deliver you to eternal life.

God has always used less than perfect men to do His bidding. Yes, even evil men He has used to bring about His purpose. I want you to open your eyes and unplug your ears for the churches of today are not your salvation but only Christ alone can save and this by faith which was given to us by Grace. Do not say I am proud of my church and say that it is a great church it is like all men that have fallen short of the glory of God. These things the church of the Laodiceans said and Jesus rebuked them saying “But you do not realize you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.” Go read it all for this is the age of the Laodiceans which comes after the Philadelphian church of brotherly love.

What else can I say to people with dead ear and blinded eyes. You must read the whole word and believe with the whole heart. Lip service will not suffice. God cannot be fooled. He sees the heart with its motives. Do not end your life saying I am a Methodist or Presbyterian or Episcopalian or Baptist or Lutheran or Catholic or any other denomination but on that “I am in Christ alone for my salvation”. There will not be denominations in heaven, and I am afraid there will be great disappointment to those that have loved their churches more than Jesus.

Now back to Egypt and Moses

Finally, God does send His last plaque of death to the firstborn of all the land except those who were covered by the blood of the lamb. Israel was released from their bondage in Egypt and made their journey to the promised land.

It is my prayer that we will find our way to our promised land which is the resurrection and eternal life with the Lord.

If I have any readers after today's lesson, then I will continue to help you know how to "know the scriptures" in later writings.

May God's grace lift you up and fill you with His Holy Spirit.

Howard