

The Cry of the Children

Exodus 3:8 – 4:5

~ In brutal and oppressive bondage and slavery, our Spiritual Safari reaches a beautiful river of life in this report from Old Testament Egypt; in the form of the burning bush. If you have not read our last report and, indeed, all three previous safari reports from this book of the Bible, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. Our main topic in Exodus is redemption; and the burning bush is a significant symbol as it reveals a vivid illustration of our redemption. The symbolism speaks to the hearts of genuine children of God in any age. Any symbolism in the Bible must speak of something tangible and real. Hazy concepts of some mysterious something that may or may not be correct in an interpretation is simply not edifying to anyone. God has now come down from Heaven to redeem us, and God has revealed Himself to Moses as we begin this report. The burning bush just kept on burning and was never consumed. That is a picture of the nation Israel throughout the centuries of historically documented existence; and it's the condition of Israel today.

From where we're at in our study, up to this present hour, it has been three thousand five hundred years plus. That open ended "plus" includes a whole lot of room for guessing. Every other surrounding nation has come and gone – mostly gone - but not Israel. Some believe the United States will perpetuate survival as Israel has. I don't think so, friends. Don't get me wrong – I would love to be wrong here – but I don't think I am. America is less than three hundred years old now and we are already in serious trouble; the average existence of a nation in the world is about two hundred years. That's why I don't think so – and - because America is not a Biblical reference nor is it in or referenced to in any proper, correct and complete eschatological exposition. The United States won't be around IN THAT DAY. No friends, it is the nation Israel we're talking about in the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ – God – is the One appearing in that burning bush as it burns on today; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, accept it, agree with it, like it – or not.

Exodus 3:8 – 4:5

We stood right there in our expedition as God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. It began with God rebuking Moses for not removing his shoes. We have a Holy God, friends. You don't pat Him on the back as you allow Him into your business. It doesn't work like that. Never has; never will. I think a lot of people honestly feel as if they are very familiar with God and very special to Him. Jesus will say to them, "I never knew you." That's too bad. Remember, we saw an ashamed Moses in the last report who couldn't even look upon the revelation of God – Moses hid his face. Let's get real with God, my beloved! There are several kinds of new-agey approaches whereby we are taught to identify with the current age and adopt their vocabulary and mannerism and habits and so on in order that we might witness to them. I say – that's totally absurd. We have so many so-called Christians creating constant strife and division with their charismatic ways. Their love for Christ may be real - but it's just lop-sided. The wheel goes all the way around but not well – not well at all – and you can't go fast! They create constant contention with every word and every phrase they utter....



8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

~ So, it looks like our safari is going to a place that is already inhabited by every type of "ite" under the sun. I'm sure they'll all have a different god. The people in the Promised Land were going to be driven out by the True and Living God. Why? - Because they are living in open rebellion and flagrant disobedience to Him. Even when we were dead in sins God quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved. The atheist rejects all of this and passes on to judgment and eternal damnation. We who accept Christ are saved FROM Egypt; that is, FROM sin, spiritually speaking! That isn't our focus, though. We are raised up to sit in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus; esteeming others better than ourselves and considering the welfare of others above our own. We are brought out of

death and put into life. We are brought out of darkness and into the light. We're coming out of hell and going to Heaven, my beloved! It's called redemption. REDEMPTION is our FOCUS in Exodus! God is taking Israel to a good place; and every single one of them will have an opportunity to enter the Promised Land....

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

~ Forty years ago, Moses was as proud and arrogant as he could possibly be. He was ready to deliver Israel his own way in his own timing back then. He had even been willing to murder to do it his way. Moses thought his fellow man would, you know, understand. He had never planned for the Hebrews to turn against him and make him an outlaw. Remember, Moses looked every which way but UP! Moses was confident in Moses. Well, Moses isn't walking so proud or talking so loud anymore; and what for? God now has Moses trained for service unto Him. Forty years out there on the back of the desert of Midian was a lifestyle adjustment, to say the least. Moses now knows how weak he really is and that he cannot do this by himself. The moment Moses said, "... who am I?" is the moment that God knew He could finally begin to use him.

David was taken by God and put into a cave - and David was hunted by Saul for many years - living like an animal. When David found out how dependent he really was upon Who God really is - then God had Himself a king! Elijah was just plain broken down by God. God told Elijah to go tell Ahab and Jezebel that it wasn't going to rain until Elijah said it would rain. He told them; and on his way out, Elijah mentioned that he wouldn't be talking to them again any time soon. That wasn't very nice, so Jezebel wanted to do what Jezebel does best: murder those she doesn't like.

Apparently, Elijah left town as fast as he could before the royalty figured out they had been insulted. Jezebel was probably hysterical at how Elijah spoke to her in open court. Well, that's how God gives His message, friends - every single time. If you are sincerely God's man this is how it will be with you – or you are not God's man! Remember, Elijah ran out into the wilderness and immediately started surveying that brook; because it was drying up fast. Elijah said to God, "...my life is no more than this dried up little stream!" God then moves Elijah to eat out of an empty flour barrel for however long that chapter of his life lasted. It was a very long time. See, friends, only when we can trust God like that can He use us to fight the prophets of Baal and bring fire down from Heaven; but there is no other way. Until God can trust us like that – He is not using us, friends. You can just write that down.

Remember, Paul the apostle met Christ the hard way, too, on the road to Damascus. Only when we are weak is God strong in our lives. He will not use that which you accomplish in your own strength. Any and all of your life's successes have too much pride attached to them to give Him exclusive glory. God says He only moves and works through our weaknesses and failures. Is that a paradox to you? This is what God has been doing with Moses, friends. Very few – and I do mean V-E-R-Y few - self-professing believers – can accept this Biblical truth into their life and apply it. Moses can now be used because he thinks he cannot be used. See, now Moses is correct. Moses recognizes that he can't do it but he sees God can do it through him. The reason many Christians aren't used in a better way is because they are too strong. God doesn't use the strong things of this world - He uses the broken and weak things. God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. When we recognize our weakness and inability, it's amazing what the Lord can and will do through us....

12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto

you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

~ So, when God tells Moses that God will “certainly be with him” the first statement out of Moses mouth is, “.... what do I say?” Moses doesn’t know how to get them to this mountain. Well, if Moses isn’t confused enough now God answers his question with what is called the Tetragram. We say it as Jehovah – while everyone else gets hung up on all sorts of names for Him. Jehovah was a name so sacred and holy to the children of Israel that they didn’t even know how to pronounce it as a name. They didn’t know because they never used it. I haven’t found anyone that can tell me how to properly pronounce it. Elohim would mean the mighty God. Here, though, He is the Self Existing One. The Psalmist says, “.... Thy Name, O, Lord, endureth forever.” This is the name that says, “God exists.” Isaiah saith, “.... the Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned that I might be able to speak a word in season to him that is weary; that He might open my ears morning by morning to hear as those who understand Him.” They're talking about our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, friends! ~

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is My way of doing it; unto all generations.

16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:

17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

18 And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

19 And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand.

20 And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

~ So, God gives Moses a procedure to follow. God has come to deliver them; but they must come to Him on His terms. Moses then goes to Pharaoh and says they just want to go out to offer a sacrifice. Moses doesn't mention that he plans to leave and not come back. No – Moses is just following God's instructions. Well, Pharaoh has some gods of his own and they'll be walking out onto our safari stage soon. We are going to see a battle of man's god versus the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ – and we're going to see man's way lose, again....

21 And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:

22 But every woman shall borrow in place of unpaid slave labor of her neighbour and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

~ God had a very effective poverty program to help get them out of Egypt. God will not let you fall if you are giving Him the Glory in your life. When God delivers you, He will make a provision and a way. See, the question remains: do we really trust Him? How much do we depend on Him to lead us in our everyday situations? How much time do we spend in the Word of God? Well, Moses asks God a natural question to kick off chapter four and we're going to see here the rod; this rod represents the Badge of Authority issued by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself to Moses. Moses is going to use it in

many different ways. There will be no power in that rod in and of itself, though. The rod could just as easily have been an instrument of Satan as it could anything else. What we do and say MUST be for the glory of the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ or it is of the devil. Take a dollar bill, for example; that bill can be used for many different things; but if it is not used for Christ and for getting out His Word to the world then it is wasted – just completely wasted - and that means you are wasting the blessings God has given you. This is a tremendous principal....

IV

1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

~ Well, Moses has the satanic tiger by the tail at this point to be sure. Do you know there was a time when man said the automobile was satanic? They said the radio was of the devil as late as the nineteen sixties and seventies. Is it really satanic? What about the internet? It can all be used satanically, yes. How do you catch that serpent up in the air? - By keeping Gods Word going out into the air – if you think Satan is in the internet, that is. Then, the perfect response is to introduce the Lord Jesus Christ properly, correctly and completely. It's not easy and it's not cheap leading this safari,

friends. Make your money a rod in the Hand of God today. I'm tired of you super pious people today saying this and that is of the devil. You never support any worthy causes. You'll take it all for free, but you'll give to the craziest places in all the wrong ways. Do you think God is not aware of that? Maybe all you can do is simply take some dear saint this safari message. That's grabbing the serpent by the tail and using it for God. Why don't you do THAT for God today?

Now, ALL of you dear readers who have made it this far, read carefully as we end this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, and hear the spiritual message: God said to Moses, "the rod in thy hand will become the instrument that convinces the elders." Think about that very carefully as you pray and ask God to lead you in what you should do with His Word in your hand; and we'll have another tremendous, mind-blowing spiritual lesson coming up in our next several reports. We talked a little bit about the home life of Moses; but we had some questions that weren't answered, too. What about the home life of Moses? Was he even real? We're going over to Moses house next time and, unfortunately, we're going to drop by at the worst possible time in their life – but God records that part - so, we must look upon it ~

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