

Why Have We Done This

Exodus 13:1 – 14:10

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is going to the edge of the wilderness with the children of Israel in this report. They marched out of Egypt in our previous report - well, they were thrown out by Pharaoh - but, either way, they are suddenly staring at the overwhelmingly vast blackness of desert emptiness in the middle of the night. We see the children of Israel standing around wondering which way they are to go; freshly delivered from the bondage of sin - but not fully grasping the gravity of what was really taking place. I think they took one look at the wasteland ahead of them and thought to themselves, “.... we have made a huge mistake....” ~

XIII

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

~ This seems to be a strange thing for God to say at this particular time. The gods of Egypt claimed the first born of the Egyptians in child sacrifice. God is claiming the same thing here of Israel. God claims the first of everything from a believer today, too. Most people do not recognize this and have no idea how to implement that type of giving; but the final conclusion is: God wants us to voluntarily put Him first. When we put Him first, God claims the very best from our lives; and, in this passage, God is claiming the firstborn in the same fashion as any other god that has ever existed in any mans mind. God insists on having first place in your life if you

Exodus 13:1 – 14:10

call yourself His child, friends. The problem, quite frankly, is that so many believers put Christ last. They drag God from failure to failure in their life and ask Him to bless whatever activity they have dreamed up. Most people never give God first place in their affairs; they only give anything if there's something left over. This is a lesson that is very hard for us to learn....

4 This day came ye out in the month Abib.

5 And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

6 Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD.

7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

8 And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.

9 And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

10 Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

11 And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee,

12 That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S.

13 And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.

14 And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage:

15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

16 And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

~ So, the children of Israel are standing around in the middle of the night, free out of their bondage but nowhere to go, and they're not prepared to fight a war as a nation at this time, of course. They don't have any weapons. Interestingly, if God had taken them the short route up by the Mediterranean Sea, they would have had to fight their way through. Some Christians feel like they have to fight and God has to perform a miracle in every event they experience. Of course, these people don't spend any real time in a structured and educated Bible study. They act as if they have the right to demand this or that of the Lord. They seem to think that if you're sick, then God has an obligation to heal you - if you have a certain amount of faith. Yes, God can do anything He wants to do; the question is: is this the way God wants to do something in our life? Are we asking for a miracle so that God can accomplish His will in His way in our lives for His glory? - or for some other, nefarious, purpose? Typically, it's the latter....

17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was

near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up by five in a rank, very orderly, out of the land of Egypt.

19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him according to Genesis chapter fifty verse twenty-four: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

20 And since that time had come and many years have gone by; they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of that frightful wilderness.

21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

~ God immediately assumes command visibly in front of every one of the children of Israel. This nation now has what no other nation has ever had in the recorded history of mankind: the direct physical leading of God Himself. Who are Israelites? – To whom pertaineth the glory; Israel had the glory. This cloud and fire are the visible presence of God. The church does not have the visible presence and physical leading of the Lord Jesus Christ today. The church has no "holy place." If you have a vivid dream or vision in the night, I would NOT ask God what it means; I would try to figure out what I ate for dinner because that is where the interpretation is. You probably ate something you should not have eaten. No, friends, we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the Heavenlies - and we walk by faith - not by sight.

At the time in which we are studying, Israel was looking to the future eschatological coming cross of Christ their Messiah. Today, we look back upon the cross as a historical event. We are indwelled by the Holy Spirit so we do not need His physical presence for this type of leading. At that time, they did need that leading; because their redemption had not been fully worked out on the earth for them as it has for us today. Every preparation for every possible eventuality has been made to see these children of God safely through the wilderness. Even so, Pharaoh is keeping a close eye on them. A movement of two million plus people is not something you can conceal easily. Pharaoh expects them to go up the coast through the land of the Philistines - because that only made sense. Because they are heading out to the wilderness Pharaoh thinks they are lost and disoriented. No one in their right mind would attempt to go through that dreadful wilderness....

XIV

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?

6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.

9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.

10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

~ You would think that what had just happened would have been enough to convince Pharaoh to just stay away and let them go, but Pharaoh is still reluctant to let them go in verse four. Well, we have another profound event coming up that will convince the Egyptians beyond all possible doubts Who is in control. Of course, the children of Israel immediately reasonably suspect that, perhaps, they have been driven out into the desert to be mass-executed and extinguished. I'm sure there were some tense moments between Moses, Aaron and the leaders of the tribes. Frankly, I believe genocide became Pharaoh's plan when he realized they were going to go away. Our safari ends this report in panic and pandemonium. The Egyptians will wreak sheer havoc in slaughtering the children of Israel if they get the chance; and it seems as though they will have that chance. We're caught between the devil and the deep blue sea until our next report
~

^^^

