

And Let Them Not Regard Vain Words

Exodus 4:22 – 6:5

~ Our Spiritual Safari arrives at a crossroad in this report; one that is so important in our lives that we're backing up to look it over one more time – just to be sure. In our last report we saw that the individual Israelite within the nation Israel was never called to be or ever referred to as a son of God in the Old Testament. The NATION as a whole was called the son of God - but never David, Noah, Moses or any of the prophets individually, for example. The Lord so rudely showed us His reasons concerning the rite of circumcision He commanded be practiced as a witness to the world. If you have not read our previous report and, indeed, all five reports from the Book of Exodus thus far, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now.

As we concluded the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, we got caught looking in the window at Moses and Zipporah's house; and the Lord was so disgusted with what we saw that He isn't going to even mention the home life of Moses in the Bible again. I don't think we want to know much more. I sure don't need to know any more. So, as we begin this report, Moses has reinstated the badge of the covenant for Israel. For us today, Remember, Paul said, "...in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision prevaieth anything." We must become a new creation, friends. We have a crowd around us today that is so proud of being a church member; so proud of how they don't do this and don't do that. My question for them is always: what DO they do for the Lord? What is your INWARD experience, my beloved? Have you experienced the new birth by being born again? Circumcision was an outward demonstration that spoke of an inward relationship with God....

IV

22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:

23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.

25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.

26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.

27 And the LORD said to Aaron; Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.

28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him.

29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:

30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.

31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

~ We arrived at this battle of the Gods in our last report, too. Moses has been absent from Egypt for forty years and God is ready to deliver His people. Moses has been prepared for the task; and he is told to gather all the elders and go talk to Pharaoh. God says Pharaoh will refuse and that will begin the struggle of the gods of Egypt against the True and Living God. This is not a set of haphazard events, and it was not done against the Egyptian people as individuals, either. The plagues we are going to see are not a random collection of mean things God dreamt up. Each plague has a very particular meaning for the people as a whole. Every one of them ties

directly into their idolatry - and God deals directly with each individual god in these plagues.

Egypt had thousands of different temples at this time. The land had about three thousand different gods. There was power in the religions in Egypt, friends! Paul makes that clear to Timothy when Paul tells Timothy men will come into the church reprobate in the faith. This is all satanic and the Greeks get a great deal of hell's fireworks from Mt. Olympus. Satan grants power to those who worship him. Make no mistake about that. The Oracle of Delphi is our example as they promote spiritism today. The ancient Egyptians were not fools; we have already established that. We are not some superior society today that outshines all of the people of the past just because we have telephones that tell us where we are! No, friends, we're piling one stone upon another in this little temple we're building ourselves down here. In the twelfth chapter God says He is bringing judgment against ALL of the "gods" of Egypt. The Lord says He is bringing judgment against all of these gods. Israel was in idolatry; so, God had to show them He was superior and capable to deliver them. Pharaoh says he doesn't know any "lord" so the True and Living God makes His self-introduction, via Moses and Aaron.

Moses will properly handle the rod of Authority given to him by God Himself, but Pharaoh's men will throw down serpents, too. The Nile will turn to blood which speaks of death. Then, the frogs are sent; the Egyptians worshipped just about every insect and animal they knew about. They had an image of a peacock with a frog's head, and it was a punishable offense to kill frogs. Well, when you have a house full of frogs one might get stepped on! Lice are from the dust of the earth; that's very interesting. The flies are the scarab found in the tombs and, to the ancient Egyptian, this spoke of eternal life. Egypt also worshipped the black bull. When this plague comes along, they will be forced to worship a sick cow! I think that's hilarious; and we're going to see many really humorous antics coming up in the Bible. I hope my senses of humor and your sense of humor are Gods sense of humor; because when God makes me laugh, I'll be writing it down. God is smiling at us on our safari today.

Boils and hail are the only two plagues that impress me because this is where God really demonstrates His power a little too clearly for my comfort, quite frankly. By the time we see Isis, the great god of the atmosphere, it is a little disconcerting; and physical afflictions always means God is moving fast. Locusts touched the crops, meaning the prosperity of the land. It's the same thing we see in the Book of Joel and in Revelation. Ra was the Egyptian god of the sun; and they sacrificed bulls and people to it. The disc of the sun with rays shooting out from it and a man with an eagle's head are two depictions of Ra. Lastly, the firstborns are all struck dead in one dark night. The firstborn of the Egyptians all belonged to their gods as sacrifice. This is a most ungodly and sickening satanic sacrificial system concerning which God is saying to us, "look, I take what belongs to the gods of Egypt for Myself!" With the exact same lesson God teaches His own He convinces the lost and demonstrates His own mighty power to move in the lives of a people that call out to Him. This is simply amazing, friends....

V

1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

2 But Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD; neither will I let Israel go.

3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

4 And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens.

5 And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.

6 And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.

~ Moses didn't go barging into Pharaoh's court telling him goodbye with all of Pharaoh's people's borrowed stuff - because that would have been foolish. God had told Moses to tell Pharaoh they were going to worship in the wilderness, which was true. If Pharaoh had known the Lord, he would have let Israel go! So, the Lord God and Pharaoh are now getting acquainted. We could say God was forcing Pharaoh to make a choice for or against Him. That is the part that troubled Pharaoh deeply. So, in an attempt to get their minds off of worshipping, Pharaoh gives them a little more work to do. Instead of giving them a holiday, Pharaoh tells them they haven't been working hard enough. Well, it was hard on them before....

8 But the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

9 Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words.

10 And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you straw.

11 Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished.

12 So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw.

13 And the taskmasters hasted them, saying, Fulfill your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw.

14 And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and to day, as heretofore?

15 Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants?

16 There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, thy servants are beaten; but the fault is in thine own people.

17 But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD.

18 Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.

19 And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not minish ought from your bricks of your daily task.

20 And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh:

21 And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

22 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?

23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.

~ So, the elders of Israel thank Moses for making their burdens worse; and Moses is wondering why God has done this thing to him, I'm sure. This is

Moses complaining to the Lord in verse twenty-two. Things are not working out for him quite the way he had anticipated, no doubt. Moses reveals his impatience with God. Moses gave Pharaoh the message as instructed - but instead of walking out free - very bad things happened. So, with that our Spiritual Safari moves slowly and patiently into chapter six - because that's the way God always deals with us. Slowly. Let's thank Him for that. God is going to encourage His servant Moses and God is going to encourage the children of Israel who have called upon His Name. God has heard their cry for deliverance and God will deliver them; but along with this deliverance must come an understanding; and if there is no understanding, then you're right back to square one and God will give the same message to that person that He just gave to Pharaoh....

VI

1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

2 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

4 And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

~ God isn't filling a pantry full of food for starving Bible teachers to have at some future problematic point in their lives, my beloved. We travel light on this safari – very light. The Almighty Deliverer is our only Provider. As we trust and walk with Him, He feeds us and makes provision for us day by day; meal by meal - whatever it may be. God is the self-existing One! We either believe that or we don't. That is how God relates to you and me. God says, "I" seven times here. That speaks of His completeness. Let's listen to

Him because He is telling us Who He is and what He is going to do for His people. Christ is our Savior and we can trust that He is Who He says He is - because we have seen Him Personally on this safari. That is a great comfort to me - and unto them that are saved to the uttermost ~

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