

Eltham Message Church
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Scripture Fulfilled Today Series



Exodus 1

Introduction

On the Road

Two men were walking and talking, travelling to Emmaus. They had seen the crucifixion of their leader, Jesus of Nazareth and heard reports of His resurrection. As always happens, when people talk about Jesus He comes on the scene. As they talked He joined them. They shared their news. They did not realise that the third man was the subject of their conversation.

Then Jesus said, "O Fools, you are slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Wasn't Christ meant to suffer these things and then enter his glory." And then He began at Moses and all the prophets to explain from the scriptures where the life of Christ had been written.

But hang on a minute. When did Moses write about the life of Christ? Moses wrote the first five books in the Bible. Where does Genesis, for example, clearly talk about the life and suffering of Jesus Christ?

In Genesis Moses tells the story of Joseph. Loved of his father, but hated by his brothers, Joseph was a prophet, a spiritual man. His brothers couldn't stand that, so they sold him for twenty pieces of silver. He was taken to Egypt, falsely accused and condemned to die in prison. There were two other prisoners with him. One was to die, the other restored to life. As for Joseph, he rose from the prison to sit at the right hand of Pharaoh and rule Egypt.

Isn't that a parable of what happened to Jesus? A prophet, a spiritual man, loved of the Father but hated by his brethren, He too was sold, but this time for thirty pieces of silver. He was also falsely accused, sentenced to death on a cross and there were two others with Him. One was doomed but the other was to be with Jesus in Paradise. And just as Joseph sat at the throne so Jesus rose to sit at the right hand of God.

The story of Joseph is a parable, a parable of the life of Christ on earth. Jesus called the two on the road to Emmaus fools because they did not see Bible stories as parables. The stories were historically true but they were also parables; that is, they were prophetic, they were a type, a pattern of what was to come. Teachings and prophecies in the Bible are as much in types and patterns as anything else. These parables are hidden in all the stories of the Bible. Everything in the Bible is there to teach us spiritual things.

Jesus admonished those two on the road to Emmaus because they had failed to understand God's plan through the stories, or parables, in the Bible. Could He accuse us today of the same failing? Have we seen modern events clearly prophesied in, for example, the Biblical books of Ruth, or Esther or even Exodus?

Would Jesus say to us, "You fools, you are so slow to believe?"

Exodus means to come out of. It is linked to the word Exit, the place to go out through. The book of Exodus is the story of Israel's escape from slavery in Egypt and their journey to the Promised Land. Is this a parable too?

The Lamb

Reading Exodus 12 v1-13 The Passover

Back around 1490 BC the people of God had become slaves to the world in which they lived. Egypt was the power of the day. Pharaoh had forgotten that Joseph had created Egypt's strength and power some four hundred years earlier. Now Joseph's people were slaves to the nation they had helped make rich and powerful

God had promised to be a deliverer, the God who would lead the people from that slavery to freedom in their own rich land. But God uses men. And so God appeared to a shepherd out in the wilderness. He said I have come down to deliver my people from Egypt, so Moses I send you to do it!

Moses didn't want the job, most true men of God don't want the responsibility. Jonah (another prophet) even ran away, but When God got angry with him Moses agreed.

Moses had been a prince of Egypt, brought up in Pharaoh's palace, but he was an Israelite and when he tried to help his people in his own strength he was rejected. Now at eighty years of age God was sending him back to lead God's people not in his strength but in God's strength. Things always go better when we operate on God's spirit rather than our own.

Moses had gone to Pharaoh and asked that he let the Israelites go free. Pharaoh refused. He didn't want to lose a large portion of his slave labour. Each of Pharaoh's refusals brought a plague on Egypt. Gradually all their wealth, their health and their crops dwindled as plague after plague struck the country. Still Pharaoh refused to let God's people go.

The last but one plague was darkness. It was so dark people didn't get up, couldn't go outside. It was almost a solid dark. The next plague to follow would be death, the final judgement of God on Egypt but just before that Egypt was in darkness. But there was light in the houses of God's people. Nowhere else had light.

Many today see the coming judgement of God, the end of this current political and economic world, as something very close. And they see that many churches and religions have no light. But there is light where God's people are.

Again Pharaoh refused and now Moses receives the key instructions.

He, and each family of Israel, are to take a perfect lamb and on the evening of the fourteenth day kill it. Each family is to cook the slaughtered lamb and eat it that night. They must be ready to leave their homes at a moments notice but first they are to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood o the lamb. God promises to pass through Egypt that night and He will slay the first born in every family unless He sees the blood on the doorpost and lintel of the house. If He sees the blood He will pass-over the house and the plague will not strike that house.

This event, in future years, would be celebrated as the Feast of Passover. (And it is still celebrated today by Jews)

Here is the type and pattern of the beginning of a Christian life. We are in slavery to sin, to the world system. We are stuck there but there is a Promised Land waiting for us. We have to accept the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, as having paid the price for our sin. If we do that and confess that we are followers of Christ then the angel of death passes over us, we have eternal life. And we feed on the Lamb. Jesus is the Word of God. The Bible is the Word of God. By reading the Bible we are feeding on Jesus the Lamb.

There has always been a lamb to cover sin, to make us right with God.

Adam and Eve sinned, that is didn't believe God's Word. They took the Serpent's word instead. This brought death on all mankind, in fact on all creation. They had been told that if they ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil then they would die. Obviously, then, if they didn't eat the fruit from that tree then they wouldn't die. They had eternal life. But they lost it but not believing God's Word. Now if we believe God's Word, Jesus Christ, then we can regain eternal life.

God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. But He clothed them with skins. What skins. Animal skins! Something had to die to pay the price to cover sin.

Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. Abel's offering was a lamb; Cain's was a fruit and

vegetable offering. No living thing died.

Abraham was required to offer his son, his only son, Isaac as a sacrifice. But when God saw that he was willing to put God's Word first then he instructed Abraham to leave Isaac alone and Abraham offered a ram instead.

And when the book of life had to be redeemed in Revelation chapter 5 all would be lost if a worthy person couldn't found. And all seemed lost until a lamb, as it had been slain, stepped out from centre of the throne of God and took the book. It is always a lamb.

So the people of Israel left their homes in Egypt and started out on their journey to their Promised Land. So Christians on accepting Jesus the lamb of God are freed from slavery to sin and the world yet they are only at the beginning of their journey to their Promised Land. The first thing is to walk away from Egypt, that is, from the evil of this world. Becoming a Christian by believing in Jesus isn't an arrival point; it is a departure point for something far better.

There is a walk ahead, just as there was for the Jews. All those places, all those events that the children of Israel went through in the book of Exodus are a picture, a type, a pattern for our Christian journey. We can learn a lot from that journey. What to expect, what problems and temptations can arise, how to overcome.

But we must display a sign, a token. The original token that the price had been paid, that the lamb had been slain, was the blood on the doorpost and lintel of the house. The token was on display so the angel of death passed over.

A token is the sign that the price has been paid. I buy a ticket to fly to Kenya. I don't pay at the door of the plane. I pay the airline and they give me a token, a ticket, to show that the price has been paid. I now have a right to enter that plane and take my seat.

If we display the token of Christ's blood in our lives by what we say and do then we have a right to take that flight to heaven, and while we are still on earth to start our Exodus to the Promised Land.

So who is willing to put the token on display?

References & Comments

The Passover

EXODUS 12:1-13

Sin in Eden required covering of skins, that meant an animal had to die

GENESIS 3:21, ROMANS 6:23, REVELATION 5:1-10

Abraham had to sacrifice His son: God will provide Himself, a sacrifice

GENESIS 22:1-13

Jesus the Lamb

JOHN 1:29, REVELATION 5 v6

Pure, without blemish

EXODUS 12:5 & JOHN 8:46 & JOHN 19:4

Note: The Israelite put his hand on the head of the sacrifice, identifying with it. The priest does not check out the person making the sacrifice, he checks to see if the lamb is perfect. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. If we are Christians then when it's our turn to stand in front of God He doesn't check us out, He checks to see if our Lamb, Jesus Christ is perfect.

Is He?

Of course He is. Then we will be accepted.

Note: This is regards Salvation. There is a judgement about how we operated our talents, our spiritual gifts. See 1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-15 The Fire is God's Holy Spirit. Any work carried out under our efforts will be destroyed by fire but any work we have done in the power of the Holy Spirit will survive the Holy Spirit test. (There's a good sermon there!)

Eat The Lamb

EXODUS 12:8 & JOHN 6:53-57 & MATTHEW 26:26-35 & JOHN 6:33-35 JOHN 6:48 - 51

The Lamb is the Word of God

JOHN 1:1 & v14

Blood on Display

EXODUS 12:7 & v13 & ROMANS 10:9-10 & MARK 8:38 & JOHN 6:47

Freed from Slavery

In Slavery

EXODUS 3:7-8 & ROMANS 3:23 & JOHN 8:34

To Come Out of Slavery

EXODUS 12:17 & JOHN 3:16

Forgiveness

HEBREWS 8:12 & I JOHN 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If we confess our sin to God, "Lord I have sinned", then later we pray to God, "Lord. Remember that sin I confessed to you?", He will say, "No."

God does not and cannot remember our sin if it is under the blood of Jesus

Token on display?

ROMANS 10:9-11, MARK 8:38, JAMES 2:20-26