

Life Lessons from Ancient Israel (Part 2)

*“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples:
and they are written for our admonition” (1 Cor. 10:11)*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 20th

Last week we discussed that God’s blessing is related to our understanding and obedience to His Word! (Joshua 1:8; 2 Tim. 3:16,17) God promised that if Abram would obey him, he would give him and his descendants the land of Canaan. (*Gen. 12:1-9; Ch. 13, 15, 26, 35, 50*) Abraham (and eventually his descendants) ended up as slaves in Egypt.

Reflection:

1. Egypt is a picture of spiritual bondage to the “world”

A. During hard times, the pull of comfort drew Abram to Egypt. Gen 12:10-20

1) Immediate consequences. 12:11-15 (*Betrayal, Egyptian Slaves, corrupted Lot*)

2) Long term consequences. Gen. 16 (*Ishmael: Birth of Arab nations.*)

B. God promised eventual deliverance from Egypt. (Gen. 15:13-16)

2. The Passover is a picture of Salvation.

The price of salvation (Yeshû`â = deliverance) is the blood of the innocent sacrifice

Ex. 12:13 *“When I see the blood, I will pass over you”* 1 Cor 5:7 *“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us”*

3. Red sea symbolizes a type of Baptism 1 Cor 10:1-2 *“I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were baptized unto Moses in the . . . sea”*

A. First Step of Faith after Salvation. Acts 2:37-38 *“Repent, and be baptized”*

B. It’s an act of simple obedience. 1 Pt 3:21 *“the answer of a good conscience toward God”*

C. Commitment to identify with God and walk by obedient faith Ro. 6:4-13

Direction: Sinai (the Law) represents a commitment to a relationship with God through His word.

1. The Law reveals God’s Holy (perfect) standard. (Heb. 12:21)

Lev.11:44 *“I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy”*

Ro. 3:19,20 *“what things the law saith, it saith. . . that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. (reveal that we are “condemned already”! Jn. 3:18) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

2. The Law reveals our sinfulness.

Ro. 3:10,23 *“There is none righteous, no not one. . . For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

Is. 59:2 *“your iniquities have separated between you and your God. . .”*

James 2:10 *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

3. The Law revealed that the only path to restoration of our relationship with God was through a sacrificial atonement.

Lev 17:11 *“the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul.”*

Kafar’: to cover or placate

A. The Old Covenant was a temporary preparation. Heb 10:3-4 *"But in those (O.T.) sacrifices (Day of Atonement) there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."*
O.T. "atonement" (Kafar) could only cover or placate!

B. The New Covenant is a permanent Solution! Gal. 3:22,24 *"But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."*
Heb 10:5-7,10 *"Wherefore when he (Jesus as the lamb of God) cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In ... sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I lo I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will O God! ... by the which we are sanctified (hagiozo: made holy) through the offering of Jesus Christ once for all"*
Ro 5:10-11 *"we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, ..., we shall be saved by his life. ... we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."*
N.T. "atonement" (katallagē) means to: exchange, cleanse, reconcile, restore!

4. Sinai revealed the path of partnership.

A. God had a plan that included them! Ex. 19:4-6 *"I brought you unto myself... if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all! And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."*

B. God's word reveals he has a plan that includes us! 1 Jn 1:6-9; 1 Peter 2:9
"ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; (peripoi'ēsis: a purchased, preserved and precious possession) that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"

Conclusion:

The Exodus teaches us that Our journey of Faith involves moving:

- 1) From: The Bondage of sin (Egypt) to Freedom (in Christ).
- 2) Through: The Symbolic death of our old life in the Red sea (baptism) leaving "Egypt" behind to *"walk in newness of life"*. Ro. 6:4
- 3) Toward: A personal & purposeful relationship with God through His Son and Word.

2 Cor 5:17-18 *"if any ... be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are pass(ing) away; (parerch'omai: literally perishing by neglect) all things are becom(ing) (regenerating) new. and all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation"* (Katallagē': reconciliation, restoration, adjustment!)

Like Israel, God has a plan for partnering with Us!

2 Cor 5:19,20 *"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."*

Katallassō: adjusted and changed!

Application:

- **Where are you in this Faith journey?** Still in bondage to sin? Stuck in the Sinai dessert? (Somewhere between Egypt and Sinai, not clearly identified with Christ in Baptism)
Or Learning and responding (adjusting) to God's Word and will for your life?

Where do you want to be?

Phil 2:12,13 *"it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"* (purposes)

Will you work with Him? Mt. 11:29