

Life Lessons from Ancient Israel

Part 3: The Pull of Egypt

*“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 27th

Reflection: The choices of the people of Ancient Israel serve as a type of allegory.

- Egypt represents the power and pull of the World ruled by *“the god of this world”*. 2 Cor 4:4
- Passover reveals the price required to redeem us from Satan’s Power. Col. 1:13,14
- Red sea symbolizes a type of Baptism (1 Cor 10:1-2) representing a commitment to Leave “Egypt” (the world) behind and Learn to follow God by faith.
- Sinai (the Law) represents “Discipleship”. A commitment to a relationship with God through His word. At Sinai we learn about:
 1. God’s Holy standard. 2. Our own sinfulness (inability to meet God’s standard).
 3. Our need for forgiveness through atonement. 4. God’s plan for a partnership with us.

Sinai also revealed the power and pull of “Egypt” (our past)!

**There’s a significant difference between getting out of Egypt (the world)
and getting “Egypt” out of us!**

The pressures (*habits/attitudes*) of our past can easily sabotage our future!

Exodus 19: Israel arrives and camps at the base of Sinai.

1) God reviewed His power, protection, provision and plan. (vs 4-6)

“all the people answered together...all that the LORD hath spoken we will do.”

2) 3 days later God descends on Sinai. 16-23

Exodus 20:

1) God gives the 10 Commandments.

2) The people hear God speak and respond. 18-21 *“the people ...removed and stood afar off. And said to Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.*

- Moses replies: *“Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, 19 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.”*

Exodus 21-23 God gives Moses instructions and he returns and shares them.

Exodus 24 God reveals himself to the People.

The Israelites had:

- Experienced God’s power and provision.
- Seen Moses come and go from the Mountain.
- The leaders had eaten with and seen God.
- All Heard (and agreed to) His commandments. Ex 24:3 *“Moses told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered... All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.”*

In Ex. 24:12-17 God called Moses back up to the mountain. While Moses is in the Mountain receiving further directions from God (Ex 25-32) Old habits / attitudes reassert themselves.

Whenever / wherever God is working, Satan will also be working!

(and he uses our “past” to pressure us!) Šāṭān’ literally means “adversary”!

Important questions to ask when tempted.

1. Where will this **take** me? Ex 32:1 *"Up, make us gods, which shall go before us;"*
A. Who were these "god's"? Egyptian god Apis Vs 4
B. Where would they lead them?

2. Who will I **follow**? Ex. 32:1

- A. They had followed Moses *"we wot not what is become of him."*

1) Who had Moses been following? Ex 13:21

If God leads you somewhere, be careful of who (what) you let lead you away!

3) What will it **cost**? (What's really at stake?)

- A. There are **usually** immediate costs. *"break off the gold earrings"* vs 2

- B. There are **always** hidden costs for sin.

1) Sin's "debt" always **Corrupts!** Vs 4, 5 *"These be thy gods, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt... Aaron proclaimed tomorrow is a feast unto the Lord."*

2) Sin's "debt" always **compounds**.

a) Self Deception. Vs 5, 24

b) Powerful illustration. 19 *(Moses physically broke the "law")*

c) Distasteful application. 20 *(Made Israel drink the contaminated water)*

d) Direct question. 26 *"Who is on the Lord's side...? Levi gathered themselves unto him."*

e) Difficult Position. 27 *"Slay every man his brother ... companion... neighbor"*

f) Death and destruction. 3000 died. (Vs 28) 35 *"And the LORD plagued the people..."*

Willful sin gives Satan increased influence in our lives! 1 Sam. 15:23

g) Distance from God. (Isolation) Ex. 33:3

- C. God still made a way back to Him! 8 *"every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp."*

Conclusion:

Israel's time in Egypt affected some of their ideas and attitudes.

During difficult times, Satan used this to Tempt them to resist and rebel from God. This Corrupted their relationship with God and Compounded the consequences of their sin.

This (sin) moved them further from God, leaving them increasingly vulnerable to more of Satan's deception and influence. In His love and mercy God made a way to restore their relationship with Him. (Ex. 33:7) Those that chose to seek and follow God, discovered (like David) that:

"He restoreth my soul and leads me in the paths of righteousness" Ps. 23:3

Application:

Satan uses our time in Egypt (the world) to develop ideas and attitudes (thoughts) that he builds into what the Bible describe as "strongholds" in our soul. He then uses these to influence our responses to God, hoping to: Corrupt our relationship with God. And Compound the effect of our choices. Like Israel, our sin moves us away from God; Leaving us more vulnerable to Satan's influence.

Thankfully, God has made a way to back to a healthy relationship with Him (1 Jn 1:6-9) and to *"restore our soul"*. But we (like Israel) have to come to God on His Terms! (Ro 12:1,2)

Will you work with God to

- 1) Identify and Remove Satan's (the world's) strongholds? *"be not conformed to this world"*
- 2) Replace them with "Towers of God's Truth" *"be transformed by renewing your mind"*