

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Moving On

Introduction

Over the years I have heard a lot of messages about walking with the Lord and our journey with Him. However, in practice we act as if there is no journey. We act as if we have arrived and are simply waiting for the return of the Lord. While it is true that legally we are seated with Him in heavenly places, in practice, experientially, we are far from that position.

The Scriptures tell us that the Children of Israel and their experiences in the Old Testament are an example for us.

1 Corinthians 10:11 NASB (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

The nature of an example is to instruct based on real life experiences. In math examples show us the principles and methodology of solving problems. The goal is that we should learn the practical application of the principles from the examples given.

Primary Example

While there are many applicable examples with the Children of Israel, one of the primary ones is the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and their journey to the Promised Land. We have applied the deliverance part thoroughly. We see Jesus as the Passover Lamb and His blood as our protection and salvation. While we tend to stop there, for the Children of Israel that was just the beginning.

Deuteronomy 6:23 NASB He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.'

Bringing them out of Egypt was the first step in His purpose. He has to bring us out in order to bring us in. Getting out is not the end goal but a necessary step toward the end purpose.

We tend to think of Israel leaving Egypt like a mob scene from a movie with all of the people just running away but it was not like that. "... *and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt.*" (**Exodus 13:18 NASB**) Martial array means that they were arranged like military units, marching columns designated by tribe. They left Egypt as a *corporate people* ordered by the Lord not as individuals on their own.

Remembering that Egypt is a type or symbol of the world system, we have done something

similar. We have appropriated Jesus as the Passover Lamb and have assembled at the edge of Egypt (the world) in nice denominational tribes, columns ready to leave. And that's where we are, positioned in our neat denominational columns marching in place with no where to go.

Why is it this way? Does no one have a vision of the path? Instead of following the Cloud as the Children of Israel did, are we just wandering in the fog? Is our status quo the leadership's fault or the people's fault? Why aren't we moving on?

Could it be as simple as worldly thinking based on worldly perceptions? Have we lost the perspective of God who sees all things from beginning to end? Have we neglected to seek and understand His purpose? Why did God deliver the Children of Israel from Egypt? "*He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, ...*" A straight forward answer revealing some of His purpose. Why did He save us, deliver us from world system? For the same reason, "*He brought us out from there in order to bring us in,...*" Our problem is that we don't have a destination. We have been told that the goal is to go to Heaven and avoid Hell. So now we are marching in place waiting to go to Heaven because that is all that we have been taught.

It is time that we stop thinking like foolish children. Paul said, "*When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.*" (1 Corinthians 13:11 NASB) Children don't think about the future; they live in the moment. God intends for us to mature, to grow up in Christ. We are not to remain as children. (Ephesians 4:14) That means that our perspective on the plans and purposes of God must mature also. Our vision must enlarge to encompass all that God intends.

One of the things that we know for sure is that we have not arrived at the end goal. Some of us have never even taken the first step of the journey. We must move on.

How to do it

It is not God's intention that we move on as individuals but rather as His corporate people. I can't go on and leave you behind unless you simply refuse to go. I have an obligation to the Body to help move the Body toward the goal by helping the Body follow the Cloud and the Fire.

My problem is that I get quite frustrated with the people of God who have been so indoctrinated by their traditions that they are blind to the purposes of God. To me it seems so straight forward: "He brought us out in order to bring us in." Bring us in to what? To move on we must answer that question. The Children of Israel had a physical land, the Promised Land, that was their destination. We have a non-physical land, a spiritual reality called the Kingdom of God. Some have referred to this as our land of promises. It is our destination, to enter in to the fullness of His Kingdom.

Between "bringing them out" and "taking them in" is an area called the wilderness, which is the preparation arena for change to make us capable of being taken in. Before the wilderness are two necessary experiences to prepare us for the journey: baptism in the cloud and baptism in the sea (1 Corinthians 10:1-2) These correspond to baptism in water and baptism in the Holy Spirit. Both of these are necessary experiences for moving on. Why? Because they cut off the capability of the world system from taking us captive again. Just as Pharaoh's army was drowned in the sea and his ability to further pursue was eliminated, so also by water and Holy Spirit baptism the ability of the world system to pursue us and take us captive again is eliminated. Only if we purposely turn back does the world have the capability of again taking us captive.

After entering the wilderness we immediately must learn our source of spiritual food and spiritual drink. (I Corinthians 10:3-4) However, the primary purpose of the wilderness is to change our mindsets, the very way that we think.

The Children of Israel were slaves in Egypt for multiple generations. Their mentality, the way that they thought was that of a slave. Because of their mindset God did not take them along the caravan route to Canaan. If they went the normal trail they would have to fight and God knew that they would then turn back. (Exodus 13:17) However, God also knew that by the time they got to Canaan they would have giants that they would have to fight. So, between Egypt and Canaan the way they think, their mindset, would have to change. Their mindset would have to move from “slave” to “warrior”. Their experiences in the wilderness were designed by God to “renew their minds”, to change the way they thought about themselves and the way they thought about God.

The Scriptures tell us that we are transformed (completely changed) by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:2) This process occurs in the wilderness and is absolutely necessary before entering the promised land (what the Lord has for us). To get there we have to move on.

“He brought us out from there in order to bring us in...”

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com