

Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 1:25 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Exodus 13:17-14:31

"When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses." (Exodus 14:31)

Last week's lesson was a great reminder of what happened in Egypt on the night of the "exodus"--when the LORD, "with a powerful hand, brought the children of Israel out of (bondage) in Egypt"! It was a night "to be observed for the LORD...by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations"! The "ordinance of the Passover"! And we, as MOBsters, were privileged to have Stephen Katz, the North American Director of "Jews for Jesus," talk about "Christ and the Passover," and re-enact the "Seder," the Passover meal still observed, and celebrated, by Jews today! For Christians, the Passover represents not only the great exodus of Jews from Egypt--which we honor, and celebrate, as well--but, more importantly for us, a "foreshadowing" of the coming of Jesus Christ as the "Lamb of God" who, in celebrating the Passover, in the "upper room"--on the night of His betrayal (some 400 years later)--would offer up Himself as the "once-for-all, all-sufficient sacrifice" for the sin of the world! Forever remembered, and celebrated, by Christians as the ordinance of "the Lord's Supper"! The apostle Paul captures the scene this way (in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26): "For I received from the LORD that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and; when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes!"

Last nite, we "witnessed" (in Exodus 13:17-14:31) the actual details of the LORD's "leading" of the children of Israel out of Egypt--"not by the way of the land of the Philistines" (the most convenient, and direct, way), but "around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea" (the long and "impossible" way)! (Shepherd's Notes states this just might have represented "the greatest moment in Israel's history," as they passed through the Red Sea! And it's even been captured as well, impressively one must say, by one of the greatest movies of all time!)

So why did they go the way they did? Simply put, the LORD led them that way! And they obediently followed!

And, interestingly, with all the other distractions, they "took the bones of Joseph with them"! Joseph, the one responsible (in a way not of his own planning, but in the providence of God) for getting the children of Israel "stuck" in Egypt for some 400 years! We have to admire the "faith" of Joseph! (Check out the "hall of faith" in Hebrews 11!) In Genesis 50:24-26, "Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.' Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, 'God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones from here.' So, Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt!" (But his bones would end up, eventually, in Shechem, "in a piece of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem," in the land of Canaan--the "Promised Land"!)

Exodus 13:21 says "The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night!" Wow! Imagine! God overseeing, and protecting, and guiding them--every step of their way! (Psalm 23:3 says the Lord "will guide me in the paths of righteousness!")

But that didn't mean it would be easy! Pharaoh, for one thing, had a "change of heart"! Verse 8 says, "the LORD hardened his heart"! And Pharaoh rounded up a great army, including "six hundred select chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt," and came after them, overtaking them as they were "camping by the sea"! (And led, of course, by a sneering Yul Brynner!) And they (the children of Israel) became "very frightened" (as they should have!)--and their "faith" faltered! And they complained greatly and questioned why Moses had "brought them out of Egypt"! How quickly they forgot all about their former bondage, and the miraculous rescue by God! (We can all probably relate with them, right?)

You've got to admire Moses' response, however (trapped as they all were, by the Red Sea)! "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever! The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent!" (Would that we might respond like this in our times of crisis!)

Well, you know the rest of the story! How Moses "lifted up his staff and stretched it over the water" and how the LORD "swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided...and the sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on dry land"! Wow! Exodus 14:22 says the waters "were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left"! But not so for the Egyptian army in full pursuit! The LORD caused the "wheels of the chariots to get swerve," and when Moses again "stretched his hand over the sea...the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak...and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea!" Wow! (This was really no great feat for our great God! Remember, in the beginning of time--in Genesis 1:2, 9--how, as part of the creation story, "the Spirit of God moved over the surface of the waters...and let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so!")

Exodus 14:30-31 sums it up well! "Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians...And when Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared ('revered') the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses!" (And it was so!)

Hear the Word of the LORD! And trust Him forevermore!

Lowell