

CHAPTER TWELVE

BONDAGE, DELIVERANCE AND THE LAW

The Children of Israel faced very difficult times. A famine caused them to have to search for food. God, however, had made a provision for them. He had taken a bad situation and turned it into a blessing, for the Children of Israel. You see, Joseph had been sold as a slave to some Egyptians merchants. God used this to get Joseph at the right place at the right time in order to bless him and his people. Joseph actually blessed his brothers, the very ones who had sold him. He had become a political leader in Egypt, and he was able to furnish his people with the food that they needed. Since he had control over the food supply, he used it to get his own family, along with the other Children of Israel to move to Egypt. There they received the best the land had to offer.

GEN 47:1-12

1 THEN JOSEPH CAME AND TOLD PHARAOH, AND SAID, MY FATHER AND MY BRETHREN, AND THEIR FLOCKS, AND THEIR HERDS, AND ALL THAT THEY HAVE, ARE COME OUT OF THE LAND OF CANAAN; AND, BEHOLD, THEY ARE IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN.

2 AND HE TOOK SOME OF HIS BRETHREN, EVEN FIVE MEN, AND PRESENTED THEM UNTO PHARAOH.

3 AND PHARAOH SAID UNTO HIS BRETHREN, WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION? AND THEY SAID UNTO PHARAOH, THY SERVANTS ARE SHEPHERDS, BOTH WE, AND ALSO OUR FATHERS.

4 THEY SAID MOREOVER UNTO PHARAOH, FOR TO SOJOURN IN THE LAND ARE WE COME; FOR THY SERVANTS HAVE NO PASTURE FOR THEIR FLOCKS; FOR THE FAMINE IS SORE IN THE LAND OF CANAAN: NOW THEREFORE, WE PRAY THEE, LET THY SERVANTS DWELL IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN.

5 AND PHARAOH SPAKE UNTO JOSEPH, SAYING, THY FATHER AND THY BRETHREN ARE COME UNTO THEE:

6 THE LAND OF EGYPT IS BEFORE THEE; IN THE BEST OF THE LAND MAKE THY FATHER AND BRETHREN TO DWELL; IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN LET THEM DWELL: AND IF THOU KNOWEST ANY MEN OF ACTIVITY AMONG THEM, THEN MAKE THEM RULERS OVER MY CATTLE.

7 AND JOSEPH BROUGHT IN JACOB HIS FATHER, AND SET HIM BEFORE PHARAOH: AND JACOB BLESSED PHARAOH.

8 AND PHARAOH SAID UNTO JACOB, HOW OLD ART THOU?

9 AND JACOB SAID UNTO PHARAOH, THE DAYS OF THE YEARS OF MY PILGRIMAGE ARE AN HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS: FEW AND EVIL HAVE THE DAYS OF THE YEARS OF MY LIFE BEEN, AND HAVE NOT ATTAINED UNTO THE DAYS OF THE YEARS OF THE LIFE OF MY FATHERS IN THE DAYS OF THEIR PILGRIMAGE.

10 AND JACOB BLESSED PHARAOH, AND WENT OUT FROM BEFORE PHARAOH.

11 AND JOSEPH PLACED HIS FATHER AND HIS BRETHREN, AND GAVE THEM A POSSESSION IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, IN THE BEST OF THE LAND, IN THE LAND OF RAMESES, AS PHARAOH HAD COMMANDED.

12 AND JOSEPH NOURISHED HIS FATHER, AND HIS BRETHREN, AND ALL HIS FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD, WITH BREAD, ACCORDING TO THEIR FAMILIES.

GEN 47:27

27 AND ISRAEL DWELT IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, IN THE COUNTRY OF GOSHEN; AND THEY HAD POSSESSIONS THEREIN, AND GREW, AND MULTIPLIED EXCEEDINGLY.

But then a new Egyptian king came to the throne. He did not know Joseph. When he surveyed and found that the Israelites out-numbered the Egyptians, he decided to make slaves out of the Children of Israel before they decided to overtake Egypt. Once again the hand of satan would try to destroy the inheritance that was to belong to the promised "seed" discussed in Genesis 3:15.

Moses was raised up by God to lead the Children of Israel to freedom. In doing this, Moses would be a type of Jesus. God wanted to fulfill His promise to Abraham, and this was impossible with the Israelites in bondage.

God had a two-fold purpose for carrying out the covenant with the Children of Israel. First, He planned for Israel to receive Divine revelation and become the channel for the World-redeemer. Secondly, He planned for Israel to take this God-given revelation to the rest of the world. God spoke to Moses.

EXOD 3:7-8

7 AND THE LORD SAID, I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF MY PEOPLE WHICH ARE IN EGYPT, AND HAVE HEARD THEIR CRY BY REASON OF THEIR TASKMASTERS; FOR I KNOW THEIR SORROWS;

8 AND I AM COME DOWN TO DELIVER THEM OUT OF THE HAND OF THE EGYPTIANS, AND TO BRING THEM UP OUT OF THAT LAND UNTO A GOOD LAND AND A LARGE, UNTO A LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY; UNTO THE PLACE OF THE CANAANITES, AND THE HITTITES, AND THE AMORITES, AND THE PERIZZITES, AND THE HIVITES, AND THE JEBUSITES.

God, knowing the Pharaoh would not willingly release the Children of Israel, told Moses and Aaron, the brother of Moses to show Pharaoh a miracle, which they did. Now Aaron was a type of Jesus for Aaron was the high priest. The rod of Moses turned into a snake. Pharaoh had his magicians perform the same thing. But then the snake made from the rod of Moses ate the other snakes. The rod of Moses represented Jesus Christ becoming sin and entering satan's territory. Just as Jesus was to become sin and then become victorious over it, so did the rod of Moses. Sin was consumed by Jesus. When the rod turned back into the original rod, it represented Jesus being the rod of Jesse and then later becoming the King of Kings.

Still the heart of Pharaoh was hardened. It was necessary for God to send ten plagues upon the Egyptians. The first nine plagues required nothing on the part of the Israelites to

avoid the plagues. The tenth plague required an act of the shedding of blood if they were to escape. The Lord commanded a choice lamb, a male without spot or blemish. This lamb was a type of Christ on the Cross. This is why it had to be perfect. The lamb had to be taken on the tenth day of the first month and kept until the fourteenth day when it was to be slain at exactly three o'clock. Jesus was betrayed on the tenth day and crucified on the fourteenth day. He died at exactly three o'clock. The blood of the lamb was to be put on the two side posts and on the lintel of every house of the descendants of Abraham.

EXOD 12:7-13

7 AND THEY SHALL TAKE OF THE BLOOD, AND STRIKE IT ON THE TWO SIDE POSTS AND ON THE UPPER DOOR POST OF THE HOUSES, WHEREIN THEY SHALL EAT IT.

8 AND THEY SHALL EAT THE FLESH IN THAT NIGHT, ROAST WITH FIRE, AND UNLEAVENED BREAD; AND WITH BITTER HERBS THEY SHALL EAT IT.

9 EAT NOT OF IT RAW, NOR SODDEN AT ALL WITH WATER, BUT ROAST WITH FIRE; HIS HEAD WITH HIS LEGS, AND WITH THE PURTENANCE THEREOF.

10 AND YE SHALL LET NOTHING OF IT REMAIN UNTIL THE MORNING; AND THAT WHICH REMAINETH OF IT UNTIL THE MORNING YE SHALL BURN WITH FIRE.

11 AND THUS SHALL YE EAT IT; WITH YOUR LOINS GIRDED, YOUR SHOES ON YOUR FEET, AND YOUR STAFF IN YOUR HAND; AND YE SHALL EAT IT IN HASTE: IT IS THE LORD'S PASSOVER.

12 FOR I WILL PASS THROUGH THE LAND OF EGYPT THIS NIGHT, AND WILL SMITE ALL THE FIRSTBORN IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, BOTH MAN AND BEAST; AND AGAINST ALL THE GODS OF EGYPT I WILL EXECUTE JUDGMENT: I AM THE LORD.

13 AND THE BLOOD SHALL BE TO YOU FOR A TOKEN UPON THE HOUSES WHERE YE ARE: AND WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD, I WILL PASS OVER YOU, AND THE PLAGUE SHALL NOT BE UPON YOU TO DESTROY YOU, WHEN I SMITE THE LAND OF EGYPT.

These verses are about what is called *Passover*. The Passover indicates that Jesus is the Lamb of God who was slain for our redemption. The firstborn of the Israelites was safe when covered by the blood. We are saved from our sin, but rather than the blood of Jesus, our Lamb, covering our sin, it washes our sins away. This places us in a better position with God than the Old Testament saints. There were two symbolic motions made by the person as the blood of the Lamb was put on the door. First, there was the sign of the cross made as the individual bent over to dip into the blood and the put it on the door posts. Secondly, there was a triangle pointing upward made by the blood when it was put on the door posts. It was man pointing to God. When Jesus' blood was shed on the cross, His blood from His head and His hands made a triangle pointing downward. This was God pointing to man. When you put the two triangles together, you have the Star of David. After such hardship in Egypt, the Children of Israel got away from the Egyptians and headed for the Promised Land.

God performed a miracle in order for the Israelites to cross the Red Sea. The waters rolled back and the Children of Israel walked through on dry land. When Pharaoh's army tried to follow, the waters closed, drowning the army. Some think that the waters were

very shallow at the place where the Israelites crossed. This is not the case, but if it were, it would have still required a miracle for Pharaoh's army to drown in two inches of water.

God lead the Children of Israel with a cloud by day and fire by night. He fed them with manna from Heaven. The word *manna* means "what is it". It was a substance that would serve the purpose of bread. Jesus is our Bread.

Even with this direct communication with God, the Children of Israel murmured. They also divided themselves into twelve tribes according to their forefathers who were the sons of Jacob. They did not understand that there was strength in numbers.

After three months of journeying, they reached the wilderness (actually, a desert) of Sinai. Moses went up on the mountain to talk with God while the multitude of people camped below.

EXOD 19:3-6

3 AND MOSES WENT UP UNTO GOD, AND THE LORD CALLED UNTO HIM OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN, SAYING, THUS SHALT THOU SAY TO THE HOUSE OF JACOB, AND TELL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL;

4 YE HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID UNTO THE EGYPTIANS, AND HOW I BARE YOU ON EAGLES' WINGS, AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF.

5 NOW THEREFORE, IF YE WILL OBEY MY VOICE INDEED, AND KEEP MY COVENANT, THEN YE SHALL BE A PECULIAR TREASURE UNTO ME ABOVE ALL PEOPLE: FOR ALL THE EARTH IS MINE:

6 AND YE SHALL BE UNTO ME A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, AND AN HOLY NATION. THESE ARE THE WORDS WHICH THOU SHALT SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

God told Moses to go back to the people and sanctify them for on the third day He would manifest Himself to the people from the mountain. He instructed Moses to forbid anyone to touch the mountain. Sure enough, on the third day there was thundering and lightning. The mountain became covered with smoke. God had descended to the mountain in fire. God then orally gave the Law for the people. They, however, were spiritually dead. This made it necessary for them to have such a Law to govern every phase of their lives. They needed God's instructions and directions to equip them to carry out the two-fold task that He had assigned to them.

EXOD 19:3-6

3 AND MOSES WENT UP UNTO GOD, AND THE LORD CALLED UNTO HIM OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN, SAYING, THUS SHALT THOU SAY TO THE HOUSE OF JACOB, AND TELL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL;

4 YE HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID UNTO THE EGYPTIANS, AND HOW I BARE YOU ON EAGLES' WINGS, AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF.

5 NOW THEREFORE, IF YE WILL OBEY MY VOICE INDEED, AND KEEP MY COVENANT, THEN YE SHALL BE A PECULIAR TREASURE UNTO ME ABOVE ALL PEOPLE: FOR ALL THE EARTH IS MINE:

6 AND YE SHALL BE UNTO ME A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, AND AN HOLY NATION. THESE ARE THE WORDS WHICH THOU SHALT SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

It is important to note that God had to give the Law three times before the Law was given in

its entirety. The first giving, for instance, did not state a provision for the priesthood nor for the sacrifices. After the third time, the giving of the Law was completely delivered to Moses. It had three divisions. (1) The Commandments expressing the Righteous Will of God

(Read Exodus 20:1-27). (2) The Judgments governing the social life of Israel (Read Exodus 21:1-24). (3) The Ordinances governing the religious life of Israel (Read Exodus 23: 12-31).

More specifically, the Law was a condemnation unto death. It was not to replace the covenant that God had made with Abraham, but an addition to it. The covenant with Abraham lacked a sufficient emphasis on sin. Its chief imperfection lay in the fact it did not reveal man's lost condition and incapacity for self-redemption. But the law added information regarding sin, making the people aware of the error of their way.

The Law was given as an insertion until the Messiah would come. The Messiah would not do away with the law that God gave to Moses. Instead, He would fulfill it. When a glass is filled full of a beverage, the glass filled with the beverage does not disappear. Likewise, the law that God gave to Moses did not disappear. Instead, the Messiah would simply incorporate all the the Ten Commandments into God's only Law—the Law of Love.

The Law was just to serve as an instruction on how to love others. It was to be a hedge, bridle, rule, barrier, and a mirror. As a hedge, it separated Israel from the nations of the world. God used the Law as a bridle to guide Israel. The Law acted as a barrier against sin. As a rule, it showed the people how much they had missed the mark. Their disobedience, transgression, and lawlessness could easily be seen. As a mirror, the Law reflected their rebellion against God. At the same time, the Law showed the guiltiness of the sinner. This made the Law a personal "killer" because it offered no solution to the sinner's helplessness. But this was exactly what the Law was supposed to do. Man was to realize the need for a Deliverer. The Children of Israel were supposed to rely on God; receive His Word, the Messiah; and proclaim the message of God to the nations of the world.

The following is a breakdown of the Law as discussed in Exodus, chapter 21. Verses 1-6 deals with men servants. Verses:7-11 refers to maid servants and wives. Verses 12-14 discusses the penalty for murder. The 15th verse talks about death for parental dishonor. Death for kidnapping is discussed in verse 16. Verse 17 goes back again and talks about parental dishonor. Verses 18 and 19 has to do with assault and battery. Injuries to servants is the topic for verses 20 and 21. Verses 22-25 is in reference to injuries to pregnant women. Injuries to servants is once again discussed in verses 26 and 27.

Exodus, chapter 22 state the civil laws that pertain to animal, property and men. Verses 1-4 give us the penalty for larceny. The penalty for loss through spite is the topic for verse 5. Next, verse 6 states the penalty for carelessness. Verses 7-13 gives the penalty for loss of things. In verse 14 and 15 we learn about the penalty for the loss of borrowed things. Rape's penalty is discussed in verses 16 and 17. In verse 18 the Bible gives the

penalty for being a witch. In verse 19 the penalty for having sex with an animal is given. Idolatry is stated in verse 20. The penalty for oppressing another person is presented in verses 21-24. In verses 25-27 is the law against charging interest to the poor. The law against anarchy is stated in verse 28. Verses 29-30 is the law of first-fruits. Verse 31 is the law of personal holiness.

Chapter 23, verse 1 list the law against perjury. In verse 2 we find the law against following the crowd. The law against favoring the poor is found in verse 3. Law of love is in verses 4 and 5. Injustice is the topic for verses 6 and 7. Verse 8 contains the law against perjury. Verse 9 is another statement against oppression.

Still in chapter 23 is a list of the religious laws. Verse 10 and 11 are about the law of the Sabbath Year. This is followed by the law of the weekly Sabbath in verse 12. The law of faithfulness to God is in verse 13. Three national feasts are listed in verses 14-16. The law regarding the assembly of men is given in verse 17. Offerings are discussed in verses 18 and 19. These religious laws all point to Jesus Christ in some ways. In verses 20-23, we find that God promised guidance. Verse 24 is the law against idolatry. Verses 25-31 gives the blessings for obedience. The people are to have no fellowship with the enemy according to verses 32 and 33.

God immediately followed up the giving of the Law with a prophecy concerning the Angel of the Lord, whom we have already determined to be Jesus Christ.

EXOD 23:20-23

20 BEHOLD, I SEND AN ANGEL BEFORE THEE, TO KEEP THEE IN THE WAY, AND TO BRING THEE INTO THE PLACE WHICH I HAVE PREPARED.

21 BEWARE OF HIM, AND OBEY HIS VOICE, PROVOKE HIM NOT; FOR HE WILL NOT PARDON YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS: FOR MY NAME IS IN HIM.

22 BUT IF THOU SHALT INDEED OBEY HIS VOICE, AND DO ALL THAT I SPEAK; THEN I WILL BE AN ENEMY UNTO THINE ENEMIES, AND AN ADVERSARY UNTO THINE ADVERSARIES.

23 FOR MINE ANGEL SHALL GO BEFORE THEE, AND BRING THEE IN UNTO THE AMORITES, AND THE HITTITES, AND THE PERIZZITES, AND THE CANAANITES, AND THE HIVITES, AND THE JEBUSITES:

God explained the spiritual, physical, and material blessings would come upon the Children of Israel if they would listen to the voice of the Angel of the Lord. Moses responded by having the people offer both burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. He then sprinkled the blood of sacrifices on the altar and on the people. He read to the people from the book of the covenant. The people renewed their vow to be obedient to the voice of God. The Children of Israel determined to live up to the requirements established in the Law.

