

The Book of Exodus

Two Important Comparisons

Supplementary Lesson One

Text: Exodus 13:21-22; 14:1-7

I. The Pillar of Cloud and Fire – A Comparison with the Word of God

- A. The presence of this pillar indicated that Israel was under the direct government and guidance of God.
- B. Thus, as they journeyed, they followed the wisdom of God, not the wisdom of man (cf. Matt. 11:18-19; 1 Cor. 2:4, 13).
 - 1. They were able to avoid discouragement.
 - 2. They were able to escape their enemies.
 - 3. They were able to grow and mature.
 - 4. They were able to reach their destination.
- C. They were led by a visible, tangible guide.
 - 1. They could see the cloud by night and day.
 - 2. They knew when to go, when to stop, and when to stay.
 - 3. They were not guided by internal feelings or emotions.
 - 4. In like manner, the Bible is the visible, tangible guide of man today (cf. 1 Pet. 4:11).
- D. They were led by a competent guide.
 - 1. They were certain to be right as long as they followed the cloud.
 - 2. Today, man can be certain that he is right as long as he follows the Bible (Psa. 119:105).
- E. They were led by a faithful guide.
 - 1. It was ever-present, showing them the way to go.
 - 2. Likewise, the Bible will never lead one astray (2 Tim. 3:15ff).
- F. They were led together as a group – no different paths to the same destination.
- G. They followed by faith – submitting to and following the direction of God.

II. The Exodus from Egypt – A Comparison with the Bondage of Sin

- A. In Egypt, they received insult from Pharaoh and the Egyptians.
 - 1. Sin appears friendly and beneficial, but this is a deception.
 - 2. In fact, it brings insult, guilt, shame, and punishment upon men.
- B. In Egypt, they had no rights.
 - 1. Sin appears to present freedom.
 - 2. In fact, it enslaves by bringing one into bondage unto Satan (John 8:31-36).
- C. In Egypt, they were kept under the power of Pharaoh.
 - 1. There could have been no escape without the help and provision of God.
 - 2. Likewise, there is no escape from sin without the grace of God and the blood of Jesus.
- D. After escaping Egypt, Pharaoh pursued them.
 - 1. Man escapes sin by obeying the Gospel of Christ.
 - 2. However, the devil will still pursue and attempt to seduce the Christian back into the world and its bondage.

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- E. Consider important lessons from Pharaoh.
1. When Israel left Egypt, Pharaoh thought they had made a mistake in their journey.
 - a. This is human wisdom in contrast with the wisdom of God.
 - b. Thus, he once again hardened his heart and fought against God.
 - c. When one follows the wisdom of God, he is never lost and will never fail.
 2. By hardening his heart, Pharaoh illustrates the powerful hold that sin can gain over man.
 - a. He had witnessed the devastation of the ten plagues.
 - b. He had seen the power and might of Jehovah.
 - c. Yet, he sought to fight against God with horses and chariots!
 - d. This is illustrated by the pillar of cloud and fire (14:19-20).
 - i. To the Israelites, it was a source of light in the night.
 - ii. To Pharaoh, it was a cloud of blinding darkness.
 - iii. Cf. Matthew 6:19-23 – All the light that had been revealed to Pharaoh was viewed as darkness because of his heart.
 - iv. Cf. Isaiah 5:20; Jeremiah 4:22; Mark 10:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11
 - v. The only safeguard: The Love of Truth! (Cf. Luke 8:15)
 3. Ultimately, Pharaoh's hardness of heart led to his death and destruction.