

Exodus 17:8-18:27 - 21 May 2020

“Protecting What God Has Given”

Introduction

Exodus is the story of the Redemption & God’s salvation as seen thru the creation of the nation Israel.

God has delivered them out of Egyptian slavery & from the pursuing Pharaoh & his armies.

God intends to grow them, 1 step at a time, into a people that know how to trust Him and his ways.

He began to grow them in Chap 15-17 by experience. By experiencing thirst and hunger, so they’d know what in their own heart.

God has truly blessed this fledgling nation with:

1. A true revelation of who He is
2. An earthly life that can truly satisfy as they live it for and thru Him
3. A wonderful eternal future and a hope

In chap 17, they’ll learn that there will be times that they’ll have to defend what God has given them

We’ll see 3 attack vectors from which enemies will come

1st attack vector the enemy comes from is from outside your ranks (Chap 17:8-16)

Read Chap 17:8

1. Amalek is a descendant of Esau
 - a. Esau's family would have known that promises given to Jacob and passed down.
 - b. Should know, Israel's not after their land.
2. Read Deut 25:17-18 – smote the hinder parts
3. Bible is an integrated message system
 - a. Samuel will tell Saul to wipe out the Amalekites but he spares King Agag
 - b. Esther's nemesis Haman is a “son of” Agag
 - c. All of Amalekites judgement begins here!

Read Chap 17:9

1. This is 1st mention of Joshua
 - a. Same exact word as Jesus
 - b. Watch how Joshua is prototype of Savior
2. At Joshua's 1st appearance, he's the servant who's willing to die.

Read Chap 17:10-12

1. It is traditionally understood that Hur was Mariam's husband (Josephus – Antiquities III, 53)
2. Scripture tells us we have 3 enemies, (W, F, D)
 - a. Being attacked from outside your ranks is a picture of being attacked by the world.
3. *Solution to being attacked from outside is to come together in unity around God's goals.*
 - a. Believer isn't designed to function alone.
 - b. The church is called a body w/ different parts, functions and giftings.
4. When we're going out & affecting the world, we don't have time to quibble among ourselves!!!

Read Chap 17:13-16

1. They needed to write this down to remember that God protected them against outside enemies.
 - a. Joshua would need to remember this
 - b. Whole nation needs to remember that God taught them how to war

2. Can you see how God has grown you, to know how to defend yourselves against those who would attack you for living a Godly lifestyle?
 - a. I remember being attacked for:
 - i. Waiting to be married for those relations
 - ii. Not wanting to get drunk
 - iii. Couldn't defend myself
 - b. Lord has grown me, taught me His ways.
 - i. He's taught me that if you're not on the same page spiritually and mentally, the physical relationship won't matter anyway.
 - ii. He's taught me being drunk is a waste of time, money & opportunities to witness!!!

2nd attack vector the enemy comes from is from within your own mind (Chap 18:1-12)

Read Chap 18:1-7

1. The joyful reunion of Moses w/ his family and father-in-law

2. When the people were wanting to stone him last month, for no food/water, he could have despaired.
 - a. At this time, he could be puffed up w/ pride
 - b. The flesh tends to lead us constantly toward pride and arrogancy or despair & hopelessness
3. The very 1st battlefield we need to contend on, as we walk w/ the Lord, is that of the fleshly mind.
 - a. Battle to defeat our flesh begins in the mind
 - b. Read Eph 4:22-24 – Decision-point between putting off old & putting on new is the mind
 - c. Turn to II Cor 10:3-5 – Cast down things that are against God
 - d. Read Col 3:2 – *affection* is literally *mind*

Read Chap 18:8-12

1. When you see others acting proud (of their armies, of their position), it's tempting to do same.
2. Moses instead puts all the glory to God!
 - a. See vs 8 – how the Lord had delivered them

3. Was Jethro as true believer?
 - a. The story isn't intending to tell us clearly.
 - b. The story intends to tell us that the Lord received glory and honor from Moses & Jethro
4. *Solution to being attacked in our fleshly minds begins w/ always returning the glory to God, not self*
 - a. Read Rom 12:2-3

3rd attack vector the enemy comes from is from inside your own ranks (Chap 18:13-27)

Read Chap 18:13-18

1. Already seen Israel complaining, now Jethro is proactively preventing the next internal struggle.
2. Why do struggles within Godly group arise?
 - a. Sometimes it's from hypocrisy & sin
 - i. See Acts 5 – Ananias & Sapphira
 - b. Sometimes it's from plain distraction
 - i. Read Hebrews 12:1

3. Jethro foresees - unsustainable trend - needs changed.
 - a. Apostles couldn't continue with the admin of the physical needs of the people AND stay ready w/ the Word of God and prayer in Act 6.
 - b. Jethro sees this could lead to strife & anger.
4. When there's disunity & strife among believers it comes from the devil and his satanic forces.
 - a. When Peter denied the Lord, he angrily said, "I do not know the man".
 - i. But this all started w/ Satan
 - ii. Read Luke 22:31 – Satan wants to sift you
 - b. Ananias & his wife lied to God the Holy Spirit re: selling their land & donating money
 - i. But this all started w/ Satan
 - ii. Read Acts 5:3 – Satan filled their heart
 - c. Jesus spoke of dying, but Peter rebuked Him.
 - i. This all started w/ Satan
 - ii. Read Matt 16:23 – Satan brings disunity

Read Chap 18:19-23

1. So the qualifications of Godly leaders.
 - a. Humility flows forth from these verses.
2. End of vs 22 – “They shall bear burden w/ thee”
 - a. Dealing w/ problems b4 they’re problems is the way to keep Satan from affecting believers.
 - i. Read Gal 6:2 – Love withstands the devil
3. Moses sharing leadership is Godly thing to do.
 - a. We’re all gifted by God to fill certain roles
 - b. He’s not giving up his duty or role, as Koran wanted him to do later.
 - c. He sharing the burden. Styles of church gov’t or leadership can be flexible.
 - d. Notice vs 23 – They clearly intent to get the Lord’s permission to take this sharing approach

Read Chap 18:24-27

1. *Solution to being attacked from within group of believers by Satan, is to foresee the problems & deal with them head up. Pray for the tempted ones*

Conclusion

So to protect the blessing God has given us, be ready against our 3 enemies

- 1. The enemy comes from outside forces (the world)**
 - a. Being attacked by non-believers is not so bad, makes us stop quibbling re: small matters.
 - b. Bear each other's burdens
 - c. Rally around God's goals for unity
- 2. The enemy comes from w/i your own mind (the flesh)**
 - a. This is often the very first battlefield
 - b. Extol and exalt God and let Him lift you up
- 3. The enemy comes from inside your own ranks (the devil)**
 - a. When there's dissention within a church it's an attack of Satan.
 - b. Solution is to pray and deal with these situations head on, don't wait.