

ISRAEL: TYPE OF OUR SALVATION (1)

By Keith Greer

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” {Romans 15:4} When we study the Old testament, we find many shadows and types of things that would occur in the future. None is more important than the salvation for Israel (and for all men) to be realized through Christ Jesus. God’s deliverance of His people from Egyptian bondage makes this very clear. In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, he echoed this truth, “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” {1 Corinthians 10:1-4} In the following verses, Paul affirmed that these things were done for “**our examples.**” Let us study them together.

Egyptian Bondage. “Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.” {Exodus 2:22-25} The Israelites had, at one time, been in the Pharaoh’s good graces, but that was no longer true. They had become slaves and forced to serve with rigor. Helpless to end their own misery, they cried out to God for deliverance. Only He could deliver them from the physical bondage in which they found themselves in Egypt. God heard their cries and determined to bring them out to fulfill a promise made to Abraham years before. Still one needs to remember that God’s ways are different than men’s. While they were in bondage they were growing and multiplying in great numbers—even in bondage! God is growing the **NATION**—promise number one.

God raises Up a Deliverer. “Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” {Exodus 3:9,10} Moses was not convinced he was the right person for the job. Yet, every time he made an objection (excuse) God had an answer! Finally, Moses is convinced that God is with him and goes before Pharaoh with a simple message: “Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness. And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.” {Exodus 5:1,2}

Faith in God’s Deliverer. Moses had to do many things to convince Pharaoh to let the people go by bringing ten dreadful plagues, by the hand of God, upon the land of Egypt. Finally, after the death of the firstborn, the ruler relented and allowed the Jews to leave Egypt in the middle of the night with all their families, livestock and plunder taken from the Egyptians! Yet, deliverance is still not complete. God’s people come to the Red Sea, with the Egyptians right on their heels! Will they trust God and His deliverer? No, they are ready to turn back but God has other plans. “And Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you

today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." {Exodus 14:13,14} Do you see the growth in this man Moses? Strong faith, dedication, commitment and trust in God's promises. He well understood, after watching God destroy the land of Egypt and break Pharaoh's will by the plagues, God would do all He promised to do! Freedom from bondage was not a dream but a sure thing when promised by His God!

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