

Exodus 67 - People of Vision or People Adrift

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 35:30-36:38

Making the Tabernacle

- Moses appoints two men overseers in the construction of the Tabernacle, articles and court curtains
 - Bezael the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah
 - Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan
- Moses supervises the work through these men - Chain of command essential for effective, efficient work

Offerings for the Work

- The people brought all that was needed and more
- Moses had to stop the people from over giving
- Ministry of God uses only what it needs; does not seek enrichment of self



Continuing Our Far View



- Seeing the near view of this people at work and the far view of their failures we learn can some perspective for ourselves
- How did this generous people fall so far from embracing God's plan?

Where There is No Vision...

- I believe the answer is with the proper hermeneutical exegesis of several Old Testament verses (Ps 19:18)
 - Where there is no vision, the people perish;
 - But happy is he who keeps the teaching.
- Coupled with this verse, we gain insight into this issue (Am 3:3)
 - Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

The Tabernacle After the Calf

- The people gained a vision for God and His Tabernacle after their failure of vision by the building and worshiping of God via the Golden Calf {of meeting}
- Guilt of their sin moved people to provide materials, talent and time for the Tabernacle as repentance (This also revealed men skilled in metallurgy and carpentry)

True Repentance Shown by Works

- Though these people did not have exposure to grace-based doctrines, since no foundation had yet been laid, their behavior demonstrated true repentance (2Co. 7:9-12)
- Their repentance gave them the *vision* to see God's plan and participate in its completion even though they did not fully appreciate all He had to teach them

Godly Repentance Unifies

- People were inspired under the guidance of Moses and the vision he revealed after his second sabbatical
- This blessing, on some level, unified them with: (Ps. 133)
 - God
 - Moses
 - Aaron
 - Each other

Their Vision Was Limited

- Though we apprehend their worldview, we must be guided by historical understanding for we know the "*rest of the story*" (Nu. 13:14)
 - They will refuse to follow God into Canaan
 - They will attempt to invade Canaan without God
 - They will remain in the wilderness until nearly all die (Joshua and Caleb (Nu. 14:10))
- They had no (long term) vision – therefore, they perished

Why Was Their Vision Limited?

- They did not believe God; i.e., they did not mix His word they had received {*head knowledge*} with faith (Dt. 4:12)
 - They put their faith in the *appearance of strength* inherent in the world; they walked by sight, feared the world
 - Thus, God gave them the desire of their heart, to not enter into His rest (Dt. 1:21,25; 31:4-44)
 - They rebelled *again* seeking to enter Canaan without God - Moses, Aaron, Ark & faithful stayed in camp

Joy Does Not Bring Depth

- The joy of their repentance brought unity but it does not necessarily bring depth, that requires faith via God (Dt. 7:7-11; Hc. 11:8)
- People must study God's word, mixed with faith, to develop strength of will that God's Spirit will augment in the days of adversity (Dt. 24:10)
- These were "happy days" without true growth of faith (Dt. 13:16, 18-20)

How Can Two Walk Together

- God asks a later generation this question (Am. 3:3)
 - How can two walk together unless they are in agreement
- Agreement with God does not mean you set the terms
 - God sets the terms: He is God; He died for you (Ro. 5:6-10)
 - We follow Him His terms to have eternal life
 - If you do not agree, you will have no vision {*fall away*}

They Were Lost in Their Work

- This work did not develop their faith but became a trap of easy works
- This "faith" fails in the "day of adversity" because of reliance on flesh (walks by flesh and not by faith) (2Co. 5:6-10)



People Were *Failures* in Faith

(Ja. 2:14-20)

- James challenges the faith of his readers (saved Jews in Diaspora) (Equal application to *all believers everywhere*)
 - Claiming faith is like claiming knowledge
 - Without tangible results, it is only empty words
 - Works before faith are empty gestures purchasing wrath
 - Faith after salvation produces works (changed nature) that proves His grace is at work in the believer

Camp of "New Believers"

- New Christians are known for their
 - Enthusiasm
 - Optimism
 - Exuberance
- Many "teachers" point to these believers as examples for everyone to follow (poor understanding of faith)

Exuberance vs. Adversity

- New believers are steeped in ignorance because they are new believers - These Hebrews are *new* believers
 - They have little exposure to God's Word
 - They have little experience mixing faith with His Word
 - They have almost no depth of doctrine (1c 5:11-13)
- Wait and see how they stand in God in the day of adversity - Hebrews then, us now (2p 6:10-13)

These Events Written for Us

- Pentateuch not just history but instruction educating us on what and what not to do (1c 10:1-11)
- We are glad that repentance brings unity and should seek, and give, proper forgiveness to develop unity
- But, we should not be lulled into false sense of security during *easy* times mistaking it for mature faith

This Work Commended Them

- Their work on the Tabernacle commended, but did not complete, the work that God was doing in them
- They were sincere and generous in this work
- They were participating with God to meet with God
- Yet, this was only a step on the path; it was not the goal

Church is not the Goal

- Church is the preparation for Christian growth
 - It is a gathering of Christians with God to: (Ep 4:11-14)
 - To equip us for the work of the ministry
 - Building up of the body of Christ (Church)
 - Maturing in Christ to attain unity in faith and knowledge
 - So that we may no longer be children in Christ, tossed about by every changing wind of doctrine (so called)

Life is the Means of Growth

- The school of "hard knocks" is how we grow in grace which I call the Hagiazo Process
 - Job was not saved because he suffered, he suffered so he could prepare to meet God and be saved
 - Hebrews discusses adversities of Old Testament saints to develop their faith; but, they did not receive the Promise of the New Covenant (He 11)

Hebrews Points the Way (He 12)

- We are to have endurance based on the indwelling Christ, not our own strength which will fail in adversity
- We are not to grow weary
 - Due to sinners being against us as they were to Him
 - Due to chastisement necessary for our growth
- We are to come to Christ Who is greater than adversity