

Exodus 24 - The Path: Baptism or Death

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World

Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 14:15-31

Pitfalls to Avoid

- This section of Scripture seems to invite the wildest of speculations as to how and where this miracle was performed, as if that made any difference
- We will avoid this speculation which detracts from the essential lessons we can learn from this demonstration of God's power over Satan and His creation

Places Cannot Be Determined

- The actual sites stated in this narrative cannot be associated with any accuracy with current locations
 - We do not know where the crossing actually occurred
 - Whether salt water location
 - Or any of several fresh water locations (past or present)
 - We do know that this event occurred and is referenced for our edification

Law of Excluded Middle

God – Hebrews

- No different than the Egyptians in beliefs
- God alone chose them
- God defended them
- Their unbelief will kill them - Heaven

Satan – Egyptians

- Representative of the ancient Kingdoms
- They rejected God
- Their god(s) rejected them
- Their unbelief will kill them - Hell

Translation Problems

- Dirty secret: Red Sea is actually Reed Sea in Hebrew
 - Septuagint first to translate as Red Sea
 - Tradition *required* continual mistranslation as Red Sea
- This has led some to propose modern Saudi Arabia as the location of Mount Horeb
- Sinai is the simplest explanation – Occam's Razor

Contest is Quite Simple

- The struggle is over who has the power over:
 - Creation
 - Death
- The Passover determined who is an acceptable sacrifice for sin (Christ, not people)
- The baptism determines who has life and who does not

Egyptians are gods but not gods

- There are no gods or goddesses, only delusions of spiritual power – man's true god is self (IC= 3.5, IC= 8.43)
- This is a delusion of Satan who is the god of this world
 - He blinded the Egyptians, and us, to the truth of God (IC= 6.3-4)
 - He has power but limited by God
 - He does not save but destroys (IC= 8.43-44)

Hebrews are gods but have God

- Hebrews are sinners who are no different than the Egyptians; except,
- God chose them in spite of their *demonstrated* unbelief
- They are dismayed by the apparent *power* of death of:
 - Egyptians
 - Satan (god of this world)

Situation Report (Sit Rep)

- Hebrews are trapped among three natural barriers
 - Rock barriers of either side and water in front of them
- Egyptian chariots are bearing down on them ready to
 - Destroy the leaders – Moses, Aaron and the elders
 - Take the survivors back into slavery
- Again, question is: who is God – god; man chooses god

Metaphors of Spiritual Influence

- Water – Sea is demonic spiritual forces
 - World kingdoms rise out of the sea (Isa 2:10)
 - Storms on Chinnereth Sea seek to kill disciples (Mat 8:23-27)
- Wind – Holy Spirit makes a path through the sea
- Fire & Cloud – Christ guiding and protecting the Hebrews while confounding the Egyptians

God Uses Moses

- God had Moses raise his staff
 - Begin the process
 - End the process
- Elevated status of Moses as God's intercessor, he stood between God and people until priesthood



Wind Blew East to West

- Wind blew into their faces creating walls of water on either side drying the ground so they could cross with their carts, herds and families
- Demonic forces (sea) under the control of the Holy Spirit (wind) to accomplish God's will (life)
- People crossed over during the night, height of Satan's power

Pillar of Fire and Cloud - Christ

- Light to the Hebrews
- Darkness to Egyptians
- Protected the Hebrews
- Confused Egyptians
- Longsuffering to both



Egyptians Trapped in their Sin

- At daybreak God removed the pillar from between the two peoples
- Egyptians followed the Hebrews between the waters
- God removed His Holy Spirit allowing demonic forces to take dominion over their people
 - Egyptians trapped & killed by forces they worshipped

Hebrews Baptized into Moses

- This baptism separated the Hebrews from the Egyptians rocking the ancient world creating Axial Age
- Hebrews baptized into the Law which they will shortly receive (1Co 10:1-9)
- God showed His power over death & Satan before the entire ancient world (1Co 15:54-55; 1Pe 2:14-15)

This is Our Example (IC- 10:11)

- The events in the Pentateuch, indeed, the entire Old Testament, are examples to teach us of Christ and sin
- These demonstrate the strategy and tactics of God that fill our lives today teaching us, and the world, of
 - God's Holiness
 - God's Gospel
 - Futility of Satan, world and self (Unholy Trinity)

God's Guidance – His Glory

- God guides us according to His plan for:
 - His Gospel - The world may see His Gospel in action
 - Us - Our growth into spiritual maturity, Christlikeness
- To the world we appear trapped, weak (IC- 1:18-19, 26-31)
- They are trapped, blinded by Satan who preys on them

Our Circumstances – Our Whining

- All too often in dire circumstances we act like the Hebrews, whining and complaining *against* God
 - We do not pray therefore we do not understand
 - We see only the *power* of the world and our weakness
 - We feel betrayed by God while we remain in the flesh
- We *only* see our plan and not God's *overall* Gospel plan