

Exodus 28 – Who *Do* You Worship?

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 17:1-7

What We Build On

Those presuppositions we believe are true and build our hermeneutical truths upon

Exodus – Names

- Exodus (English) - Names (Hebrew)
- First major Hebrew word in the text names the book
 - Names of the descendants of Jacob (Israel)
 - Book gives primary name of God
 - Pharaoh's roles defined by his titles (names)

Worship is Continuous (God's Image)

- All people *always* in a state of worship (God's image)
 - Everyone has a source of values - sense of morality (god)
 - Following one's morality is worship - continuous
 - Thus *everyone* has a religion, (faith) worshipping god(s)
(Ro 1:18-25)
 - The issue is *never* about worshipping
 - The issue is *always* about the *object* of one's worship

All People Begin Worshiping Satan

- All people are born sinners
 - All sinners worship Satan (Jc 1:10-12)
 - Pharaoh was Satan's representative (spirit guide)
 - Egypt followed Pharaoh to achieve eternal bliss
 - Hebrews did not recognize that they also were sinners
 - They viewed God as god, to be used for their *needs*
 - God was teaching them that they were worshipping Satan

Nine Signs Taught Truth

- Each of the nine signs taught the Egyptians, Hebrews and us that man worships Satan and Satan *despises* man
- The Passover displayed the power of God against the powerlessness of Satan, and man, over death
- Hebrews, Christians, hidden under the *grace* of God not the power of our works or rules

Waters of Rebellion

God tested the Hebrews to show them that they did not worship Him as the God, but a god

Proofing to Reveal their Truth

- Proofing is an old term meaning to discover the truth, usually through a process <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/proof>
- God was proofing His people revealing to them they were not worshiping Him but their old gods (Satan)
 - Marah - Bitterness (Strong) waters of Demonism
 - Covetousness (Meat) - Despising the goodness of God
 - Rejection of God's Son, the source of their salvation

Water of Massah and Meribah

- Massah - Testing
- Meribah - Quarreling
- Hebrews tested God finding Him lacking
- God tested the Hebrews showing them their lacking



Facts are Clear

- God led them to Rephidim, near Horeb
- There was no water
- People angry - no water
- People rebelled against Moses, ergo, against God



Instant Gratification Required

- "If you are going to be *our* god then you must give us instant gratification always, no wants, ever" *Implied*
 - This was the bar by which they measured whether God was sufficient to be god
 - They would worship anyone who would give them instant gratification at all times (Just like people today)
 - Moses (God), *their* slave (persecuted becomes persecutor)

God is Gracious in Teaching

- People complained that God wanted to kill them
 - Blamed God for bringing (forcing) them out of Egypt
 - Previous signs did not change them (signs don't work)
- Moses prays to God that the people want to kill him
- God gives Moses instructions to meet their needs

Come to Horeb (Ex. 17:1-7)

- God involves the people in this sign
 - Moses is to go to Horeb with the tribal elders
 - At the rock of God's choosing, Moses is to strike it
 - Water gushes forth to meet the people's needs
- This quells the rebellion, demonstrates God's grace
- Their rebellion reveals their faithlessness; not to them

Sinful Hearts Rebel

Sin cannot, will not, bow to God; sin must always rebel and this is seen throughout all history, even our history

Let Scripture Define Scripture

- God tells Israel that their unbelief is tethered in their rejection of Him as God (Ps. 81:7-11; 95:7-11)
 - Though they had seen His demonstrations as God
 - Unbelief prevented them from entering His rest (Heb. 3:7-11)
 - They passed their unbelief to their children (Deut. 32:6-9; Ps. 106:32)
 - Future generations of Israel remained mired in the unbelief they demonstrated at Meribah (Deut. 25:17-18; 1K. 11:47-51)

Israel (Earthly) Strives Against God, Always

- Israel means "striving against God" (Rebellion) (Ex 32:28)
 - Israel (nation) begins by striving against God (Ex 17:17)
 - Israel (nation) ends striving against God (Rev 11:7-10; He 1:12-19)
 - The Great City, Jerusalem, killed her Manna (Ex 11:8)
 - Jerusalem worships Satan seducing nations (Rev 17:1-6, 15-18)
 - Satan devours her, then God destroys his throne (Rev 18:1-8, 15-17)
 - God pours on earthly Jerusalem His wrath for her Meribah (Ex 4:21-31; Rev 16:19-21)

Israel (Heavenly) Prevailed (Ex 32:28)

- Those who live by faith, not works, accept Christ
 - During the age of "First Fruits" they are Christians, brought into the Church (Ac 2:22-23, 29-32, 36-39, 41-42; 1Co 15:8-9)
 - During the Great Tribulation and Millennial Kingdom they are God's people, Church gone (Rev 11:1-6, 13-16, 25-29; Rev 18:4-8)
 - In eternity future we are all united as the Bride of Christ (Ps 47:10, 13-15, 23-26; Rev 21:1-4, 9-16, 22-27, 22:17)

Lesson Applies to the Church

- We are invited into Salvation rejected by Israel
 - We are the "First Fruits" of the New Covenant (He 11:13-14)
 - Our salvation is to drive Jews to seek Christ (Rev 11:31-12)
 - We are the "wild" branches grafted in (Rev 11:17)
 - We are to learn to live by faith, not pride (Rev 11:18-21)
- All must be on guard to avoid defilement by bitterness (Rev 12:15)

Epilogue

Massah and Meribah

Testing of the Waters were to prepare the Hebrews to receive God's Word - He is God

Why the Triad of Testings

- Not for God's benefit - He is omniscient
- For their benefit
 - Revealing to them their sinful heart and nature
 - Giving them opportunity to recognize their sin and repent
 - Warning them of their need to hear and heed God's Word(s) (Isa 1:1-4)

Imagery of Water Throughout Bible

- This physical water, this testing or proofing of people reveals (is a metaphor of) their source of worship
 - Worship of Satan - Bitter/strong waters, seas (Job 1:18, Dt 32:48)
 - Worship of Christ - Flowing rivers, wells (Isa 7:35-39, Rev 22:1-2)
- Christians can choose *whom* to worship as revealed by:
 - Satan - Works of the flesh (Meribah) (Exa 16:21)
 - Christ - Fruits of the Spirit (Submission) (Eph 5:22-24)