

## Exodus 9

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. <sup>2</sup>For if thou refuse to let *them* go, and wilt hold them still, <sup>3</sup>Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which *is* in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: *there shall be* a very grievous murrain. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all *that is* the children's of Israel. <sup>5</sup>And the LORD appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. <sup>7</sup>And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. <sup>9</sup>And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth *with* blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup>And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth *with* blains upon man, and upon beast. <sup>11</sup>And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians. <sup>12</sup>And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses. <sup>13</sup>And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. <sup>14</sup>For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that *there is* none like me in all the earth. <sup>15</sup>For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. <sup>16</sup>And in very deed for this *cause* have I raised thee up, for to shew *in* thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth. <sup>17</sup>As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go? <sup>18</sup>Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. <sup>19</sup>Send therefore now, *and* gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; *for upon* every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die. <sup>20</sup>He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses: <sup>21</sup>And he that regarded not the word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field. <sup>22</sup>And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. <sup>23</sup>And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. <sup>24</sup>So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. <sup>25</sup>And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. <sup>26</sup>Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel *were*, was there no hail. <sup>27</sup>And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD *is* righteous, and I and my people *are* wicked. <sup>28</sup>Intreat the LORD (for *it is* enough) that there be no *more* mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer. <sup>29</sup>And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; *and* the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth *is* the LORD'S. <sup>30</sup>But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye

will not yet fear the LORD God. <sup>31</sup> And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was balled. <sup>32</sup> But the wheat and the rye were not smitten: for they were not grown up. <sup>33</sup> And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth. <sup>34</sup> And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants. <sup>35</sup> And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.

### The Earth Is the LORD'S

- (1) Separation
- (2) Submission

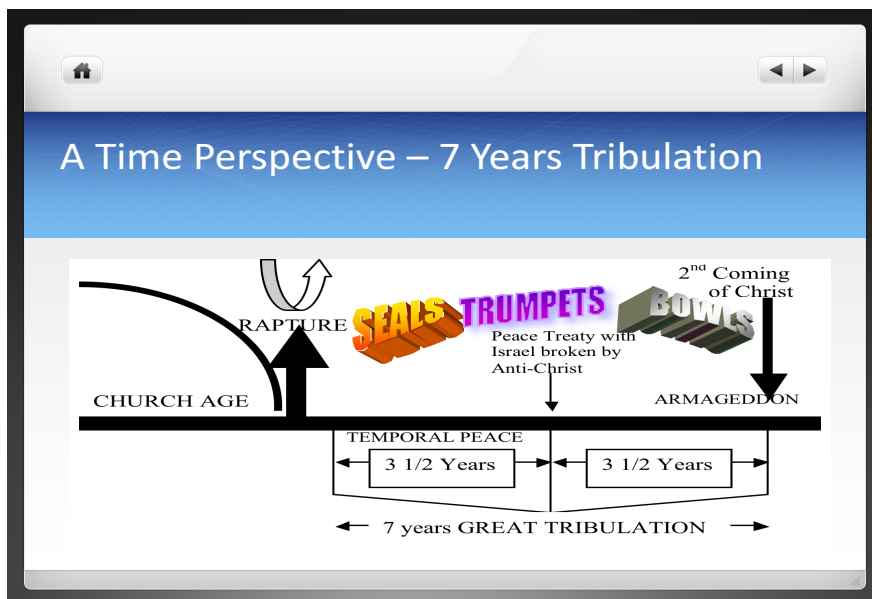
### INTRODUCTION

The battle in Egypt for the release of the Israelite slaves was a battle of ownership and authority. In such a battle, might prevails. Who is in charge? The God of the Israelites or Pharaoh, the self-proclaimed god of the earth.

This chapter will show us clearly that the Israelites belong to their God and He is mighty to save. More importantly, the truth demonstrated, is that the earth is the LORD'S (v29 cf. Psalm 24:1). He is the Maker, Sustainer and Owner! We are living on tenanted premises. And this is a truth that not all men are fully aware.

Through the episode of the Exodus, the legal Owner of the earth will identify the true tenants and the squatters. Those who are there with the Owner's knowledge and consent and those who having known the truth choose to ignore the Owner and make the place theirs attempting to usurp even the title deed!

The ten plagues of the Exodus mirror the seal, trumpet, thunder and bow judgment in the Book of Revelation when the Antichrist sought to take ownership of the earth seeking to rule the world with Jerusalem as the capital - the first global-leader.



He can succeed only if he manages to obliterate God's people from the earth who rejects his rule. Christ will return to restore His rightful Lordship over His creation.

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**Psalm 2:1-12 (KJV)** <sup>1</sup> Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. <sup>4</sup> He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. <sup>5</sup> Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. <sup>6</sup> Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. <sup>7</sup> I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. <sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. <sup>9</sup> Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. <sup>10</sup> Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

### **Indeed, there is coming - History's final war.**

Armageddon is the place where the kings of the earth and of the whole world will gather to battle against God Almighty (Revelation 16:14-16). It is the culmination of man's rebellion against the rule of their Creator God (Revelation 16:17) and God's emphatic intervention to restore His sovereignty over His created earth through His Son Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-21; Daniel 2:44-45; Zechariah 12-14; Joel 2:11; 3:2). It is history's final war!

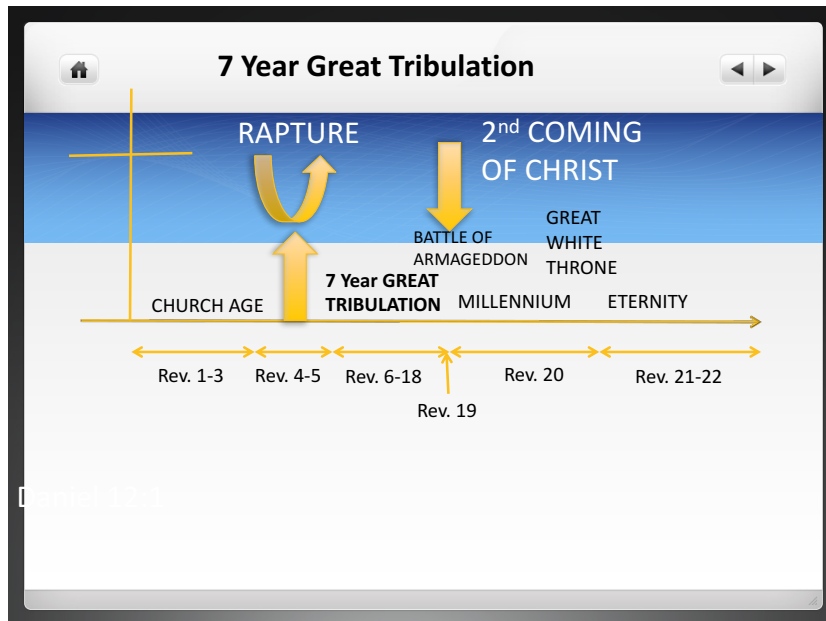
The objective of the world's army (Revelation 9:13-16; 16:13-16) against Israel in this final war is to occupy Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:2- 11; 14:2), the capital of the world. This will complete man's ambition to be the master of God's vineyard. The evil one behind man's rebellion is none other than Satan himself, energizing the Antichrist and the false prophet, exerting control over the kings of the earth (Revelation 16:13-14). The first rebellion against God occurred in heaven by the archangel Lucifer who is Satan himself (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-19). The first rebellion on earth was by Adam and Eve who fell at Satan's temptation (Genesis 3:1-7), plunging mankind into total depravity. The depraved nature in man, motivated by the prince of this world - Satan, will be dealt a fatal blow in this final battle.

### **Coming - The global carnage**

Revelation 16:18-20 describes: "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great... and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." Singapore, as well as the rest of the world, will not be spared in this great earthquake. May we realize the futility of building an earthly kingdom that will ultimately be destroyed.

Man once again will fail in their rebellion against God. At the climax of the battle of Armageddon, Israel will repent and accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah, when Jesus will visibly return to defeat the nations of the world (Revelation 19:11-21). The end of Armageddon will see the beginning of Christ's golden reign on earth from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Revelation 20).

God separates His people before the tribulation comes when the church will be raptured. And the rebellious on earth will be, albeit, overpowered into submission! The Exodus provides for us a proof that there is no way man can overpower their Creator but submit to His Lordship.



Two thoughts for our consideration:

- (1) Separation
- (2) Submission

### (1) Separation

We will notice in the judgment of God showing a distinct separation between God's people who are submissive to His will and Lordship to those who are rebellious. Those who refused to acknowledge the Lord's ownership of His earth are sorely punished with great judgment.

Indeed, when a person dies, his soul either goes to a place of eternal torment in hell fire or a place of eternal bliss in heaven. Death decides that separation. And it is irreversible! The rich man clothed in purple who rejected the God of Israel suffered much when he died whereas Lazarus the beggar who knows the God of Israel, Jesus Christ, is transported to Abraham's bosom in heaven.

**Luke 16:19-31 (KJV)** <sup>19</sup> There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: <sup>20</sup> And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, <sup>21</sup> And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup> And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. <sup>26</sup> And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. <sup>27</sup> Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: <sup>28</sup> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. <sup>29</sup> Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. <sup>30</sup> And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but

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*if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.* <sup>31</sup> *And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

Indeed, the stubborn and rebellious, the likes of Pharaoh, will not repent and acknowledge his rightful Maker and Sustainer, will be sorely judged for challenging God's authority and rightful rule!

Notice in the plagues a clear line of demarcation so that God's people will be protected from the judgment!

<sup>1</sup> *Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.* <sup>2</sup> *For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still,* <sup>3</sup> *Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.* <sup>4</sup> ***And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.*** <sup>5</sup> *And the LORD appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land.* <sup>6</sup> *And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.* <sup>7</sup> *And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.*

Indeed, we see the power of God demonstrated to plague the cattle of the Egyptians with a dreadful and deadly disease so that they die whereas the cattle of the Israelites were preserved.

The truth demonstrated is best described for us here in Psalm 24.

**Psalm 24:1-10 (KJV)** <sup>1</sup> *The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.* <sup>2</sup> *For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.* <sup>3</sup> *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?* <sup>4</sup> *He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.* <sup>5</sup> *He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.* <sup>6</sup> *This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.* <sup>7</sup> *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.* <sup>8</sup> *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.* <sup>9</sup> *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.* <sup>10</sup> *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.*

Notice the increasing intensity of the plagues when Pharaoh time and again refuses God's gentle plea to repent!

<sup>8</sup> *And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh.* <sup>9</sup> *And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.* <sup>10</sup> *And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast.* <sup>11</sup> ***And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.***

The magicians were the most powerful of Pharaoh's occult agents. They were helpless and harassed with the plague to their dismay and Pharaoh's disappointment!

It is foolish to challenge the will of God and the authority of God!

<sup>13</sup> *And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. **14 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.** <sup>15</sup> For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. **16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.** <sup>17</sup> As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go?*

**Deuteronomy 10:14** *Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.*

**Psalm 89:11** *The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.*

**Psalm 98:7-9** *Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.*

<sup>18</sup> *Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. <sup>19</sup> Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die. **20 He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses: <sup>21</sup> And he that regarded not the word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field.***

This plague of hail and fire distinctly force the Egyptians to choose their allegiance between the God of the earth or the powerless god or gods of Egypt. They may choose the fear of the LORD. That is grace to them! If they choose to defy Him, they would suffer the plague that will destroy them and their cattle in the open!

<sup>22</sup> *And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. <sup>23</sup> And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. **24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. <sup>25</sup> And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. <sup>26</sup> Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.***

Notice the distinct separation of God's judgment upon the rebellious Egyptians and the protective power of God in Goshen where His people, the children of Israel stayed.

**(2) Submission**

<sup>12</sup> *And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.*

The Pharaoh of Egypt was not fully aware who he was dealing with. He will be getting more rude shocks as the plagues increase in intensity and severity.

<sup>27</sup> *And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.<sup>28</sup> Intreat the LORD (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.*

Notice the repentance of Pharaoh was not genuine! He will not submit to God but is sorely rebellious. He is able to see his sinfulness and yet he will not repent.

<sup>29</sup> *And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD'S. <sup>30</sup> But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God. <sup>31</sup> And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled. <sup>32</sup> But the wheat and the rye were not smitten: for they were not grown up. <sup>33</sup> And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth. <sup>34</sup> **And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants. <sup>35</sup> And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.***

What is true biblical repentance and submission to God and His authority and Lordship? Repentance is the word to describe a man's conversion. As we ponder and searched the Scripture, we see that man's first step toward conversion must be some knowledge of God, of himself, of his duty and his sin. The second step is conviction, both of sinfulness and of particular sins; and the preaching of God's Word, would try to deepen conviction and make it specific. This leads to contrition (sorrow for and hatred for sin), which began to turn the love of sinning out of the heart and led to real, though as yet ineffective, attempts to break off the practice of sin in the life.

We notice the above process in the heart of the sinner begun, it is at this point that the preacher would urge the hearer to come to Christ. This is the right advice to give to a person who had shown with his heart that he desired to be saved from sin, only then is it possible for him "genuinely and sincerely to receive the One who sends Himself to man as the Saviour from sin."

So what is biblical repentance? Repentance is a change of mind, more than that, it is a change of mind that causes a change of action, it is more than contrition, it is such a change of mind and heart that it causes us to change our direction, a turning away, a forsaking of sin and self. For every man travelling the path of sin and self, at the end of that path is hell. But along the way, something happened and there is a change of mind about sin and self. He forsakes the old life, the old passion. Turning from the old life, old passions, forsaking them and turning to Christ. Saving faith is a surrendering of the mind and a surrendering of action toward something. It is more than something that is mental, more than an opinion, more than a belief. It is a change of mind that results in a change of action.

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For Pharaoh, there was no genuine repentance. He remained stubborn!

Repentance is a forsaking of the mind and actions away from something. Faith is the surrendering of mind and actions towards something. That is why the Apostle Paul *“preached repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”*.

Is there a commitment, a surrendering of the mind to Christ in your life? Is there a turning from sin and self toward Jesus Christ? Is there a commitment to Christ? This act of turning to and turning from is biblical repentance. True faith comes with true repentance. It is two sides of the same coin. To repent and not believe would mean that we turn from sin and self to nothing.

#### **CONCLUSION**

- (1) Separation**
- (2) Submission**

Amen.