

Exodus 10

¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him: ² And **that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them;** that ye may know how that I *am* the LORD. ³ And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt **thou refuse to humble thyself** before me? let my people go, that they may serve me. ⁴ Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast: ⁵ And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field: ⁶ And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians; which neither thy fathers, nor thy fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh. ⁷ And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed? ⁸ And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: *but who are they that shall go?* ⁹ And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we *must hold* a feast unto the LORD. ¹⁰ And he said unto them, Let the LORD be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look *to it*; for evil *is* before you. ¹¹ Not so: go now ye *that are* men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence. ¹² And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, *even* all that the hail hath left. ¹³ And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all *that* night; *and* when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴ And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous *were they*; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. ¹⁵ For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. ¹⁷ Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only. ¹⁸ And he went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD. ¹⁹ And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt. ²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go. ²¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness *which* may be felt. ²² And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: ²³ They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. ²⁴ And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you. ²⁵ And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the LORD our God. ²⁶ Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God; and we know not with what we must serve the LORD, until we come thither. ²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. ²⁸ And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from

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me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in *that* day thou seest my face thou shalt die.²⁹ And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more.

They Might Set Their Hope in God

OUTLINE

- (1) Futility of Resisting God**
- (2) Privilege of Being God's Children**

INTRODUCTION

What is the purpose of God leaving His footprints in the sands of time, in the records of human history? It is so that He may show to the generation to come the praise of the LORD and His strength, and the wonderful works that He hath done, that the generation to come might know them and set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep His commandments (Psalm 78:4, 6-7).

And the greatest demonstration of God's power in human history after creation before the miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ is, I believe, done during the time of the Exodus. In biblical history, the record of the Exodus was recounted time and again, to remind God's people of His care and presence with them in their lives. Though our Creator and Sustainer is that invisible God, He demonstrate His presence by His chosen servants and by the clear demonstration of His power in the miracles that were wrought to authenticate His Deity, that indeed, He only is the living and true God.

The demonstration of God's power has always brought hope, strength and comfort to God's people to live their present life. This is the reason for our study. That it may rekindle the hope of God in your heart. That you may be encouraged to live life in your generation as did the people of God during the time of the Exodus to fulfil God's purpose for you in your generation for His honour and glory.

The people of God in the Exodus was called the church in the wilderness (Acts 7:38). A people whom God will separate or separated for Himself as His witness to the world. It is interesting to observe the power of God delivering His people from the bondage of slavery as likened to His deliverance from the bondage of sin. The spiritual battle is intense for the god of this world, Satan himself, is a determined foe under God. And the behaviour of Pharaoh typifies that strangle hold of spiritual bondage upon the unsaved. Indeed, only by the miraculous power of God wrought is that bondage broken, God sent forth His Son, in the fullness, born of a woman, lived a sinless life, *for Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* (**1 Peter 3:18**)

John 15:19 *If ye were in the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

We observe the wrestling of evil against good and the triumph of good over evil. That war was won by our Lord Jesus Christ, but there were many battles fought to bring about that final victory. Jesus has to go from Gethsemane to Calvary, to drop sweat as blood, to agonise to bear the pain and shame for sin.

Israel's journey to the Promised Land, the land that is filled with milk and honey, was a promise of a lasting reward of faith. Indeed, a physical emblem of the eternal reward to them that love Him and love His appearing.

A life that is well-lived as the Apostle Paul would speak of at the end of his life, he waits the eternal reward to come.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

(1) Futility of Resisting God

Pharaoh refused to humble himself before the LORD. And he experienced the sure judgment of God for his stubborn refusal to bless God's people. From the time Israel entered Egypt, God has prepared a place of blessing for their sojourning. A most lush and fertile land and they were nurtured for 400 years till a Pharaoh that arose that knew not Joseph. And this Pharaoh began to enslave God's people.

God knew what was going on. He heard the cry of His children. He seemed to take a long time to work out His rescue mission. It took 80 years to prepare Moses for the task. A long time to wait while the enslavement grew fiercer and perilous for God's people. We learn here the working out of God's deliverance is founded in time. And God seemed not to be in a hurry. But He is working out a seemed set time table to reveal His glory.

He went easy on Pharaoh at the beginning. He could have just obeyed God but he resisted.

This the Apostle Paul related in **Romans 9:17** *For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.*

Exodus 9:16 *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.*

This God allowed so as to demonstrate the superiority of His power throughout all the earth. And the world may know the God who made the heavens and the earth and fear Him and find salvation in Him.

The demonstration of God's power in the plague of the locust showed the magnitude of His power. The raising of the locust destroyed all the crop of the Egyptians cutting off and exhausting their food chain. It was an invasion that the Egyptians could not resist but stood to watch the devastation that it will wrought in their midst.

Psalms 105:34-35 *He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillars, and that without number, And did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground.*

We observe even the locusts in its countless can be mobilised as God's instrument of wrath.

¹⁹ *And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.*

As quickly as they were mobilised, they were also sent away by God's command. What demonstration of power.

Pharaoh's servants were frightened by the prospect of God's intensifying judgment asking Pharaoh to resist no more.

⁷ And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?

Pharaoh seemed to have relented to the pressure of his servants to quit resisting God.

⁸ And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: but who are they that shall go? ⁹ And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD. ¹⁰ And he said unto them, Let the LORD be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look to it; for evil is before you. ¹¹ Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

Notice in his conversation, Pharaoh will only allow the men to go. Moses reiterated that the entire families should leave Egypt together with their flock to offer their sacrifice to God. There seemed not to be an agreement between them. Moses and Aaron left and God asked Moses to invoke the plague of locusts.

¹² And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left. ¹³ And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴ And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. ¹⁵ For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh's hand was forced to relent, in a pretentious manner showed a false sense of remorse. When the plague was removed, immediately he changed his mind again.

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. ¹⁷ Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only. ¹⁸ And he went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the LORD. ¹⁹ And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt. ²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

Immediately, without warning the 9th plague of darkness fell upon Egypt.

²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go. ²¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. ²² And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three

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days: ²³ They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Proverbs 1:23-33 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Indeed, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (**Hebrews 10:31**).

Here is set for us a choice to yield to our God or to resist Him to our detriment.

(2) Privilege of Being God's Children

We observe how God justly plead for the cause of His people. He gave Pharaoh many opportunities to do good to His people. When he refused time and again. Judgment came swiftly.

We see here the privilege of being God's children. He utilises His almighty power to protect and defend His own.

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

When we are undergoing any suffering, be assured in your heart that God knows what you are going through.

And be assured in your heart that God will work things out for good to them that love Him.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

We are precious in His sight. And having chosen us to salvation, He will surely bring us all the way to heaven. No trial or temptation in the life of God's people will be insurmountable. The warning is that we must not become complacent!

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

God will make a way of escape for us in every trial and temptation.

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1. You are in dangerous territory when you think you can't fall.
2. Your temptations seek to overtake you or defeat you.
3. God never abandons you in temptations due to His faithfulness.
4. God never permits any temptation to go beyond what you are able.
5. God always makes in every temptation a way to escape.
6. God always limit every temptation so that you will be able to bear it.

Indeed, as God's children we are saved and sealed for eternity. This is the precious truth concerning the depth of our salvation. When we received Jesus Christ into our hearts, repenting of our sins, we are saved to the uttermost. God will persevere with us to help us reached our heavenly home.

The Apostle Paul puts it well explaining the depth of God's love for us:

Romans 8:29-39 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

CONCLUSION

- (1) Futility of Resisting God
- (2) Privilege of Being God's Children

Amen.

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