

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREDESTINATION

RLJ-1215

JOHN S. TORELL

DECEMBER 6, 2009

PART 8: STAYING THE COURSE

MEETING WITH THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL

We will now learn more about the way God thinks and works. If you look back at the history of man as recorded in the Bible, God never gathered a large group of people and called them into action but selected a leader who was commanded to inform the masses about what God wanted done. This is why the Bible makes the statement that God's ways are not man's way. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

Once Moses had understood his "marching orders" and had his brother Aaron as an assistant, it was time to meet the leadership of the children of Israel and inform them of God's plan.

It is very important to understand that Moses' original instructions were to go and tell Pharaoh to let my people go and then lead the people out. He didn't know about the ten plagues or the crossing of the Red Sea.

When Moses had shown the elders the rod turning into a serpent and the hand of leprosy, they were convinced and they gave their approval for Moses to speak to Pharaoh on their behalf. **Exodus 4:27-31**

CONFRONTING PHARAOH

No person walks into the palace of a king without an invitation because they are surrounded by guards who have orders to kill any intruder. Furthermore, anyone that insulted the king was put to death. In the history of mankind, a king was never told what to do, rather, a person seeking a favor had to bow his head and ask the king to grant the request. For some reason Moses and Aaron were able to march into the palace of Pharaoh and demand the release of the children of Israel. **Exodus 5:1**

Instead of being impressed, Pharaoh rebuked Moses and Aaron and ordered harsher conditions for the children of Israel. **verses 2-14**

THINGS WERE NOT GOING ACCORDING TO THE PLANS

The Bible doesn't tell us how much time elapsed after Pharaoh rejected Moses and Aaron, it could have been days, weeks or months since the text tells us that the Hebrew children fanned out all over Egypt to find stubble and bring it back.

As far as the elders of Israel were concerned, the mission was a total failure and they vented their anger on Moses and Aaron. **verses 15-21**



BUILDING FAITH

God knew in advance the horrible difficulties Moses would face once the people started the exodus and tested him greatly in order to built strength. When Moses prayed and told God that it had turned out poorly instead of something good, he must have wavered in his faith and wondered if the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be able to tackle the gods of Egypt. **verses 22-23**

God did not get angry with Moses and gave a tender teaching since He realized that Moses could not see into the future. **Exodus 6:1-8**

Moses' faith was rekindled but the Hebrew people would not believe. The toiling work was so hard and ferocious that they rejected the words of Moses in their anger. **verse 9**

When God spoke to Moses and told him to go back to Pharaoh and repeat the demand to let his people go, Moses was frustrated, fearful and wondered why should the enemy believe him when his own people did not? **verses 10-13**

Moses was not circumcised and this caused him to doubt whether he was under the covenant God had made with Abraham. **verses 29-30**

REVELATION FAITH

God began to reveal His plan and Moses and Aaron had to learn to trust God step by step without knowing the final outcome. **Exodus 7:1-5**

The greatest event until that time in the history of the children of Israel would be led by two men who were brothers, Moses (80) and Aaron (83). **verse 7**

Renewed in their faith, Moses and Aaron returned to the palace and confronted Pharaoh a second time. It is obvious God must have put the "fear of God" in Pharaoh since he didn't order their arrest but allowed them to leave the palace after they challenged him. **verses 8-12**

God knew from the beginning that Pharaoh would reject the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and in order for Him to be glorified and triumph over this mere man who was possessed by the Devil; God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he would not believe and refused to surrender to God. **verses 13-14**

Pharaoh and the Egyptian people were heavy involved in the occult and had turned their hearts away from God. It is important to remember that all people are descendants to Noah and his three sons and had full knowledge of God. But as each new generation was born, people made a choice to abandon God and turn to idols. **Romans 1:18-25**

DESTINY

Before the creation when God designed people and events, He also knew the man who would be the Pharaoh in Egypt at the time Moses was going to bring out the Hebrew children out of Egypt. This man had a free will and could have released the Hebrews at the first request but his greed for slave labor made him

reject the request. God knew this in advance and made the decision to harden the heart of Pharaoh in order to crush him and Egypt and show all the nations around that it is futile to resist the living God who is in total control of all things in heaven and earth. **Romans 9:14-17**

It is God's will for all men to be saved. **1 Timothy 2:1-5**

But man has been given a free will so that each person must want to come to God to be saved, repent of their sins and be obedient to God.

As believers in Christ it is important to understand that God knew who would be saved before the creation of the world. God did not make the decision for people but He could see into the future and the choices that they would make. Romans 9:18-24

God knows who will be saved or perish whereas man does not. In order to be fair, the Gospel must be preached to all people so that they will have the opportunity to accept or reject the Messiah. This is why Jesus told us to preach to all people, regardless if they want to hear or not! **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20**

Even if people do not have the Gospel preached to them, the very creation itself is a Gospel to them. **Romans 1:18-20**

There are Muslims and Hindus turning to Jesus today without a Bible or even having heard of Jesus. Prayers to save the heathen have gone up to God for centuries, and in these last days, many Muslims and Hindus are suddenly given revelations in the night when Jesus comes and reveals Himself. It is the Holy Spirit doing this work and bringing Jesus to them. These men and women immediately understand that Jesus is the only way and begin to search for Christians to find out more. This is happening more and more, particularly in the Islamic nations, since humans are not allowed to preach the Gospel. Again, we can see the sovereignty of God at work. **Isaiah 9:1-7**

Having this knowledge, enables us to understand what the apostle Paul meant in Romans chapter eight. God is in control and knows all things. Every human being who has a desire to be saved and come back to God will never be turned down by God. Instead, God will do all that He can through His power to bring such a person into His kingdom regardless of what it will take. **Romans 8:28-31**

There was no doubt in Paul's mind that God is able to save to the uttermost and keep you safe and secure for eternity. The Devil has no power to prevent you from coming to God. **Romans 8:32-39**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SERMON?

Moses was called by God to rescue the children of Israel but he was not given the details of how this rescue would take place and had to take it one step at a time and experience the moving of God as he lived through it.

You and I will not know the future until we get there! James 4:13-15

We are asked to step out in faith, using the fishes and the loaves of bread we possess and leaving it up to God to do the multiplying! Matthew 15:32-38

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?