

## *Book of Exodus*

### **Lessons of the Exodus (Part I)**

I do not hold with the view of “replacement theology,” that the United States of America has somehow replaced Israel in the eyes of God. God certainly has purposes for the U.S.A., as He does for any nation that starts out by declaring, *No King but Jesus*. However, Israel and the Jewish people have always been the apple of God’s eye (Deuteronomy 32:10, Zechariah 2:8) and always will be. When He returns, the Lord Jesus will rule from Jerusalem... not Washington D.C.

That being said, it must also be pointed out that America can certainly learn from Israel and its history as recorded in Scripture. And this country is at a point where it could use a couple of lessons from that history. Actually, right now America could learn more from ancient Egypt and the Body of Christ in America could learn from Israel in the account of the Exodus, for God is about to start making distinctions between those people who belong to Him and those who do not.

America has reached the place where – despite its strong Judeo-Christian tradition and the fact that God has blessed the nation beyond perhaps the wildest dreams of the Founding Fathers – it is acting more like Egypt under the pharaoh of Moses’ day. Now, I know what some of you reading this are thinking and, no, this is not going to be a rant against our current President; there’s a great deal that *could* be said, but ultimately, the leaders here are elected by the people. And while only a handful of the people (often on the east and west coasts) may actually get around to openly denying the Lord, it is the *attitudes and actions* of a large percentage of us that are tantamount to saying, as pharaoh did, *Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?* (Exodus 5:2)

So, the first lesson for America from the Exodus of Israel from Egypt is a simple one: **How far does America want to go in its disobedience to God?** Discipline for this nation is coming, has already, in fact, begun in small steps, and God is warning His church to prepare for it so that it can be a blessing to the people and point the way back to Him. Now, since the people are the source of America’s political power (or so say our founding documents), we are not dependent on the whims or egos of our leaders, unless we hand over so much of our freedoms to them that we become what you might call an “elite-ocracy,” where a handful of politicians actually rule. This is important to point out because in the Book of Exodus, the Egyptian people and pharaoh’s ministers had become favorably disposed toward Moses and the Israelites because their God “had their backs,” as it were. The court magicians didn’t take long to realize that they were dealing with a God who is *far* more powerful than the ones they bowed down to, and He *wasn’t* letting the plagues touch the Israelites. The court of pharaoh recognized that, as the plagues this God was sending increased in severity, Egypt was being humbled as a world power and was headed for disaster. The people wanted to let the Israelites go early on so all this would stop; indeed, they were willing to let themselves be plundered of whatever they had left just to get the Israelites and their God out of the country. (It’s always amazed me

how no one in these cases in the Bible, and there are several of them, stops to think, *Hey – maybe we're worshipping the wrong God, here...*) But the plagues continued and Egypt was brought to the very brink of ruin because of one man who was so prideful and stubborn that he would not do what the Lord wanted until his own son (and the firstborn of all the Egyptians) died as a result – pharaoh himself.

So, since *we the people* are still the source of all political power in America (at least for now), *we the people* are ultimately responsible for our actions toward the God Who time and again had *our* backs as a nation... and Who we now act toward like a spoiled teenager who is embarrassed by his parents' very existence and doesn't want to be seen with them. *We the people* control how severe the coming chastening of God is going to be. How far we stubbornly hold to our disobedience is how hard the "hard times" are going to be.

And for those of us in the Body of Christ in America who are reading this and who might be thinking in your hearts, *Yeah, you tell 'em, preacher!* – don't get cocky. Pharaoh and the Egyptians pass out of the story after Chapter 14 of Exodus, and the remaining 26 chapters focus on the Israelites. There are far more lessons from the account of the Exodus for those saved by the Blood of the Lamb, and we'll take a look at them next time.

For the Glory of God and the Lord Jesus Christ  
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