

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

At the burning bush, the LORD told Moses about the call to return to Egypt, and what would happen:

Ex. 3:19 And **I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go**, no, not by a mighty hand.

20 And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

Ex. 4:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: **but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.**

Moses, in obedience to the Lord's directions, returns to Egypt and goes before Pharaoh with a message: "...Let my people go..."

This incident is a wonderful example of Moses being a type of Christ. Jesus was sent from the Father to the Jews to provide for their deliverance:

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives**, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

❖ This evening we will observe that in spite of Moses' obedience, the deliverance appeared to be delayed. Things for Moses and the Jews seemed to go from bad to worse. We will observe how Moses faced challenges that should help us when we are also discouraged.

I. THE OBEDIENCE TO THE PLAN

Ex. 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, **Let my people go**, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

- ❖ Moses knew the details about his mission and his message.
- ❖ Moses was obedient in following the Lord's commands.

II. THE OPPOSITION OF PHARAOH

Ex. 5:2 And **Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD**, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? **I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.**

6 And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.

8 And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish *ought* thereof: **for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.**

9 Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words. ...

17 But he said, **Ye are idle, ye are idle:** therefore ye say, Let us go *and* do sacrifice to the LORD.

❖ The LORD prepared Moses for such a reaction by Pharaoh.

1 Jn. 3:13 **Marvel not**, my brethren, **if the world hate you.**

Jn. 15:18 **If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.**

19 If ye were of 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.**

III. THE OBSTINATE PEOPLE

Ex. 5:20 And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh:

21 And they said unto them, **The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.**

- ❖ Expecting deliverance, the Jews received disappointment, accompanied with greater hardships. Their discouragement led them to accuse Moses and Aaron as responsible.

IV. THE OBSCURITY PROCLAIMED

Ex. 5:22 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, **Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?**

23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.

- ❖ In defending himself, Moses exhibits his frustration by questioning God's role in the situation: "What are you doing to these people, and why did you send me here?"
- ❖ "Instead of your deliverance, Pharaoh has done more evil to the Jews."

V. THE OBVIOUS PROMISES

Ex. 6:1 **Then** the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou **see what I will do** to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

2 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, **I am the LORD:**

3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

4 And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

6 Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, **I am the LORD**, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

7 And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that **I am the LORD your God**, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

8 And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: **I am the LORD**.

9 And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: **but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage**.

29 That the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **I am the LORD**: speak thou unto Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say unto thee.

❖ Note the timing: Ex. 6:1 “Then...”

❖ Note the promises:

“Now shalt thou **see what I will do** to Pharaoh...”

Ex. 6:6 Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, **I am the LORD**, and **I will** bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and **I will** rid you out of their bondage, and **I will** redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

7 And **I will** take you to me for a people, and **I will** be to you a God: and ye shall know that **I am the LORD your God**, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

8 And **I will** bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and **I will** give it you for an heritage: **I am the LORD**.

- ❖ Remember: “*I am the LORD...*” “*I am the LORD your God...*” “*I am the LORD.*”
- ❖ After hearing these encouraging words from the Lord, the Jews still rejected Moses.

Ex. 6:9 And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: **but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.**

Jn. 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and **the world knew him not.**

11 **He came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

- ❖ After the rejection of Moses, the Lord reminded him of His presence, power, and plan.

Ex. 6:29 That the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **I am the LORD**: speak thou unto Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say unto thee.

- ❖ Regardless of the opposition, discouragements, and disappoints, keep looking to Jesus.

Heb. 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, **consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;**

Heb. 12:2 **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Summary

Rom. 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience;**

1 Thess. 1:3 Remembering without ceasing **your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,** in the sight of God and our Father;

Jas. 1:3 Knowing *this*, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

4 But **let patience have *her* perfect work,** that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

1. Circumstances that turn against us force dependence.
2. Circumstances that force dependence teach us patience.
3. Circumstances that teach us patience make us wise.

Conclusion

Rom 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Light Shining out of Darkness

BY WILLIAM COWPER

1

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

2

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sov'reign will.

3

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

4

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

5

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.

6

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44028/light-shining-out-of-darkness>