

Shadows Of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #15

Journey Begins: Danger Awaits

April 24, 2024

Gen. 24:52-54 And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the Lord, bowing himself to the earth.

⁵³ And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah:

The children of Israel did not leave Egypt destitute. In addition to their own possessions, the terrified Egyptians had bestowed upon them valuables of gold and silver, and clothing, in an effort to hasten their departure. [12:32-36] Thus God fulfilled in every detail His promise to Abraham that his descendants would leave their exile with great riches.

Gen. 15:13-14 And God said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

When we are born again into newness of life, God gives us a vast supply of spiritual riches to equip us to walk in obedience and live and walk in the fullness of Jesus Christ. God made us spiritually rich at the moment of our conversion. We were given His robe of righteousness. We have spiritual riches pertaining to who we are—our identity. He has given us everything we need to be rich in pleasing Him, rich in glorifying Him, wealthy in magnifying His name. There are spiritual riches pertaining to how we live—things God gives us to obey Him in this life.

Starting The Journey Of Sanctification

Gen. 24:54 And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master.

Gen. 24:55 And her brother and her mother said, "Oh, not so soon! Let Rebekah stay with us for a few days, ten days at least, before she goes away from her home."

Gen. 24:56 "And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master." [NO delayed obedience]

The servant's business required that he return to Abraham with a bride for Isaac.

Nothing must be allowed to hinder that business. The Holy Spirit is to lead born again believers in their walk of sanctification to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Institution of Passover: Exodus 12

1. God instituted the religious calendar to begin at Nisan. [new beginning]
2. Passover Marks the redemption of Israel from bondage from sin.
3. Each family was to individually apply the blood of their lamb to the doorposts of their own home as a visible sign of their faith in the Lord. [Nisan 14]

4. At that moment, the innocent lamb became their substitute, making it possible for the LORD'S judgment to PASS OVER them.
5. Each family ate the Passover meal that night in their home. [Feast of Unleavened Bread]
6. Lamb was roasted with fire, [no broken bones] unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
7. Eat the whole lamb. [Head, legs, inward parts] Nothing remained until morning.

Key: The Israelites were to prepare for this final plague and the resulting exodus by eating the first Passover meal in a very unusual way to emphasize that God's people were about to leave the land of their bondage.

Ex. 12:11 "Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD's Passover"

[Like eating in an airport knowing your flight is almost ready for departure.]

Consider: Eating while wearing traveling clothes is an act of faith.

After our justification, we require traveling clothes for our journey of sanctification. Take off the old man and put on the new. Put on Jesus Christ. Whole armor of God.

1. Eat in HASTE:

- Haste = Strong's #2649 = chippazon = noun = trepidation, hurried flight
- Only 3 occurrences in Bible = Ex. 12:11; Deut. 16:3; Isa. 52:12
- Origin from chaphaz = Strong's #2648 = verb = to be in trepidation, hurry or alarm

God's focus seems to be on FEAR AND TREPIDATION! As they were eating the Passover that night, hundreds of thousands, perhaps as many as one million or more firstborn people in Egypt would die! The death angel would in fact PASS OVER the very houses of the Israelites ... and all that stood between the firstborn people in their houses and death was THE BLOOD which they by faith had smeared on the doorposts.

Note: Ex. 12:33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste = Strong's #4116 = mahar = verb = quickly

2nd Occurrence of Haste = chippazon = Deut. 16:3: Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the BREAD OF AFFLICTION [Hebrew oniy]; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt IN HASTE (Hebrew chippazon): that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

- Affliction = oniy = Strong's #6040 = noun = trouble, misery

Question: Why did God through Moses tell them the unleavened bread during those 7 days is "the bread of affliction and trouble and misery? Because they left Egypt in Haste???"

- Is the bread identified as BREAD OF AFFLICTION because they left in haste?

Question: Why would "haste" mean trouble and affliction? Is the bread identified this way because their departure from Egypt entailed fear and trepidation?

- By the time of Deut. 16:3 it was an historical fact that they had experienced EXTREME TREPIDATION before the end of the Seven Days of Unleavened Bread.
- When they left Egypt, the death of the firstborn hung over Egypt like a shroud.
- Within 7 days the Israelites were extremely fearful at the sight of Pharaoh's army.

Ex. 14:10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

- They were still eating the "bread of affliction."
- Conclusion: It seems in Deut. 16:3 the intended meaning is that they "...came out of the land of Egypt in TREPIDATION", rather than "in haste;" in a hurry.

Amalek's 1st Attack on Israel: Ex. 17:8-16

Amalek, a type of our inherited sin nature from Adam, does not fear God.

Amalek means "warlike." They were not noble warriors - never fought a fair fight.

Associated with cruelty and cowardice- called a "people that lick up." Abused the helpless

Note: There was no mention of Amalek as long as Israel was in bondage. Amalek was the first nation to attack Israel as they began their journey after their deliverance.

Amalek's purpose: Prevent Israel's progress to Canaan [Promised Land; Inheritance]

After the Israelites had received the manna [Bread of Life] and living water from the rock, THEN Amalek came and fought them in Rephidim. [Ex. 17:8]

- The Flesh is seeking at all costs to bar the onward journey of God's redeemed people, through the wilderness, into the land of promise, their inheritance.

Deut. 25:17-18 REMEMBER what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, ¹⁸ how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

Amalek's Tactics Deut. 25

1. They attacked the feeble and weak; those who are too weak to keep pace in the desert.

Attacked the stragglers - ill and young.

2. "He set upon the feeble, the faint and weary, first." Subtle and cowardly

3. "He laid in wait for him in the way." Like a swarm of locusts

4. Like a leech eager for blood Like a fly looking for sores to feed on

5. Hurried over hundreds of miles to intercept Israel's march

It was not God's purpose that His people should remain at the place where the rock was smitten.

In Deut. 1:6-8 Moses reminded them: The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying,

Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount. Turn and take your journey and go...Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- Get down, get on and get in! It was Amalek's ambition to prevent their success.

Note: Israel had just been released from 400 years of slavery.

They were not familiar with war and weapons. They were no match for Amalek.

A general was explaining his strategy for capturing a strong enemy city. He said, "I have four columns approaching the city. I have a column approaching from the north, a column from the south, a column from the east, and one from the west. But my most valuable column is my fifth column." When asked where the fifth column was, the general replied, "My fifth column is inside the city." The general had people inside the city who were loyal to him. He counted on them to open the gates and deliver the city to him.

When things go wrong, most of the time religious people blame unseen demons around them. Little do we know that Satan isn't our only enemy. Satan has a "fifth column" inside of us that cooperates with him in his battle against us. What is Satan's "fifth column"?

It is our sinful nature which the Bible calls "the flesh."

The "flesh" is not my body, but my sinful nature that dwells in my body.

It is out of control, self-indulgent, fat, lazy, evil and full of pride.

John Owen "Indwelling sin [the flesh] in the believer is the old man who must be killed, with all his faculties, properties, wisdom, craft, subtlety, and strength.

Its power, life, vigor, and strength must be destroyed and slain by the cross of Christ."

If the devil never darkened your door, you could still be destroyed for lack of knowledge because the flesh could overtake you.

Our Flesh compared to the type:

Gal. 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like:...

1. Our flesh is warlike.
2. Our flesh lusts or wars against our spirit after we are born again.
3. Our flesh was not a problem before we were redeemed because IT WAS BOSS.
4. Our flesh is a hindrance to a successful Christian walk and growth in Christ.

Rom. 12:7 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

We usually deal with the "bad" side of the flesh when we become believers. That is we generally begin to live "socially acceptable" Christian lives by giving up our drug dealing, fornication, our lying, cheating, stealing and getting drunk on weekends. We deal with the obviously "bad" side of the flesh, but we inevitably ignore the "best of the flesh."

After all, we have all sorts of wonderful personality traits, talents and resources developed by experience in the world--these we are happy to devote to God's service. The flesh loves to sing in the choir, to preach--in fact the flesh can be very religious! This means we all tend to try to please God by our self-effort, by our religious performance-oriented living, by "trying harder." Flesh may be defined as "self-effort"--attempting to live the Christian life by our own efforts. The flesh is always self-seeking and self-serving. The flesh is rooted in pride.

"Self-Effort" always leads to failure: We think we need God only for the crises and rough spots in the road. But the harder we try to live Christian lives on our own, the more we fail.

Eternal loss or eternal gain: At the judgment seat of Christ, all that we have done in the energy of the flesh will be lost. Only those things the Spirit has done through us [by faith] will survive

Consider: As new believers, we are no match for the vicious attacks of the flesh. We are to have "no confidence in it," make "no provision" for it, "not to yield our members to its service." [Rom. 13:14]

- After we are born again and filled with the Spirit [new nature], we begin to read our Bible, pray and start growing. We are new babes in Christ. THEN the FLESH shows up and begins warring against our redeemed spirit. Holy Spirit is vitaly essential for our spiritual lives.

II Pet. 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- At the moment of salvation, I am sealed with the Holy Spirit whose purpose is to establish the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ in the area of my mind, will and emotions so that my body might become the temple of the living God.
- There is IMMEDIATE resistance on the part of the FLESH. [Gal. 5:17a] The flesh contests every attempt of the Holy Spirit to lead me on to spiritual maturity.
- Standing across my pathway from the very outset of the Christian life is Amalek!

Moses' orders to Joshua: Ex. 17:9-10 Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Note: Israel will now fight battles as God's redeemed people.

God's Provision to Fight Amalek: Ex. 17:9-12 The respective actions of Moses and Joshua reveal the provisions God has made for them and for us to combat the flesh.

1. Israel's success against Amalek was determined by the uplifted hands of Moses [symbolic of prayer] and the rod of God's power.

- Uplifted rod = confess total dependence on the authority and power of God

I Tim. 2:8 "I will therefore pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Ex. 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. [Note: not a physical battle]

Deut. 34:7 Moses to the very day of his death did not lose his natural strength.

So it is in spiritual warfare. When we fail in prayer, the flesh prevails.

Luke 18:1 "Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

2. Moses was not left to himself in this life and death struggle. Aaron and Hur supported him, they held up his hands. Moses could never have continued without this support.

Ex. 17:12 But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

As believers, it is time to put on our armor and use our spiritual weapons.

God's Provision For The Believer To Fight The Flesh

1. We have an advocate within and above.

- Aaron was the head of Israel's priesthood as a type of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us.

Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- Hur means "light" or "illumine" which is a type of the Holy Spirit who helps us with our infirmities.

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Ex. 17:13 So Joshua defeated [discomfited] Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. There is no way we can eradicate or destroy the evil sin nature in us.

We must use the Sword of the Word against our flesh.

Results of Amalek's first attack on Israel: Ex. 17:14-16

1. God provided the victory for Israel.
2. Victory over Amalek is GOD GIVEN.

It cannot be won; it can only be received by the appropriation of faith.

In The Saving Life of Christ, Ian Thomas writes 'There are countless Christians fighting a battle that is already lost, trying in their own strength to overcome the subtleties of sin. That is a battle you can fight all your days, but I tell you now, you can never win! It is a battle already lost, lost in the first Adam... Victory over the flesh is not attained but received.

Gal. 5:16 Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

Now the devil loves to invert truth and turn it into a lie, and probably what he has been saying to you is this: "Try not to fulfil the lusts of the flesh, and then you will walk in the Spirit" as though the latter was a reward for the former.

He knows that in this way, he will keep you preoccupied with yourself, instead of being preoccupied with Christ. There is nothing quite so nauseating or pathetic as the flesh trying to be holy!... Is that what you have been trying to do? You have been trying not to fulfil the lust of the flesh, in order to walk in the Spirit - fighting a battle already lost.

God's Word: "Walk in the Spirit" in an attitude of total dependence upon Him, exposing everything to Him, "and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh."

THEN you will enjoy through Him the victory that Christ has already won.

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