

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of Our Inheritance

#36 Israel Says: "I Will" & "I Do"

Remember: Ex. 3:12 God spoke to Moses at the burning bush. "When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." Promise is Fulfilled!

God has redeemed His people. He will now claim them as His own and enter into a covenant relationship with them just as He promised in Ex. 6:6-7 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.

Exodus 19:7-9 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces All These Words which the LORD commanded him.

[v. 4 You Have Seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. {They had seen how GRACIOUS and MERCIFUL God *had been* to them in spite of their murmurings and their UNBELIEF!

They *had seen* God's power and greatness demonstrated again and again.}

v. 5 -6 Now therefore, **IF** you will obey My voice in truth and keep My Covenant, **THEN** you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation [consecrated, set apart to the worship of God].

And all the people answered together, and said, All That The LORD Hath Spoken We Will Do.

And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you and remain steadfast forever. Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

Ex. 24:3 Moses gives them God's Laws: all the people answered with one voice, All That The Lord Has Spoken We Will Do.

Ex. 24:7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people; and they said, All That The Lord Has Said We Will Do, And We Will Be Obedient.

Note: They enthusiastically promised to obey everything God told them to do.

Deut. 6:24 And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to [reverently] fear the Lord our God for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

The Danger of Self-Confidence

Consider: They seemed to be filled with confidence in THEMSELVES.

However, God knew their hearts were prone to do evil.

Deut. 5:27-29 Go near [Moses] and hear all that the Lord our God will say. And speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you; and we will hear and do it. ²⁸ And the Lord heard your words when you spoke to me and the Lord said to me, I have heard the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have said well all that they have spoken.

²⁹ Oh, that they had such a [mind and] heart in them always [reverently] to fear Me and keep all My commandments, that it might go well with them and with their children forever!

Key Point #1 Israelites failed to realize that *in themselves* they did not have the power to obey the Lord.

Key Point #2 They had a HEART PROBLEM [verse 29].

a. Their hearts did not match the words they spoke [verse 28].

b. They had sinful and rebellious hearts prone to DISOBEDIENCE.

Key Point #3 They should have realized how sinful their hearts really were.

a. Before God ever gave them the Law, He gave them several tests of obedience.

b. Exodus 16:19 Don't leave the manna until the next morning. Did they obey this simple rule?

c. Exodus 16:22-26 No manna should be gathered on the Sabbath - Obey?

d. What should they have learned about their heart?

Ex. 16:28 How long do you [people] REFUSE TO KEEP My commandments and My laws?

Consider: In Exodus 19:8; 24:3, 7 the children of Israel should have answered: "LORD, we cannot keep Your commandments. Our hearts are wicked and rebellious and sinful. We do not have the power to obey. We could not even keep two simple manna-gathering rules. Unless You provide and give us the ability, we will surely fail. Lord We cannot do it. You must help us!"

Does God expect TOTAL OBEDIENCE from His children today?

Matt. 28:20a Teaching Them To Observe Everything That I Have Commanded You...

Question: How much can you do without Christ's life and His power?

John 15:5 I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.

Consider: Setting Myself Up For A Fall: Every sin I commit is a result of my FAILURE to implement and appropriate the infinite resources I have in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Mark 14:27-31 And Jesus said to them, You will all fall away *this night* [that is, you will be caused to stumble and will begin to distrust and desert Me], for it stands written, I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.

²⁸ But after I am raised [to life], I will go before you into Galilee.

²⁹ But Peter said to Him, Even if they all fall away *and* are caused to stumble and distrust *and* desert You, yet I will not [do so]!

³⁰ And Jesus said to him, Truly I tell you, this very night, before a cock crows twice, you will utterly deny Me [disclaiming all connection with Me] three times.

³¹ But [Peter] said more vehemently *and* repeatedly, [Even] if it should be necessary for me to die with You, I will not deny *or* disown You! And they all kept saying the same thing.

Mark 14:72 And at once for the second time a cock crowed. Peter remembered how Jesus said to him, Before a cock crows twice, you will utterly deny Me [disclaiming all connection with Me] three times. And having put his thought upon it [and remembering], he broke down *and* wept aloud *and* lamented.

Note: Peter's self-confidence set him up for his failure.

Israel as the Wife Of Jehovah:

I. The Marriage Covenant

A. God entered into a covenant [marriage contract] with Israel at Mt. Sinai.

Deuteronomy records the marriage contract resulting in Israel becoming the Wife of Jehovah.

Deut. 5:1-3 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

² The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³ The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.

Note: The prophets viewed this relationship as a marriage covenant.

Ezek. 16:8 Now I passed by you again and looked upon you; behold, you were maturing *and* at the time for love, and I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I plighted My troth to you and entered into a covenant with you, says the Lord, and you became Mine.

1. These are words of the Jewish wedding night.

2. 1st stage of the relationship when Israel entered into a marriage covenant at Mt. Sinai

Ex. 19:10-11 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready by the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

Sanctify Yourselves As The Holy People Of God - Prepare For His Meeting

1. Wash Their Clothes in OT marked a "new beginning." [Joseph leaving prison in Gen. 41:41; healed lepers returning to society in Lev. 14:8-9; David turning back to God in II Sam. 12:20...]

Note: An Ancient wedding custom: Israel was to purify themselves for 3 days prior to the Lord's visitation, preparing their bodies, minds and hearts for THEIR COVENANTAL MARRIAGE TO THE LORD.

Consider: To ready oneself to meet with the Lord involves a person's undivided attention.

2. Distance Between God And The People

19:12-13 And you shall set bounds for the people round about, saying, Take heed that you go not up into the mountain or touch the border of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. ¹³ No hand shall touch it [or the offender], but he shall surely be stoned or shot [with arrows]; whether beast or man, he shall not live. When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.

3. The Storm

19:16-19 The third morning there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people from the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, for the Lord descended upon it in fire; its smoke ascended like that of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

¹⁹ As the trumpet blast grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with a voice.

Consider: The combination of washing and changing their clothes, witnessing the storm, keeping their distance from Mt. Sinai surely impressed them with their own sinfulness and God's majestic holiness.

Consecrate Yourself To God: Holy People Set Apart To Worship God

Joshua 3:5 And Joshua said to the people, Sanctify [Consecrate] yourselves [that is, separate yourselves for a special holy purpose], for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

Consecration: QADAS = kaw-dash - Act of setting aside oneself for use in the worship of God and in obeying God's words and commands. Reserving yourself exclusively for God's use.

1. Many believers have surrendered themselves and made commitments on the basis:

"Jesus gave His all for you. Now the least you can do is give your all for Him."

2. Believers are exhorted and pressured to consecrate and surrender on the basis of his love and gratitude for what Jesus Christ did for him.

3. How many times have you surrendered and recommitted yourself to Christ?

4. This approach tends to yield frustration, floundering and failure in a believer's life.

5. Many verses in Romans 3-5 teach us it is utterly futile to expect a believer to achieve consecration in the strength of his will and desire in the flesh.

6. Most of us truly desired to surrender our lives to Christ and be effective in His service.

7. Most truly believe since they have the will to obey God and be all He wants them be, they should carry it out through personal consecrated effort With His Help.

8. So they seek to struggle forward via the love motive. He did it for me; I must do for Him.

Andrew Murray: "A superficial acquaintance with God's plan leads to the view that while justification is God's work, by faith in Christ, sanctification [growth] is our work, to be performed under the influence of the gratitude we feel for the deliverance we have experienced, and by the aid of the Holy Spirit. But the earnest Christian soon finds how little gratitude can supply the needed power. When he thinks that more prayer will supply it, he finds that, indispensable as prayer is, it is not enough. Often the believer struggles, hopelessly for years, until he listens to the teaching of the Spirit, as He glorifies Christ again, and reveals Christ, our Sanctification, to be appropriated by faith alone."

Key Point #1 Just because I have the will doesn't mean I am able to do it.

Key Point #2 The new will is a permanent gift.

Phil. 2:13 [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight.

Key Point #3 The power to do is NOT a permanent gift, but must be each moment received from the Holy Spirit.

Key Point #4 Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can a believer lead a holy life.

Truth: A believer must see the necessity of growing beyond the "love motive" to the "life motive." Phil. 1:21a For me to live is Christ [His life in me]...

Key Point #5 My consecration, surrender or commitment will never hold up if it is my responding to Him from any other motivation than the response: It Is His Life In Me.

Key Point #6 Yielding to Him on any different basis will simply amount to my trying to live for Him in the strength of my self-life.

Key Point #7 Even if that were possible, God could never accept it, since in that realm there dwells no good thing. [Rom. 7:18]

Key Point #8 Remember: He has already taken my old self-life to the cross and crucified it.

Metcalf: "The modern teaching of consecration, which is tantamount to the consecration of the 'old man,' seeks to bypass the death sentence. Therefore, it leads to frustration and failure. When, however, we are prepared, in simple humility, to make the FACT of our death with Christ our daily basis of life and service, there is nothing that can prevent the uprising and outflow of new life, and meet the need of thirsty souls around us."

Rom. 6:13 Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are ALIVE from the dead.

Key Point #9 Only those "alive from the dead" - having appropriated fully their likeness with Him in death - are bid to present their members as instruments unto God.

Rom. 12:1 God asks us to present our bodies as LIVING sacrifices to Him.

Key Point #10 Until we have done this, there is nothing else we can do. Note the order: crucifixion comes before consecration. An uncrucified self REFUSES to be consecrated.

Duncan: "This is why so many people with all sincerity walk down the aisles again and again, consecrating uncrucified self to God."

Truth: God deals with all believers on the ground - "In Christ You Died."