

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EXODUS

Aaron Beard
Trussville
Aug 12, 2007

INTRODUCTION:

A. There have been some great battles throughout time where great might, determination, skill, and endurance have been displayed

1. Some were great for the victories experienced in hopeless situations – “Remember the Alamo!” has long been the cry to revive a group who thinks there’s no chance to win!
2. In the O.T. we read about another great battle – Not between two nations or over a piece of land but between God and Pharaoh... Perhaps this is the greatest battle of them all!
 - a. It was a battle of wills and of might – Pharaoh was a man who was stubborn, full of pride, and thought no one could take him down... God proved otherwise!
 - b. It was a battle where the strongest of nations on this earth was brought to its knees & essentially rendered lifeless for some time by 10 plagues sent by the Lord
 - c. It was a battle showing the difference between the God of Israel and the gods of Egypt – As things got bad for Egypt, their gods could do nothing to save them!

B. As we consider this great battle of wills and display of might we learn some great lessons about God – We must KNOW God if we are going to serve Him acceptably (1 Thess 1:8)

I. LESSONS ABOUT GOD FROM THE EXODUS:

A. Jehovah Is A God Who Is Eternally Existent

1. One of Moses’ concerns when God told him to lead Israel out of captivity was who would he tell Israel was sending him: (Exodus 3:13-15)
 - a. It was important that Israel know that God was behind Moses! The decision to rebel against Pharaoh and leave Egypt would come at the loss of many lives without God – Moses didn’t have the power or wisdom to do this on his own!
 - b. Moses also would’ve known you just don’t go before a powerful, wealthy, and even stubborn king & make demands unless you were more powerful or had the backing of someone more powerful – To do so would be certain suicide!
 - c. **Illustration:** Boss sent you to tell another worker job changing news... your first words would be, “Mr ____ sent me to tell you this” – Name carries authority
 - d. We would expect God to say, “Tell them Jehovah sends you” but instead we find the Lord telling Moses to say, “I Am Who I Am has sent me to you” – It’s odd!
2. When God tells Moses to say “The I AM Sent Me,” what is God wanting them to see?
 - a. God is not the “I Was” or the “I Will Be” but “The Great I AM” → God is eternal... God has always been there and always will be there! He transcends time!
 - b. God is self existent – Created beings have a beginning and an end – God has no beginning nor will He have an end! He wasn’t created but is the creator of all!
3. Because God is “The Great I AM” He is changeless in His nature: (Psalm 102:26-28)
 - a. Think about mankind – Think about the great changes that occur in a person physically & mentally as they grow up & get old. We’re constantly in a state of change – Some changes make us act & think differently from how we used to!
 - b. This is just one reason why ultimately you cannot count on men to always be there and always be consistent in their response to you... humans aren’t real stable!
 - c. God never changes! By prayer we may be able to change His mind in some areas but God doesn’t change! Not for the better or for the worse... God is perfect!
4. Jesus also made it clear during His life that He shared this nature (John 8:51-59)
 - a. They think Jesus has lost His mind now! They saw from the start what He was

- claiming... Jesus was putting Himself in a position above any who had died
 - b. Jesus' last words was the nail in the coffin for them – "I AM" was a designation that solely belonged to God! If Jesus was lying, He needed to be stoned that day!
 - c. He shares in the same nature as His Father – Eternal, self-existent, & changeless!
 - 5. The fact that our Lord is eternal, self-existent, & changeless should mean the same to us!
 - a. Revelation shows the great suffering that existed during the first century and that was still to come... Jesus and the Father reveals themselves as "The Great I AM" to give hope to those with a difficult & uncertain future! (**Rev 1:8; 4:8, 11**)
 - b. His word is steadfast and His promises trustworthy! When God says something you can count on it... even if it seems it takes a while to be fulfilled (**2 Pet 3:8**)
 - c. Finally we see God's existence aids in His longsuffering – Because He transcends time He is able to bear with us giving us time to come to Him (**2 Peter 3:9**)

B. Jehovah Is A God Who Is More Powerful Than The Strongest Nation

1. At this point in time Egypt was the strongest nation on the face of the earth!
 - a. Considering how great & mighty Egypt was, it is not hard to imagine the personality of its leader, Pharaoh! Full of himself, stubborn, felt like he was god, & selfish
 - b. Pharaoh had been challenged by other nations and they had likely even used their gods as a threat... As Pharaoh enjoyed victory after victory he felt invincible!
 - c. When God makes a bold demand of this great king it's no surprise Pharaoh meets it with resistance – Why should he listen to the god of those Hebrew slaves!
 - d. Who is God that I should obey Him? He found out with 10 classes in plagues 10!
2. The 10 plagues demonstrate that God has all the power & might! (**Exodus 9:14-17**)
 - a. **Illustration:** Cat & Mouse Game – Cat corners the mouse and could easily consume him in one bite but instead he plays with it and taunts it first
 - b. God does not do this with Pharaoh because He is bored and needs to be amused for a while but to demonstrate He is God, His might, & who His people were
 - c. God tells Pharaoh He has put Him there for this very purpose... He backs Pharaoh in a corner to play with him. He could've wiped Pharaoh out with the first one!
 - d. By the time God is through with this arrogant man Egypt is a wasteland! (**Ex 10:7**)
3. It is not until God takes the life of the firstborn in all of Egypt that Pharaoh's stubborn will appears to be broken and he decides to finally let the people go! (**Exodus 12:29-32**)
 - a. It's bad enough when one loses a loved one but here at least one dies in every single household! The loud cries echoing throughout the land had to be eerie!
 - b. This time the plagues hit home hard – I can just picture Pharaoh standing there holding his son in despair & even anger wishing he'd let them go the first time!
 - c. However, Pharaoh's stubborn heart still could not stand to lose a battle... so when Israel leaves he pursues them & this pursuit hits a dead end at the Red Sea
 - d. No doubt is left behind who has the power & control in this battle! (**Ex. 14:13-14**)
4. In this battle we learn a very important lesson – God is greater than any nation on earth and holds more power than any ruler could ever dream of!
 - a. Who is Rome? Who is Egypt? Who is the United States Of America? God can bring any nation to its knees with the smallest of nations (or no nation at all)
 - b. This was a lesson Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way – It's a lesson for us as well... God is in control and works in nations as He wills! (**Dan 4:25-26, 31-35**)
 - c. There's no nation so mighty, no ruler so brave, so God's will can't be accomplished
5. Since nations are not invincible, we must make sure our trust is in Jehovah! (**Psalms 20:7**)
 - a. A danger for Christians in America! We are admired & hated by many for our great

- wealth, great military, democratic process, independence, and our political pull
 - b. Great pride swells in our hearts as we sing the national anthem, feelings of honor flood our souls as we sing “God Bless America,” & images of those who died for our freedom fill our minds as we sing, “I’m Proud To Be An American”
 - c. We need to remember that America is not invincible – If these things are lost our trust should still be in Jehovah! The citizenship we are the most proud of and speak the most of should be our Heavenly citizenship for that is our true home
6. Our nation is not a Christian nation, it really never has been! There’s only one Christian nation... the kingdom of Heaven! But let’s always pray that our nation will put their trust in God, return to Him, so He may continue to bless our land! **(2 Chron 7:13-14)**

C. Jehovah Is The God Who Provides The Passover

1. When God spoke to Moses about the tenth and final plague, He gave some very peculiar directions that would forever distinguish His people from the Egyptians **(Ex 12:5-8; 11-13)**
 - a. I can see the Egyptians watching them & thinking, “They’ve gone insane! They’re eating like they are in a hurry & spreading blood on their door! They’ve lost it!”
 - b. They were to take a lamb that was without blemish – it had to be perfect – kill it, eat it, & then take the lamb’s blood & spread it on their doors... All this had to be done in a very hurried manner (a reminder they were soon leaving bondage)
2. That night God did pass over and all the first born throughout all of Egypt died!
 - a. The magicians can’t copy this & wouldn’t, Pharaoh was powerless to stop it, & the gods they served were silent! Pharaoh wanted to know who God was that he should obey Him & he learned! This was the darkest night Egypt ever saw!
 - b. The Israelites who followed God’s instructions were saved... but it was not without a price for an innocent lamb had to die and it’s blood be shed for them to live!
 - c. Following this plague God instituted a special feast day as a memorial of this great event – The Feast Of The Passover – It was during this time, the days of the Unleavened Bread, that Jesus instituted the memorial of His death!
3. It’s obvious as we consider the whole of God’s word that as He looked down from Heaven that evening He saw what His Son would be doing some 1500 years later! **(John 1:29)**
 - a. The very first time Jesus is introduced to mankind He is not referred to as the King of Kings, as the Great I Am, or even as Lord... He is called the Lamb of God!
 - b. A good Jew would’ve easily understood this – John’s first introduction of Jesus was calling Him a sacrifice – From the start His purpose is clear... He had to die!
 - c. Just as the Passover Lamb that night in Egypt saved the Israelites from death and released them from the bondage they were held by – Jesus frees us from the spiritual death we all deserve and releases us from the bondage of sin!
4. You see, just as the Jews had their Passover, we have a Passover as well! **(1 Cor 5:6-7)**
 - a. **Illustration:** Read words to “Lamb Of God” (No. 176 Songs of Faith And Praise)
 - b. Jesus the Christ is the innocent One, the only One who could say He was without blemish... He gave Himself on the cross for us so God could pass over us!
5. A very important question ought to be asked though – We know we need the blood applied, but when does that blood get applied? **(Rev 1:5; Acts 22:16)**
 - a. I don’t see how anyone misses this point – It’s the blood that washes our sins away & our sins are washed away at baptism - That’s when the blood is applied!
 - c. So the question ought to be asked, “If God was to PASS OVER tonight, would He see the blood of His Son, the Lamb of God, applied?”