

"My Name Forever"

Exodus 3:8-15

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I. "7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; - Exodus 3:7

A. Suffering has been more common for the children of God than prosperity. We are called to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, for that is part of our training in the army of Jesus Christ. Everywhere the gospel has gone, there has been suffering for the people of God, for Satan does not yield his territory for a song and dance, and it is God's will that our faith be tested in the fires of conflict and trouble.

B. The compassion that God has is in terms of His eternity and good purpose in Jesus Christ. 80 years had gone by, and 420 years in Egypt. God is not in a hurry in anything that He does, but He is patient that all his holy will is done. We must be patience, also. I have an idea that many an Israelite had given over to despair and spent their time in idolatry and wickedness and immorality because they were like Esau who sold his birth-right for a mess of pottage.

C. Moses was one who did not esteem the riches and pleasures of Egypt worthy to be compared to the glory that awaits. We are called to love God, keep His commandments, and worship in truth, no matter what the world around us is doing. Remember the words of Jeremiah [15:16-19]:

16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

17 I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation. 18 Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?

19 Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.

D. I would call your attention to Romans, chapter eight.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Adoption to those who believe in Christ and gives assurance of our adoption as sons of God.

2. We therefore are called to suffer with Him that we may be glorified with Him. There is no escape from this requirement, for it is part of our identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. These things are strong figures or types, that are written for our admonition: These things happened to Israel for the benefit of the church, unto whom the ends of the world are come, according to 1Cor. 10:6 and 11.

II. "8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt." –Ex. 3:8-10.

A. God hears the cry of His people. See Luke 18:1-8.

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

1. Faith requires me to yield to God's time table, and not to mine.

2. Because the delay is often very long, lasting from generation to generation, our hearts get callous and cold, and we think that God's promises are no good. We seek an earthly reward, not a heavenly one.

3. James says, we have not because we ask not. Or we ask amiss, because we are double-minded.

B. But now the time had come. God said it would be 400 years, so they should have anticipated it, and lived accordingly, and some no doubt did. It was the faith of his mother that caused her to hide the baby Moses along the river, so that he would be preserved. But even that had been eighty years before.

Jas 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.

Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Ga 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

III. "And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? 12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. 13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? 14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. 15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations." (Ex 3:11-15)

A. God's being is self-evident and He is the foundation of all reality. Man is fallen into a pit of relativism and wickedness from which they cannot deliver themselves. This is evident from Romans 1, and the spiritual condition of unbelievers is evidence that they are in this pit.

B. They cannot deliver themselves for they have nothing solid to stand on. "The only thing I know is my own thoughts." Yes, because you have rejected knowledge and you think that everyone is as foolish as you are. Jer 8:9 "The wise

men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?"

C. They want to argue with you, but they have nothing to argue about, for they only know the thoughts of their own hearts. They don't even know if they know what I think, for they only know what they think they hear me say, and they give evidence every day that they do not have the slightest idea of what the godly think.

D. "How will you reveal yourself unto us and not unto the world," is the question of the disciples, and Jesus answer is a Trinitarian one: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit abides with His people and reveals the truth unto them.

E. He is the God of the living, not a god of the dead. We are not bone worshippers, or worshippers of ancestors long dead. We don't pray to them; their sepulchers are holy because of our memories, not because of their bones, for the saints of the past are with the Lord and will come with Him when he appears. Their remains lie in corruption, but that which is raised is not that which is planted, for they were planted. It is sown a natural body and is raised a spiritual body. It is still me, but is transformed as was the body of Jesus.

Application:

A. Let us not be weary in well doing, but carry our cross, be cheerful and love one another.

B. Fear God and keep the commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

C. How lonely it must have been for the true worshippers of the god of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob during those long years of captivity. How it must have seems that the promises were forgotten. There were no prophets, no oracles, only the promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, passed down from family to family.

D. But how potent and pregnant is the truth, though it only be transmitted from parent to child. Teach your children, live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present world.

E. In spite of the dreams and the imaginations of men, the nature of God remains the same in every age: "I Am that I Am" This is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generation. He is the God of Exodus: Let it be proclaimed forever and ever. Amen

Amen and Amen
God bless you.