

Moses – part 14

Israel is given bread from heaven in the wilderness

by Victor Torres

Egypt is the symbol of our flesh. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. This body of ours, like Egypt, will be destroyed by God.

1Co 15:50 (ESV) I tell you this, brothers: **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The apostle Paul tells us outright that there is no good thing that is in our flesh.

Rom 7:18 (KJV) 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.

Our Lord knows the evil that resides in His flesh, that's why we see this exchange.

Luk 18:18 (ESV) And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Luk 18:19 And Jesus said to him, "**Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.**"

Why am I telling you all these? Because I want you to know that there's a part of our life that we are in Egypt. We live for the flesh and all we do is think about pleasing ourselves. We don't care about what our parents say, let alone what the Bible says.

In our last study, we saw the Lord destroying Egypt and leading Israel to the desert. Israel celebrated their freedom by eating bread made without yeast. The desert was indeed a huge improvement over where they had been.

However, they are not in the promised land yet. They have to go through the desert first. And what does the desert symbolize? It is a type of Babylon, the church in the wilderness. This is the stage in our life where we all begin our walk in the Lord. No one escapes this stage; we all go through Babylon.

Exo 13:17 (ESV) When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt."

Exo 13:18 **But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness** toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.

Babylon is where we begin to learn some spirituality, where we learn some of the basics of the Bible. When we leave Egypt and travel through the desert, we are like the Israelites who accept the Lord wholeheartedly.

Exo 14:29 (CEV) But the sea had made a wall of water on each side of the Israelites; so they walked through on dry land.

Exo 14:30 On that day, when the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the shore, they knew that the LORD had saved them.

Exo 14:31 Because of the mighty power he had used against the Egyptians, the Israelites worshiped him and trusted him and his servant Moses.

When we are in Babylon, we learn how to sing praises to God and give thanks for His kindness to us.

Exo 15:1 (CEV) Moses and the Israelites sang this song in praise of the LORD: I sing praises to the LORD for his great victory! He has thrown the horses and their riders into the sea.

Exo 15:2 The LORD is my strength, the reason for my song, because he has saved me. I praise and honor the LORD-- he is my God and the God of my ancestors.

Exo 15:3 The LORD is his name, and he is a warrior!

Exo 15:4 He threw the chariots and army of Egypt's king into the Red Sea, and he drowned the best of the king's officers.

Exo 15:5 They sank to the bottom just like stones.

Exo 15:6 With the tremendous force of your right arm, our LORD, you crushed your enemies.

Exo 15:7 What a great victory was yours, as you defeated everyone who opposed you. Your fiery anger wiped them out, as though they were straw.

Exo 15:8 You were so furious that the sea piled up like a wall, and the ocean depths curdled like cheese.

Exo 15:9 Your enemies boasted that they would pursue and capture us, divide up our possessions, treat us as they wished, then take out their swords and kill us right there.

Exo 15:10 But when you got furious, they sank like lead, swallowed by ocean waves.

Exo 15:11 Our LORD, no other gods compare with you-- Majestic and holy! Fearsome and glorious! Miracle worker!

Exo 15:12 When you signaled with your right hand, your enemies were swallowed deep into the earth.

Exo 15:13 The people you rescued were led by your powerful love to your holy place.

Exo 15:14 Nations learned of this and trembled-- Philistines shook with horror.

Exo 15:15 The leaders of Edom and of Moab were terrified. Everyone in Canaan fainted,

Exo 15:16 struck down by fear. Our LORD, your powerful arm kept them still as a rock until the people you rescued for your very own had marched by.

Exo 15:17 You will let your people settle on your chosen mountain, where you built your home and your temple.

Exo 15:18 Our LORD, you will rule forever!

Exo 15:19 The LORD covered the royal Egyptian cavalry and chariots with the sea, after the Israelites had walked safely through on dry ground.

Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, even led the other women to dance, play musical instruments and sing praises to the Lord.

Exo 15:20 (CEV) Miriam the sister of Aaron was a prophet. So she took her tambourine and led the other women out to play their tambourines and to dance.

Exo 15:21 Then she sang to them: "Sing praises to the LORD for his great victory! He has thrown the horses and their riders into the sea."

But when we are in Babylon, we are like the seeds that fell on rocky ground. Like the Israelites, we immediately receive the word of God with joy.

Mat 13:20 (ESV) As for what was sown on rocky ground, **this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,**

Mat 13:21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

His words hasn't taken root in our hearts yet though. So when trouble comes our way, we are like the Israelites, we blame others and we blame God for what is happening to us.

Look at what immediately happened after they left the Red Sea.

Exo 15:22 (CEV) After the Israelites left the Red Sea, Moses led them through the Shur Desert for three days, before finding water.

Exo 15:23 They did find water at Marah, but it was bitter, which is how that place got its name.

Exo 15:24 **The people complained and said, "Moses, what are we going to drink?"**

Moses did the right thing by asking the Lord for help and not complaining.

Exo 15:25 (CEV) Moses asked the LORD for help, and the LORD told him to throw a piece of wood into the water. Moses did so, and the water became fit to drink. At Marah the LORD tested his people and also gave them some laws and teachings.

When we ask God for help, we must also do something. When we want our grades to improve, we ask God to give us better understanding, but we must also study harder. We just don't play video games or watch TV all day and hope for better grades. When we want our health to improve, we don't ask God to miraculously take out our excess fat. We should ask for time and energy to exercise, and we should stop eating junk food.

Exo 15:26 (ESV) saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer."

Exo 15:27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.

"Diligently listen" means to carefully or attentively listen. We don't just go to these Bible studies and forget what we learned the minute we go out of our room.

We need to do what is right in God's eyes. We don't do what we think is right, we do what the Bible say is right. We don't fight for our country just as the governments of this world teach. We love our enemies just as the Bible teaches.

Exo 16:1 (CEV) On the fifteenth day of the second month after the Israelites had escaped from Egypt, they left Elim and started through the western edge of the Sinai Desert in the direction of Mount Sinai.

Exo 16:2 There in the desert they started complaining to Moses and Aaron,

Exo 16:3 "We wish the LORD had killed us in Egypt. When we lived there, we could at least sit down and eat all the bread and meat we wanted. But you have brought us out here into this desert, where we are going to starve."

Here we go again! Israel complained instead of praying and asking God for help. They didn't realize that God hears everything we say and He sees our every thoughts.

Exo 16:4 (CEV) The LORD said to Moses, "I will send bread down from heaven like rain. Each day the people can go out and gather only enough for that day. That's how I will see if they obey me.

Exo 16:5 But on the sixth day of each week they must gather and cook twice as much."

Exo 16:6 Moses and Aaron told the people, "This evening you will know that the LORD was the one who rescued you from Egypt.

Exo 16:7 And in the morning you will see his glorious power, because he has heard your complaints against him. Why should you grumble to us? Who are we?"

Exo 16:8 Then Moses continued, "You will know it is the LORD when he gives you meat each evening and more than enough bread each morning. He is really the one you are complaining about, not us--we are nobodies--but the LORD has heard your complaints."

Moses was a humble guy. Even though he was the one chosen by God to lead Israel, he maintained a humble attitude. "Who are we?"... "We are nobodies". It is the same humble spirit that God is looking for in everyone.

Exo 16:9 (CEV) Moses turned to Aaron and said, "Bring the people together, because the LORD has heard their complaints."

Exo 16:10 Aaron was speaking to them, when everyone looked out toward the desert and saw the bright glory of the LORD in a cloud.

Exo 16:11 The LORD said to Moses,

Exo 16:12 "I have heard my people complain. Now tell them that each evening they will have meat and each morning they will have more than enough bread. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God."

Exo 16:13 That evening a lot of quails came and landed everywhere in the camp, and the next morning dew covered the ground.

Exo 16:14 After the dew had gone, the desert was covered with thin flakes that looked like frost.

Exo 16:15 The people had never seen anything like this, and they started asking each other, "What is it?" Moses answered, "**This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.**"

What we don't realize is what we are given to eat in the wilderness, in Babylon, is not the true bread from heaven. It is only the Lord, through His body, who will give us the true bread from heaven.

Joh 6:31 (ESV) Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Joh 6:32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Joh 6:34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Joh 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.