

"The Preparation"

Exodus 2 and 3

Introduction: One of the most difficult things for us to do is to WAIT. When we have within our hearts a desire to see something happen, we want to do all we can to bring it to pass. But as we walk with our Lord and we serve Him patience is something which we must learn. We are commanded to exercise patience.

James 5:7-8

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.*

⁸ *Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

Patience is followed by blessings as we serve the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

¹⁴ *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 37:3-9

³ *Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

⁴ *Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

⁵ *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

⁶ *And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*

⁷ *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*

⁸ *Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.*

⁹ *For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.*

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

³⁰ *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

³¹ **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

In these verses we can see the blessings of waiting upon the Lord but there are times when patience is not easy. Notice what the Psalmist wrote:

Psalm 69:1-3

Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul.

² *I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.*

³ **I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.**

Getting back to Moses, he would need to wait forty years before God would use him to deliver Israel. The question then comes up, "What was the reason, for what we see as a forty-year delay?" There were three purposes which we can see as we look closely at the Scriptures. In the forty-year period there were three changes which took place and these three changes set the stage for Israel to be delivered.

I. The King

Notice Exodus 2:23a

The Pharaoh who sought the life of Moses was now dead. This needed to take place in order for Moses to be able to come back to Egypt. Moses would never have been able to have an audience with the previous Pharaoh but with the new king he would. The new king would certainly not warm up to Moses, but he would tolerate him and permit him to stand in his presence. So, one of the reasons for the forty-year delay was to wait upon the change in leadership.

Now, so would say, "Why did not God just kill the previous king, for that would have opened the doors sooner?" There is one verse that I believe answers this question.

Ezekiel 33:11

¹¹ *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked;** but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

God would allow this king to stay in power until he died which kept the door open for him to repent and turn to the Lord. He was certainly in the way of Moses leading Israel but there were some other changes that needed to be made so this would all work together.

Application:

God is able to move from power whoever He desires, and He is able to place in power whoever He desires.

Daniel 2:20-22

²⁰ *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

²¹ *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

²² *He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*

Every leader serves a purpose in the plan of God and He places people in places of leadership to accomplish His purpose. They may not be the people we always approve, and they may not always be righteous and fair, but they are in the position because God has a plan. Let me show you why God allowed the previous king to remain in power until he died. In this we see the next change which needed to take place.

II. The People

In Exodus 1 Israel came under the terrible affliction but they were not yet ready to leave Egypt. Before the affliction life was easy for them. They had been given the land of Goshen which was under a warm climate and was very fertile to grow crops and to graze their flocks and herds. Not only was the land appealing but so was the lifestyle in Egypt. Israel had adopted the false worship and the false gods of Egypt and had fallen into the immorality. So, when the affliction came, they did not desire to leave but most likely lived with the hope that things would eventually improve. Let me show you what God said through Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 20:6-10

⁶ *In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:*

⁷ Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

⁸ **But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt:** then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

⁹ But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ Wherefore **I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt,** and brought them into the wilderness.

When Moses went to his brethren in Exodus 2:11 they were not ready to leave. But after another forty years they were growing weary of the affliction.

Notice Exodus 2:23-24

Now Israel was looking for relief and they were lifting up their voices to God. Now they were in a place where God could begin to work with them. But it took forty years of affliction.

Application:

There is a lesson in all of this which we need to learn. God often takes people through times of affliction in order to bring them to where their hearts are prepared for the Savior.

I watched such a situation play out in my own mother's life. My mom was a moral lady but not saved. She was diagnosed with cancer which started her down a very difficult road for several years. In the midst of the suffering when she came to the end of herself, she turned to Jesus Christ and accepted Him as her Savior.

This way in which God works is good for us to keep in mind because when we see our children or our loved ones going through times of suffering, we want to step in and do all we can to rescue them. If they are not saved, we must keep in mind that what they are going through may just be what God uses to bring them to Jesus Christ. I have known many people who turned to Jesus because of times of suffering in their own lives. We never desire to see anyone suffer but it is better for our loved ones to suffer and come to Christ than to never suffer and die and go to hell.

One man I know came to Christ when his life fell completely apart. His marriage fell apart, he was struggling financially, he had a difficult time holding down a job and in the midst of all of that he got saved. He will tell you that what he went through was difficult, but he is thankful for what he experienced because of his salvation.

So, when we see unsaved people going through times of suffering let us pray for God to use the suffering to prepare their hearts for Jesus Christ instead of praying for God to relieve the suffering.

Genesis 3:17-19

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life:

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

The difficulties and the suffering in life is for man's sake.

There is yet something else which needed to be changed.

III. Moses

The forty years in Midian as a husband and a father would certainly change the heart of Moses. God would use several things to do His work in the heart of Moses.

A. The years

At the age of forty Moses was full of himself. At the age of forty hot blood raced through his veins but as the years would go by Moses would begin to mellow out. Relied upon his own strength and his own ability. At the age of forty Moses relied upon his own strength and his own ability. That is exactly why he killed the Egyptian. He saw himself powerful enough to deliver Israel. He did not realize it would be the power of God that would be needed to bring about the exodus. It would be after forty years in the wilderness that Moses would then see himself as powerless, helpless, and inadequate. At the age of eighty he would have the proper perspective of himself to be used by God.

Application:

God often waits until a person comes to the end of themselves before He places them in a position where they can be used. People who think highly of themselves are of very little

use to God. God will often wait until we come to the place where we are able to see our inability and our powerlessness before He will begin to use us for His service. This may not happen until a person experiences a great failure of some kind.

Athletic coaches will tell you that some of the best players they have will not heed the coach's instructions until the team or they personally have experienced a humiliating defeat.

I can think of three examples in the Bible of people stepping out in the power of the flesh only to be humiliated and then learning from that situation they were powerless with God. Moses is one example.

1. Israel in Joshua 7.

Joshua 7:2-6

² *And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.*

³ *And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.*

⁴ *So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.*

⁵ *And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.*

⁶ *And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.*

Now, we know this defeat was due to Achan's sin, but we also see in this text that Israel never sought God's will because they were so confident that they could defeat Ai by their power. They were then humiliated, and thirty-six men died. It was God who gave them victory over Jericho but when it came to Ai, they left God out.

2. Peter

Matthew 26:33-35

³³ Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

³⁴ Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

³⁵ Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Peter believed that in his own strength he could stand in the midst of a spiritual battle and he too suffered great humiliation when he denied the Lord.

Matthew 26:75

⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

So, God used the years to bring Moses where he needed to be.

B. The profession.

God would allow Moses to be a shepherd for forty years which would also work to humble him.

Genesis 46:34

³⁴ That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

Application:

God can place us in a very lowly situation and use that situation to humble us and prepare us for the ministry.

Conclusion:

Let us learn to accept where God places us and let us learn to be patient as we wait upon Him. He has a plan and He will be faithful to carry out His plan in His time. We must learn that our position in this world has nothing to do with qualifying us for serving God. It is not our position that is important it is our FAITH and our CHARACTER.