

"Departure from Egypt"

Part 2

Exodus 12-14

Introduction: Last week in our study of the life of Moses we looked at how God brought Israel out of Egypt at a specific time. All the plagues and the opposition by Pharaoh were worked together to fulfill the timing of God for Israel. We also looked at God's desire for Israel pertaining to this tenth plague. Israel was to be sure they never forgot how God had set them free exactly as He had foretold.

Genesis 15:13-14

*¹³ And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and **they shall afflict them four hundred years;***

*¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and **afterward shall they come out with great substance***

Tonight, in our study we are going to look at only two verses in Exodus 12 that are often overlooked but they contain a great amount of Truth for our lives.

"The Multitude that Departed"

A. The Count of the Multitude

Notice Exodus 12:37

There were about six hundred thousand Israelite men that departed from Egypt. The Bible normally only counts the men and not the women. This means that with the women and the children there could have easily been over two million Israelites that departed out of Egypt.

This number makes the journey to Canaan a true miracle. We can only imagine the amount of food it would take to sustain these people for one day and they journeyed forty years. We can only imagine how much water it would take to sustain these people every day. Along with the people there were also their flocks and herds, so the amount of water needed was probably several million gallons a day. This helps us to better understand how much manna must have fallen every day.

This number also shines a great deal light upon the weight which Moses carried. The problems and the issues with over two million people would have been overwhelming. His father-in-law also was aware of this and wisely advised him.

Exodus 18:13-23

¹³ *And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.*

¹⁴ *And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?*

¹⁵ *And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:*

¹⁶ *When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.*

¹⁷ *And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.*

¹⁸ *Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.*

¹⁹ *Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:*

²⁰ *And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.*

²¹ *Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:*

²² *And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.*

²³ *If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.*

B. The Company of the Multitude.

Notice Exodus 12:38

We see here that a mixed multitude went up with Israel. This mixed multitude was made up of Egyptians, nomads, and foreigners. Some of these joined with Israel because they were intermarried with the Israelites.

Leviticus 24:10

¹⁰ And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp;

So, some were intermarried. Others joined up because it looked like an exciting adventure. There were some who joined up because they wanted to leave Egypt. Egypt had been devastated by the plagues and now there was uprising against the government. There were most like some who just jumped on the band wagon, these were those who had their finger in the air testing the wind. If the wind blew favorably for Egypt then they wanted to be Egyptians, if it blew favorably for Israel, they wanted to be Israelites. We see these kinds of people today. They have few convictions and even less character.

This mixed multitude did not choose to go with Israel because of spiritual reasons but for fleshly reasons. Therefore, this group would be a source of trouble. This mixed multitude joining up with Israel was a sly move on Satan's part. The Bible depicts Satan in two ways:

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Peter speaks of him as a devouring lion.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Moses, in Genesis 3, speaks of him as a cunning and crafty serpent.

We were able to see Satan as the devouring lion when Israel was being oppressed under the Egyptian bondage. Then in this mixed multitude we see him as the crafty serpent. In a very subtil way he slides this mixed multitude in with God's people. Satan tried his best to keep some of the Israelites in Egypt and when he could not do so he sent the Egyptians with the Israelites. It would not be long before this mixed multitude would be a thorn in the side of Israel.

Let us notice one of the times in which they caused trouble for the Israelites.

Numbers 11:4-6

⁴ And **the mixt multitude** that was among them fell a lusting; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

⁵ We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

⁶ But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

The mixed multitude grew tired of the manna and began to complain. Their complaining was contagious and shortly thereafter the Israelites began to complain. Let me show you what this led to.

Numbers 11:10, 18-20, 31-34

¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

¹⁸ And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

¹⁹ Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days:

²⁰ But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

³¹ And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

³² And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.

³³ And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

³⁴ *And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.*

The lusting of the mixed multitude caused many to die.

Application:

The "manna" here in Numbers 11 represents to Word of God. The mixed multitude can be seen as those who are not saved but make an empty profession. Today in the churches there is a great deal of problems because of the mixed multitude. The main problem is that the church has brought in programs and music that appeal to the flesh for the purpose of increasing attendance. This then has brought into the church a mixed multitude. If they are given a steady diet of God's Word they will begin to complain, and this will eventually cause the true believers to complain. So, the mixed multitude within the church today cries out not for the Bible but they cry out for more entertainment and anything that appeals to the flesh.

Let us not miss the picture in Exodus 12. Satan wanted to keep Israel in Egypt and when he could not do so he chose to send the Egyptians with the Israelites. In the church today Satan would love to keep God's people under the influence of the world. But if he cannot do that, he is more than happy to bring the world into the church, and he will do this with the mixed multitude.

Let me remind all of us that the church is not a place of entertainment, but it is a barracks where soldiers are trained.

Ephesians 4:11-15

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

¹³ *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

¹⁴ **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

¹⁵ *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

God has placed gifted men in the church to teach the Word of God to equip the saints for the ministry.

Let us notice what Paul instructed the elders at Ephesus to do.

Acts 20:17-21, 27-28

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the LORD with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Conclusion:

The mixed multitude will not be eliminated from the church until the rapture. Satan will continue to bring the world into the church in order to use them to keep the church from following God's blueprint as found in Ephesians 4.

Matthew 13:24-30

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Our responsibility is to keep the world out. Our responsibility is not to get caught up in numbers but instead focus upon strength. We must continue to teach the Bible. There is going to be resistance along the way and that is to be expected. But we must not start down the path of entertainment.

In Acts 20 Paul called the elders and instructed them to feed the flock. Let me show you his concern.

Acts 20:29

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.