

## WHAT IS GOD DOING IN THIS HOUR?

What is God doing in this hour? What is God looking for in this hour from His people? What are we, as God's people, to be doing these days? Those are a few of the questions that are being posed to the true Body of Christ in this hour. We are in a time of flux. There are many ways we can go. I am not saying that I have the answer to these questions. I really don't. I do not believe anyone truly has it all together in this time of flux.

What I do know is that, through it all, God is seeking after His people. He is seeking after, and truly allowing, His people to trust in Him through all the difficulties that we are facing during these most interesting times. We must keep our selves focused in and trust that He is working and doing what needs to be accomplished during this time of history.

In doing our Tuesday Night BibleShare, we have been in the Book of Exodus. We are towards the end of Exodus. We have seen God work in great ways for the Children of Israel as they have been traveling through the wilderness. Actually, Exodus takes us through the beginning stages of their journey.

The Children of Israel were set free from their bondage and torment while they were in Egypt. God did many miraculous things on their behalf in setting them free from their slavery in Egypt. Now they were in the wilderness at Sinai. God had given Moses the Ten Commandments. Moses was on the mountain for 40 days when He received the Commandments. They were on their way to the Promised Land. Moses came down from the mountain to bring the great tidings that they were about to behold and partake of.

However, before Moses came down something happened. The people that God had freed from the slavery of Egypt, the people whom God did many miraculous things for on their way to Sinai, after 40 days and Moses not being with them, fell into debauchery. They entered into false worship. They entered into wickedness and sinfulness. In other words, after not hearing from God or Moses for 40 days, they decided to make God what they wanted Him to be.

Oh, they had included Him in their worship but they also included the images of two "golden calves." The people took the gold that God had given to them from the Egyptians when He miraculously set them free from Egypt. They took the gold that was to be used for God's Tabernacle and instead used it to make two "golden calves." The "golden calves" were symbols of virility and strength associated with the Canaanite god El.

The scriptures tell us that when Moses came down from the mountain, after being with God, he saw this very ugly scene. He went a little ballistic. God knew what was going to happen. He told Moses that they would not be the ones who would go into the Promised Land. Moses interceded for the people but their sinful ways were who they were. God relented in His decision at that time to destroy the people for Moses sake. Moses had to see for Himself. Unfortunately, he saw it all and it wasn't pretty. He ended up throwing the tablets that God had written upon, the tablets of the Ten Commandments, to the ground and broke them. In his rage at what he saw the Children of Israel doing, Moses also destroyed the two "golden calves" that the people had made as their gods.

We see that as we continue to read the scriptures that the entire first generation that God took out of Egypt ended up dying in the wilderness and not entering the Promised Land. We also see that God had continued to only meet with Moses and not with the people. We see through this that God does not mess around. He is serious about what He says and what He will do.

In our Sunday Morning BibleShare, we saw this in the Gospel accounts concerning Jesus. God, the Father, has a plan and He will not alter or sway from His plan. Even Jesus knew this. Yes, in the Garden we see Jesus had asked that His death, which was God's plan, would pass from Him. However, we do not see God even answer Jesus. It had to be done and it had to be done the way that it was planned by the Father from the very beginning of time. Jesus knew this.

Every time Jesus mentioned to the Father to change His plan while He was in the Garden, Jesus ended every statement with the idea and understanding that the Father's plan was to be done and it is to be as He had ordained it to be from the very beginning. There was to be no change and there will never be any change to God's plan of salvation for His people.

We see in Exodus that God had been working with Moses. He knew what was going to happen to those people that came out of Egypt. He knew that they were all going to die in the wilderness. We see that it seemed as though God had changed His mind when He was with Moses as we read in Exodus. However, the truth was that He had just put off the inevitable for Moses sake. Unfortunately, we see that Moses got caught up in the rebellion of the people and ended up not entering into the Promised Land with the next generation of Israelites that were permitted to enter in. The only ones that did make it into the Promised Land from that first generation were Joshua and Caleb.

Joshua would not only enter the land, he would lead Israel into God's victory. *"Then Moses called Joshua and said to him...you must go with this people to the land...and you shall cause them to inherit it."* (Deut 31:7) Caleb would not only enter the land, he would still be strengthened by faith in God even in his old age. *"Here I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war"* (Joshua 14:11).

Why were Joshua and Caleb the only two (and their families) to make it into the Promised Land even though there was a whole generation who were freed from the Egyptian bondage? I believe it was simply their faith and trust in God and in His Word that He spoke to them. God had spoken it to all His people who He led out of Egypt. The others obviously did not truly hear what God had said. Instead, they were looking, not into the deep spiritual things of God but rather they were looking upon the things of the "now." We all must be careful of the "now."

As we read the things in the Old Testament, we must realize that what is written in it is for each of us to learn from as well as to live out of. I sometimes think that the use of the phrase "Old Testament" is not necessarily a good title to be given to the writings in it. We have a tendency to misuse or misunderstand these writings. We must understand that the term "Old" and "New" given to the writings we have in our Bibles were not necessarily given by God, but by the writers of what we now have as our Bible.

Yes, through Jesus we have been "born again" and we now have new life in and through Him. However, nowhere in the "New Testament" do any writers ever state that the writings in what we call the "Old Testament" are to be devalued or not used anymore. Actually, I believe the "New Testament" truly expresses the fulfillment and the ratification of the scriptures found within the "Old." After all, nowhere in what we call the "New Testament" is the term "Old Testament" found.

The only time the New Testament makes a distinction between the Jewish scriptures (the "old") and the "new" is found in the letter of James. However, James does not devalue the Jewish scriptures and neither does he tell his readers to no longer read the Jewish scriptures (the Old Testament). He rather, very clearly, makes the distinction between the "old" way of approaching God and the "new" way that is now found in and through Jesus. Nowhere does the New Testament contradict the Old Testament. They truly are one.

Jesus is the fulfillment of everything found in the original Jewish scriptures. Everything after Jesus' death and resurrection which is found within our "New Testament" is in complete fulfillment of the "Old Testament" with the inclusion of salvation now to be extended to every Gentile.

As we have discussed briefly in this essay, we saw God's plan of redemption for His people and ultimately, anyone who would call upon and believe in the Name of the Lord. As mentioned previously in this essay, God is doing something that He never did before. We are in times that were never experienced before. I believe, we are in the very late stages just prior to the final installment of the end times. The time is getting closer and closer.

So what is God doing in this hour? He is preparing His people that are on this earth for Him. He is calling His people to truly make the decision to follow Him and not after people who seem to have the answers to what is happening in this hour – but don't. The only way to truly know what God is doing in this hour is to place our total trust and reliance on Him and Him alone.

I am quite aware of all the people that have been telling us different things. I believe it is causing more confusion and division within the Body of Christ than it is bringing unity. The only one who truly knows the fullness of the truth in this hour is God, the Father, Himself. We all must look at His Word that He has given to those who truly desire Him and His ways in this hour and in this time of history. Our God desires to guide those who truly are following Him and only Him in this hour.

God has given those who are truly His, an ear to hear Him and not others who say they are speaking the words of the Lord. Yes, there may be a few that are speaking for Him. I do not want to say that there is no one who is speaking on behalf of the Lord. However, I believe that those that are speaking to His people in this hour are telling His people to get back into His Word to hear what He is doing in this hour. I believe that this is what God is doing in this hour.

I encourage each of us to seek more and more after Him and Him alone. We must stop following after people. They may be His people but they are not God. I believe that the time is short before the seven years that will come. God is calling out to His people. He is calling out to those that truly desire Him and only Him. What are you doing? What are we doing? Are we seeking after more of Him or are we seeking after what others are telling us.

We are getting closer and closer to the true end times. Our God is seeking after those that truly believe and are seeking only after Him. But He seems to be quiet – or is He. Are we too busy looking for the answers from others or are we going to simply stop and listen to Him. I believe the true believer will stop and truly turn towards Him and Him alone. The time is getting shorter and shorter. Will we be like the five virgins who thought they were ready and hung out with the other five virgins who were ready to meet their master? Are we sleeping? Do we truly have the oil for our lamps to be lit when He does come?

We will see...