

LET MY PEOPLE GO

Exodus 8 & 9

In the time line of history; God appears many times. However 3 are of major importance. In Exodus, the Lord Jesus Christ appears on Mount Sinai for the nation of Israel. Then 2000 years ago, John 1: 14; And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

And sometime, in the not too distant future, Revelation 19: 11; And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

God still wants His people free. In Exodus 8&9, God says 9 times; Let My people Go so they can serve Me. Does God mean what He says? In the Old Testament, God set His people free many times; such as in Egypt, the Judges, and from Babylon.

This however is not the liberation theology of today.

In the New Testament, the prophecy of Isaiah 61 is fulfilled In Luke 4: 17; And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. & when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, and The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

In this new covenant, the focus is on our relationship with the Son of God; the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10: 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Deuteronomy 10: 15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, & he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. V17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, & Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor

taketh reward:

In Jeremiah 44; the people didn't want to get free.

44:15 Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?

Just because something works, doesn't mean that it's of God.

Matthew 7: 13; Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

And when the Lord Jesus Christ reveals Himself to us.

John 8: 32; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. V36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

However the devil does not want us to be free. 2 Corinthians 4: 3; But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. And when we are saved, the devil still tries to mess us up.

2 Corinthians 11: 23; Are they ministers of Christ? I speak as a fool, I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Galatians 3: 1; O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

2 Peter 2: 1; But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was with us, how was He received? As we study Matthew, we will notice the difference between the commoners and the religious hierarchy. This culminates in John 11: 49; And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

As the Lord Jesus Christ ministered, what were the responses? Some only wanted the blessings, and not the Blessor. At the wedding in Cana, John 2, they only wanted free drinks. It became so obvious, that the Lord Jesus Christ addresses it in John 6: 25; And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

But for those that came to Him, Matthew 15: 25 & 28 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Many others sought help, but were hindered. God removed the house of Eli because they abused God's people. The Lord Jesus Christ took similar corrective action.

John 2: 14; And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. How many churches today find themselves in the same position? There is still time to clean out all the ungodly and un-necessary activities. Revelation 2: 2; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and

hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, & will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. God's people have to look to the Lord Jesus Christ, as the author & finisher of our faith. Too many look to the religious systems for help, & do not get the freedom they need. I knew a man a while ago, who was getting freedom with deliverance. When he went back to his home church, he excitedly told them of his deliverance. But they didn't believe that Christians could have demons, so they had him committed to a mental hospital. His pastor would only confirm his sanity if he renounced deliverance.

Is it any wonder that Our Lord says in Mark 7: 6; He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Matthew 7: 21; Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

God did not, and still does not, bring His people out of Egypt to remain as slaves, Exodus 6: 9; And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, & for cruel bondage.

The Hebrews had been so abused, that they were reluctant to leave their slavery. Exodus 4: 1 to 9 - And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

But the people had been beaten into a state of learned helplessness, and even blamed Moses for their troubles. Exodus 5: 6 to 21 - And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying, Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves. And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God. Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words. And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you straw. Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished. So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw. & the taskmasters hasted them, saying, Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw. And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and to day, as heretofore? Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, thy servants are beaten; but the fault is in thine own people. But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD. Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks. And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not minish ought from your bricks of your daily task. And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh: And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

Yet they left, and God did have specific requirements for them.

Deuteronomy 18: 9; When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter

with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Even though Our Lord came to set us free, the devil doesn't give up easily. He had no trouble in getting Judas Iscariot. He caused trouble with the other disciples, especially Peter. Mark 8: 33; But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

There is a simple parable of what God thinks of legalistic religions.

Luke 10: 29 to 37 - But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Isn't it reassuring that Our Lord Jesus Christ will help us when they won't. And how did the religious system respond to the Son of God in their midst? Jon 1: 10; He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And it didn't take long for the sparks to fly. Mark 3: 5; And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

It's a terrible thing when God's people get so far from Him. The Lord Jesus

Christ didn't back down. He showed them their errors, but they refused to repent. So the Lord exposed them for what they were; hypocrites.

Matthew 23: 13; But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Sixteen times in Matthew, mainly in chapters 6 and 23, the Lord hit on hypocrisy. Let us now take a look at them. Let us also use these as a guide for us and our churches. Matthew 6: 2; Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. V5; And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. V16; Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Matthew 7: 5; Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; & then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 16: 3; And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Matthew 23: 14; Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. V15; Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. V23; Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 23: 3; All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Matthew 23: 25; Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. V27; Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. V28; Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Matthew 24: 51; And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion

with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 12: 1; In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Luke 13: 15; The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

1 Timothy 4: 2; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Religious works done with an impure heart, don't go far with God. Isn't it tragic, what happened to God's people.

Mark 7: 13; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

We have seen how the tradition of the elders has nullified the Word of God. To-day, we see it as legalism, which undermines the Grace of God. A few years ago; a local pastor started preaching limited grace. Half the people wouldn't buy it, and left. Paul ran into this, and had to refer it to Church headquarters. Acts 15: 20; But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. Too many believers have spiritual arrested development. Hebrews 5:10; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Loss of salvation is spreading around. John 10: 27; My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Ultimate reconciliation or universalism has been around for a long time. It even hindered Finney's revivals, as people thought that all would go to heaven, even the devil. Romans 6: 23; For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some believe that they can't sin. 1 John 1: 8; If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Others think that they can get anything from God, just by naming and claiming it. James 4: 3; Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Most believe that Christians can't have demons. Why then did Our Lord Jesus Christ command us to cast them out? Mark 16:14; Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Many don't agree with God's plan for leadership. 1 Timothy 3: 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God? Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Some believe that they are so good, that God will have to take them in the pre-trib rapture. Dutch Christians in World War 2 believed this. John 17: 15; I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Some feel more holy, if they call God by original names.

Acts 2: 2; And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Some have allowed themselves to be brought under the bondage of the Old

Covenant. They say that we have to worship on the sabbath, instead of on the Lord's Day. Our Lord Jesus was asked about it. Mark 2: 24; And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him? How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. And as Our Lord, He rose on the first day of the week. Thankfully we are now under the New Covenant. Ephesians 2: 8; For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Pastor Win Worley said many years ago to a sabbath minister; not to expect much deliverance until he dealt with those religious spirits.

Remember how the Lord Jesus in Mark 16, scolded the disciples for their unbelief and hardness of heart. Well we need to get rid of them too. Paul dealt with false doctrine also. Galatians 1: 6; I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

And Paul tells us the source of these errors. 2 Corinthians 11: 3; But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Thankfully with the full gospel of salvation, healing and deliverance, we can get free from the devil's clutches, especially those religious spirits. The question is; do we really want to be free? Our Lord Jesus still wants us to be free. And He still says to the devil; Exodus 8: 1b; Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

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Church of Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance

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