

Israel's Bitter Slavery

- *And they made their lives bitter with hard **bondage** — in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. **All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.** Ex 1:14*
- *Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then **the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.** 24 **So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob** Ex 2:23-25*

God Sent Moses to Deliver Them

- Called him at the burning bush
- Promised that He would deliver the people.
- *So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped. Ex 4:31*
- The relief at the prospect of freedom and the signs Moses did before them

Their Deliverance

- *So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. Ex 14:27-29*
- *So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses. Ex 14:30-31*

Less than Two Years Later

- God swore in His wrath “*they shall never enter into My rest.*” Heb 3:7-19; 4:1-10
- What Happened?
- *And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Heb 3:17-19*
- *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. Heb 4:1-3*
- **What Happened?**

Moses Made A Choice – They Didn't

- *when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*
- They never saw themselves as the people of God
- never willing to suffer affliction as the people of God
- Never stopped wanting the passing pleasures of sin.
- Never esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches.

Israel Remained a Slave in Heart

- Israel never made Moses choice. Remained slaves
- When Hungry: *“Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full”* (Ex. 16:3)!
- When thirsty, *“Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst”* (17:3)?
- Soon after leaving Sinai, the problem returned: *“for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt”* (Num. 11:18).

Better for us to Return to Egypt

- At the Red Sea *“Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness”* (Ex 14:12).
- *"If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."* Num 14:2-4

Israel Remained a Slave in Heart

- *“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we” and “we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”* (13:33)
- *“So all the children of Israel” and “the whole congregation” still saw themselves as slaves from Egypt: “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!” “Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” “So they said to one another, Let us select a leader and return to Egypt”* (14:2-4).
- They felt safer going back to Egyptian slavery than to move forward as servants of God.

Joshua and Caleb

- Saw things very differently
- *Joshua and Caleb who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; ... do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."* Num 14:6-9

David & Goliath

- *And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid." 1 Sam 17:10-11*
- *who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" 1Sam. 17:26*
- *Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" 1Sam 17:37*

We Face the Same Dilemma

We can choose the choice of Moses or the choice of Israel

Mt 5:10-12

Cast insults at you

Lk 6:22-23

Men hate you

Jn 15:18-20

The world hates you

I Jn 3:13

Do not marvel if world hates you

II Tim 3:12

All who live godly- persecuted

I Cor 4:9-13

Apostles mistreated

The Choice of Moses

- Heb 11:37-40 Of whom This world is not worthy
- 1 Pet 2:9 Elect race, royal priesthood, holy nation
- Eph 1:15-19 The Hope; The Glory; The Power
- Rom 8:31-37 God is for us, who is against us?
we are more than conquerors
- Phil 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven;
- I Jn 3:1-2 Now we are children of God
not yet manifest what we shall be

Jesus or this World

- *Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets. Lk 6:22-23*
- When hated will we allow the hatred or Jesus to define our response?
- *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2Tim 3:12*

Jesus or This World

- *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. John 15:18-21*

How we choose to See

- *lay aside every weight, run with patience the race set before us, look to Jesus who endured such hostility of sinners, do not become weary discouraged in your souls. Heb 12:1-3*
- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Phil 3:20-21*

Looking at the Seen or Unseen

- *For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor 4:17-18*