

# LET MY PEOPLE GO



*How God delivers His people  
from bondage...*

*by David Legge*

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## Let My People Go - Chapter 1

# "God Proves Himself"

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I want you to turn with me in your Bibles to the book of Exodus. We're not going to read a verse just yet, save to say that, as I was jotting down my thoughts that God has been giving me just today (and they haven't been just coming today, really I'm reading through Exodus at the moment, and I wanted to bring to you something that was on my heart). Really the message simply tonight is 'Christ Is Our Moses', Christ is our Moses - and I'll explain that as we go through this evening. I don't know how much of the Bible that you know, but there are many parallels between the character of Moses in the Old Testament and the Lord Jesus Christ. We're not going to go through this in much detail, save to say that Moses had a miraculous birth. Now what I mean by that is that he was preserved at birth, and incidentally he was preserved from a despotic, bloodthirsty King - Pharaoh. Jesus was preserved from Herod, you know the Nativity story. What you may not be aware of is that Moses was in Egypt (of course, you know that), but Jesus went into Egypt as well. Jesus also was a law-giver. When you go into Matthew 5, 6 and 7, you have a section of the Gospels which we call 'The Sermon on the Mount', and time after time Jesus says 'You have heard Moses say... but I say unto you...'. Effectively what He does is, He goes through the Ten Commandments, and He doesn't contradict them - because that's obvious from what Jesus says explicitly, 'I haven't come to destroy the law, but to fulfil it'. What He does is, to fulfil it, He fills it up - the way that the law was lacking, He fulfils it in Himself, but in what He's teaching.

Moses was a deliverer for the children of Israel. In Galatians chapter 4 verse 4 we read that 'When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law'. So at just the right time, God sent Jesus into the world. It was the same for Moses, if you look at Exodus chapter 3 quickly, it says in verse 7: 'And the LORD said: 'I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians''. Isn't that wonderful? The Lord came down in Moses' day to deliver His people who were in bondage. At just the right time, God looked on this earth and He sent the Saviour into the world to save us from our sins. As the story of Moses goes on, we see that he delivers his people through the Red Sea from Egyptian bondage. You see, God's ancient people, the Israelites, were in slavery.

Now I don't know if there's anyone here tonight and you're not a converted, born again Christian who knows Jesus as Saviour personally; but I want to ask you tonight: do you know that you're a slave? You are in the slave market of sin, obeying a master called Satan - Scripture is very clear if you look at Romans 6 and verse 16: 'Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?'

People who are not Christians, and even some Christians, are slaves to sin and to

Satan. But the wonderful message of the Gospel, the good news is of redemption - do you know what that big word means? It means 'to buy back something that was lost', to redeem a slave like you and me. We find in Exodus chapter 12 in this very book that God is going to deliver His people out of Egyptian bondage, and here is how He does it: He does it through the blood of the lamb. The death Angel is going to come across the whole country and slay the firstborn, and God's people were told how to escape, how to be saved and be delivered from that. They were to take a lamb without blemish and without spot, they were to slay it, they were to pour the blood into a basin, they were to take a herb called hyssop - like a paintbrush really - and dip it into that basin, and they were to apply the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and the lintel of their house, and they were to shelter beneath the blood of the lamb. They were to stay inside the house, if they stepped outside they would be slain. They had to stay under the blood. Now that is the way that you're saved. Let me be absolutely clear tonight: that is the only way that you can be saved, through the blood of the Lamb of God. John the Baptist, right at the beginning of the Gospels, points at Jesus Christ of Nazareth and says: 'Behold! Look! Lift up your eyes! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'

We don't need lambs or bulls or goats to be slain, sacrificed for us any more, because Jesus - the Lamb of God - has been sent, and He has died on the cross. Paul even calls Him: 'Christ our Passover'. Have you got it? He has fulfilled the laws of God, all the promises of God, and He has fulfilled all the sacrifices that were ever made because He is the one, final, once and for all, perfect sacrifice for our sins. That's why at the cross He cried: 'Tetelestai! It is finished!'. You don't need to add to it - it's good to do good works, but that will not get you into heaven, it will not purge away your sins, because the once and final sacrifice has been made by the Lord Jesus on the cross. God has come down - isn't that wonderful? God has come down, He has heard our groaning in bondage to sin under the taskmaster of Satan, and He Himself has come down in the Person of His own Son to die for us - that's the Gospel! I've preached it! There you go! That's it! You need to repent of your sins and believe that Gospel, trust Him.

But not only has God come down, Satan has come down - oh? Did you know that? In the book of Revelation, again you don't have to turn to this one, but in Revelation chapter 12 and verse 12 we read these words - maybe you'd like to turn to it, I'm only saying that because I haven't kept the place and it will take me a wee minute or two. Revelation chapter 12 and verse 12, the second half of the verse says: 'For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time'. Now can I tell you: that is something that most Christians don't know, that there is a short time, there is not long left. That's why Paul says: 'Redeem the time, buy up the time'. If you're an unbeliever in the place tonight, do you know time is short? I believe there are people who are not true, born-again Christians, but you know by looking at the news, by reading the papers, by discerning current affairs, that things are bad - and certainly things are worse than they were when you were wee. You know that something is drastically wrong with our world, with our society - well, you need to waken up, that's God speaking to you: time is short. The devil has come down and has great wrath, he has fury, hellish fury - someone put it 'He is as mad as hell' - because he knows that his time is short. Do you know what he wants to do? He wants to bring destruction in his wake, and he wants to trail as many people to hell with him as he can.

Now if there was ever a character in the Bible who was like Satan, it's Pharaoh in the

story of Moses. He was a servant of Satan, of course, but he's also a representative, like a personification of Satan. Praise God, sin and Satan have been defeated at the cross - do you know that? Not just our sins have been dealt with, but Satan, the enemy of our souls, has been dealt a deadly blow - and he knows it, let me tell you! If you ever want to overcome Satan, Revelation 12, the verse before verse 12 is verse 11: 'They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony' - that's how you overcome the devil. He hates the cross - why? First John 3 verse 8: 'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the wicked one' - that's why Jesus came, to trounce the devil. Amen? Does that make you happy? It certainly does for me, I'm telling you! For this purpose Christ was revealed: to destroy all the works of the wicked one. Colossians 2 and verse 14 says that at the cross Jesus spoiled principalities and powers, and made a show of them openly triumphing over them in the cross. He not only defeated the devil, but He spoiled his goods!

Look at Exodus there for a moment, chapter 3, the very last phrase in chapter 3; God says to the Israelites: 'So you shall plunder the Egyptians'. That's what Jesus has done with Satan's kingdom and Satan's house. I hope you're not the type of person here tonight that has a big devil and wee Jesus? Because that's not the way it is! Jesus has defeated the kingdom of darkness completely. Just in case you think that somehow the devil has God over a barrel these days, look at chapter 9 in Exodus - I hope all this will be coming together for you - chapter 9 and verse 16, this is speaking of Pharaoh and we think of him as a picture of the devil: 'But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up' - God is saying to Pharaoh, 'I raised you up for this purpose' - 'that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth'. People often come with difficult questions to preachers at times and say: 'Well, why did God allow this? Why did God allow that? Why do He create the devil if He knew he was going to be the devil?'. Now I don't have all the answers to those questions, OK? But I know this: that God allows the devil to do a lot of the things that he wants to do because God is going to glorify His name in putting the devil down. He's putting the devil down now. Jesus says: 'I saw Satan fall from heaven as lightning'. Revelation chapter 12 says the accuser of our brethren is cast down, and we do overcome him by the blood of the Lamb. Isn't this wonderful?

Look at chapter 6 of Exodus and verse 1: 'Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh''. Four hundred years, thereabouts, they are under the heel of this despotic dictator, this cruel man, and they don't know how to get out of it, out of this bondage. Then God speaks, and He says: 'Wait till you see what I will do to Pharaoh'. This is my message to you tonight, are you ready? God wants to demonstrate Himself to you - have you got that now? God wants to demonstrate Himself to you, whether you are a Christian, a born-again believer, or whether you're not - it doesn't matter. Whether you're a lukewarm, backslidden Christian, or whether you're on fire - or you think it, or you are - God wants to demonstrate Himself to you. I'm going to give you three ways tonight - this is the message of the Lord - three ways that He wants to demonstrate Himself to you.

First of all: He wants to demonstrate Himself to you by defeating Satan with supernatural power. Do you know Psalm 62 verse 11? 'I have heard it once, yes, even twice: That power belongs to God'. Do you know that? All power belongs to God! Now I'm going to shock some of you in what I'm about to say: do you know that the devil's power belongs to God? 'Oh, no, no, how could the devil's power belong to God?'. Well,

you tell me: who created the devil? Tell me, who created the devil? God did! Who created power? God did! He created all power. We know what happened - I hope you know that the devil fell because he disobeyed and he rebelled against God, and he was cast out of heaven, and many angels followed him - but don't tell me that his power all of a sudden wasn't from God! Of course it was, all power belongs to God - but it became a prostituted power, if you like, an embezzled power. He's using it for the wrong ends - but you've got to understand that God created the devil, and God created his power.

Now the devil can do a thing or two, do you know that? You see it here in chapter 7 of Exodus, if you look at verse 11, this is where God is starting to do certain signs and wonders through Moses and the magicians in Pharaoh's Palace start to copy him. In verse 11 it says: 'Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments' - so they were able to copy some of the miracles of God. That shouldn't surprise you. Then you go down to verse 22, it's the same: 'The magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard'. We see that a number of times this takes place, but the fact of the matter is that there was a limit upon the power that these magicians could display. If you look at chapter 8 and verse 18: 'Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not'. Now I want you to understand this: God creates power, all power comes from God, but He is what is called 'omnipotent' - that means 'all powerful'. The power that the devil has is limited, do you understand? Don't give him more power than he has! He can do a thing or two, he can replicate miracles, he can do signs and wonders, he can do all sorts of occultish supernatural things; but don't give him more power - and he's not 'omnipresent' either, he's not everywhere at the same time. Demons can be everywhere, all over the place, but he himself is not everywhere at the same time. Are you with me?

I want you to understand: is there someone here tonight, and you're dabbling in darkness? You're dabbling in darkness because you want power, you want significance. Maybe you've been brought up in the church or something like that, and you think they're all weak and limp, powerless, impotent - well, a lot of them are, but God is not like that! If you want power - now, that's not the reason you come to God, but if we're talking about power tonight, well, I know where it's found: it's the kingdom of light. First Corinthians chapter 4 and verse 20 says that the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. The New Living Translation translates that, I love it: 'The kingdom of God is not a lot of talk, but it's living in the power of God' - what? You've heard the saying: 'Put your money where your mouth is', in other words 'Make good your claims' - well, the true kingdom of God can do this through the power of God.

Do you know what was the greatest supernatural sign and wonder that there ever was? It's Romans 5 and verse 8: the greatest demonstration of God's power toward us is that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us - that is His love. Herein has He loved us, not that we loved Him, but that He loved us and gave His life as a ransom for many - do you know that? That is the greatest sign and the greatest wonder that there has ever been. But here in Exodus, if you look with me at chapter 3 and verse 20, God still wants to demonstrate His power - what a verse: 'So', God says, 'I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders' - don't you love that phrase? 'All My wonders'. You've heard of the ten plagues, haven't you? That's what God sent - but did you know that each of the ten plagues correspond to an Egyptian God, a deity. Did you

know that? I haven't got time to go into each of them, but the tenth - incidentally, just to highlight it - was the death of the firstborn, and it hit Pharaoh's house, why? Because Pharaoh had set himself up, and in Egyptian religion Pharaoh was considered a deity - and God came and toppled his dynasty, his son.

This was a showdown as the plagues came, and can I tell you something? I believe there is a showdown now, today, right now, in our day and generation in our land there is a showdown. What I mean by that is that evil is exalting itself, the devil is overplaying his hand, and God is going to vindicate His name - and He's going to do it supernaturally. He's going to come and smite the enemy, and it needs to be supernatural. I want to tell you tonight: God wants to defeat Satan in your life by supernatural power, He wants to do what you cannot do! Do you believe this? Look at chapter 4 of Exodus, oh, I love this, this really blessed me this week as I was reading it, verse 1: 'Then Moses answered and said' - God is calling him to deliver the people - 'Moses answered and said, 'But suppose they will not believe me?'. Now Moses, he's not being a scaredy-custard here, or a coward, he understands the way God's people can be - they don't believe the preachers half the time, that's some of you tonight. So he knows: 'But they're not going to believe me or listen to my voice' - occupational hazard for people like us! 'Suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you''. Now can I just say - and I'm taking this very seriously myself - you have to be very careful what you say if the Lord has not truly appeared to you. Moses knew this: 'So the LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?'. He said, 'A rod'. And He said, 'Cast it on the ground'. So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it'. Can I just say there in passing that sometimes the miraculous things that God does are frightening; and we, as Christians, those manifestations of God's power can cause us to move away and say, 'That couldn't be of God'.

Verse 4: 'Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Reach out your hand and take it by the tail' (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand)' - this is the reason now that He's doing this stuff - "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you". Now just hold on a wee minute: this was for Israel's benefit, this wasn't for the Egyptians now, this was for the people of God, that they would start believing - because they have become a company, for so many years they had been in slavery to sin, to Egypt, to Pharaoh, that they had acclimatised to that spiritual environment. They had become accustomed to it, and they had become a bunch of unbelieving believers. Have you heard of those people? Unbelieving believers?

Look at verse 6: 'Furthermore the LORD said to him, 'Now put your hand in your bosom'. And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. And He said, 'Put your hand in your bosom again'. So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. 'Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land''. You see, this is for God's people, but look at the Egyptians - verse 2 of chapter 5 - their attitude: 'Pharaoh said, 'Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go'. You see the difference here, and in fact as you go through these passages, God says: 'I'm going to make a difference, I'm going to make a difference

between the Egyptians and My people'. Do you know what He's trying to do? He's trying to convert the church - now, I know it's Israel, but the equivalent today: He's trying to convert the church.

Now, I know we're having a mission, but I'm just going to be straight with you, OK? Can I be straight with you? I'm going to preach the Gospel this week, but my heart is to convert the church - I'll just be honest with you, that's my heart, that's the burden, because there are unbelieving believers. You need to know, again, that your God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; that He is as good as His word, that He does not change, and that He can still do His great wonders. Look at chapter 4 and verse 17, God says to Moses: 'You shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs'. Look at verse 21: 'And the LORD said to Moses, 'When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders" - you do all those wonders - "before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand". Look at verse 29: 'Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people' - what? - 'believed' - why? Because they'd got their God back! He was no longer a figment of their imagination, He was no longer a fairy-tale, He was no longer a subject of ancient folklore, but He was real! That's what we need today more than ever, we need God to be real again to His people! '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'. Oh, that God would come and visit us! The church needs to believe.

You remember what Jesus said in John 14 verse 12, you know it: 'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father'. Now theologians for years have debated over that, and I'm not going to enter into that, but I'll just say this much: it means what it says, alright? It means what it says - whatever it means, that's alright - but it means what it says, and it says that whoever believes in Jesus will do greater works than Him, greater works than He did, 'Because I go to My Father'. Now, whatever else that verse means, it means this: Jesus was going out of this world via the cross and the resurrection, He was ascending to heaven to the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit was being outpoured, and because of Pentecost we can now do greater works than Jesus did - whatever that means, it means what it says: we will do greater works than Jesus did, but look at the beginning of the verse: 'Most surely, I say to you, he who believes in Me, shall do greater works'. We say, 'That's Christians' - oh, is it? I'm not sure: 'He who believes in Me, who takes Me at My word'. If you go to Mark chapter 16 - and a lot of Pentecostal folk, they know these verses - 'These signs', verse 17, 'will follow those who believe' - now that means believing believers, 'those who believe My word'. What are these signs? 'In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover' - do you believe this? Do you believe that this is for the church today? Well, this is what God's word says. But, you see, if you've got a problem believing this, you're not going to see it, you're not going to see demons cast out, you're not going to see people healed, you're not going to see people delivered from perilous situations. Verse 20 says: 'They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs'. This is what a secular, unbelieving, sceptical, pagan, new-age society needs to know and discover: that God is a God in heaven, and He is supernatural!



Look at Exodus 7 verse 1, boy this is strong stuff: 'So the LORD said to Moses' - now, do you see if this wasn't in the Bible and I said this, I'm sure I would never be invited back - "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh" - is that in your Bible? God is saying to Moses: 'Moses, I have made you as God to Pharaoh and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt'. 'I will make you as God' - do you know what that means? He was standing in God's place. Do you know what you have as a New Testament believer? You have the authority, in Christ, against the devil that Moses had in God's shoes against Pharaoh.

Look at chapter 8 verse 13, now this is mighty: 'So the LORD did according to the word of Moses'. Now that's not a misprint in the New King James, just in case you have the King James there and you think that you've got it right and I've got it wrong here - but, no, actually, read it: 'The LORD did according to the word of Moses', not 'Moses did according to the word of the LORD', 'The LORD did according to the word of Moses'. Turn over the page and you see in verse 31 the same thing again: 'And the LORD did according to the word of Moses'. The Lord is acting according to the word of His servant. Now, of course, that doesn't mean you can just go out and say what you like and it happens, but God had already spoken to Moses, that's why he could speak in the authority of God - because God had appeared to him! He had had his encounter, he had had his manifestation, that's what we need - we need to encounter God again! Then the world will say, look at verse 19 in chapter 8, 'Then the magicians' - these are the devil's crowd - 'the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God''. Do we not need this?

Turn with me quickly to Acts chapter 4, this is the New Testament now, OK? Verse 29, and the early disciples are under threat, there has been a great healing of the lame man at the gate of the Temple, and look at their prayer in verse 29: 'Now, Lord, look on their threats', that's the enemy, 'and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus'. And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness'. That's what we need! We need God to shake the house, shake this house tonight, this week! Do you believe He can do this? No you don't! You don't! You don't. Do you know why I know you don't? Because if you did, it would happen. Now, I know we're at the start of the week, but let's see how the week goes: if you believe, all things are possible to those who believe. These were early believers, believing believers, and the signs and wonders followed them - why? Because they were in a pagan, godless, polytheistic culture that needed to know there is one true God in heaven, and He can demonstrate His power. He can authenticate His claims, and He can be attested to according to His word.

Secondly, moving on: God wants to demonstrate Himself to you in providing your need. Go with me to chapter 3 of Exodus. Now the context is this - have you heard of the burning bush? God comes and appears to Moses. Now Moses was 40 years in Egypt growing up in the Palace, he kills a man, an Egyptian who slew a Hebrew. He killed the Egyptian, he buried him, and then he ran into Midian, and he spent another 40 years in Midian as a shepherd in the wilderness. So he is 80 years of age now, and God appears

to him. God speaks to him through a burning bush. The Bible says this bush burned, but was not consumed - so that was unusual. So God spoke in an unexpected way; at an unexpected time, when he felt he was finished as a servant of the Lord; and in an unexpected place, the wilderness. Maybe you are in the wilderness tonight, maybe you feel you've burned your bridges and God could never use you. Maybe you were once a servant of the Lord - well, you get ready, God is going to speak to you! He's going to speak to you in an unexpected way. This man was broken in the wilderness, and maybe that's a description of you. This is often the way God works with us. You see, there was a time when Moses was self-confident, and he thought he was God's man to be the hero to deliver the people. His mummy, who became his nanny effectively, his babysitter - it's amazing, she gave him away down the Nile, and God give the child back to her and paid her wages to look after him, it's amazing! She was whispering in his ear: 'Do you know who you are? Do you know your identity? Do you know your destiny?'. He grew up with that in his mind and on his heart, but he was in the flesh and he thought he would do it with the arm of flesh. He murdered an Egyptian and he fled into the desert, and as far as he was concerned it was all over and he is a broken man in the wilderness. His self-confidence has died, 40 years ago he thought he was the answer and now he is sure - when God is calling - he is absolutely sure he failed.

That's you tonight, I believe that is someone here. You might describe yourself as a backslider or not, I'm not sure - but God starts to call Moses, and he makes five excuses - we'll not go through them all, but look at number five. After number five in chapter 4 and verse 13, Moses says: 'O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send'. Do you know what that means in modern English? 'Send whoever You like, but I'm not going!', that's what he's saying. 'You can send whoever You like, but I'm not going!'. Do you know what God does to him? He doesn't strike him off the list and say: 'Next man!'. No, in chapter 4, and specifically chapter 6, God reveals Himself to Him in another new way. Do you know how He does it? Through a name, look at verses 2 and 3: 'God spoke to Moses and said to him: 'I am the LORD'' - Yahweh, YHWH, the personal name of God - "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD" - Yahweh - "I was not known to them". So He reveals Himself in a new light, 'I Am', Yahweh, Jehovah we might call it. Do you know what that name means? Well, 'I Am' is an unfinished sentence, did you know that? It has no object, 'I am' what? God is saying: 'Moses, I know you're burnt out, I know you're broken, I know you're bankrupt, but I Am whatever you need'. Are you hearing this? 'You fill in the blank, Moses, what is it you need?'. It's like a blank cheque, and I don't get too many of those, but if I ever get one I'll fill it in no problem, if you want to give me one tonight! What do you need? What do you need? Fill it in! If you've ever looked at the compound names of Jehovah, there are many of them, doublebarrelled names: Jehovah-this, Jehovah-that, Jehovah-the other. It's saying: 'I am, I am, I am whatever you need'.

Let me give you a couple of them: Jehovah-Tsidkenu - do you know what that means? 'The LORD, I Am Your Righteousness'. So you're here tonight, and maybe you're a broken sinner, and you've never come to Jesus, or maybe you're backslidden, or maybe you've been going on a spiritual rollercoaster up and down for years and you can never make anything of it - you need to understand: it's not about you, it's not about righteous acts that you can do, it's about Jesus Christ, the Righteous Son of God who came; and the great exchange where He was made sin for you, that you might be made the righteousness of God in Him. In other words, He takes your sin upon Himself, and He gives you His righteousness - that's it! 'I am whatever you need' - you

need righteousness, and He is able to give it to you. That's His demand of you, He demands it, but you can't give it, but He can give it to you.

Another one: Jehovah-Nissi - 'The LORD, My Banner'. Actually, it's in Exodus 17, after the defeat of the Amalekites Moses builds an altar, and he calls it 'Jehovah-Nissi, The LORD My Banner'. Do you know what that means? Whatever enemies you have, whatever besetting sins, whatever demons might be at your heels, whatever people might be against you and foes that you have in this life - the Lord is able to raise up a standard against those enemies and overcome on your behalf! Jehovah-Nissi.

What about another: Jehovah-Mekoddishkem. It's in Exodus 31, and it means 'I Am the LORD Who Sanctifies You'. A lot of people profess faith in Jesus, and ask Christ to come into their life, and they want forgiveness of sins, but they struggle with being holy. Well, we all struggle in the flesh in this world to an extent, but God's promise tells us that we can be sanctified. First Thessalonians 5: 'He will sanctify you wholly, spirit, soul, and body, and make you fit for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ'. This is a promise, but so many of us are trying to do it through our own flesh, through legalism, through rules and rituals and churchianity, but it can't be done! Do you want to be holy? Get to know God! Get God!

Here's another one: Jehovah-Rapha. In Exodus chapter 15, you might want to look at this, verse 26: 'If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you' - that's Jehovah-Rapha. Turn with me a couple of chapters again to chapter 23, I love this verse, 23:25: 'So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you'. Does God heal? Yes, He does! Yes, He does!

Jehovah-Jireh, there is another one, Genesis 22, 'The LORD Is Your Provider'. Do you believe that? Do you believe He provides? That's the way I live. Now can I say, I hardly ever talk about the way we live as a family for a number of reasons. When you talk about living by faith, it's wrong, because every Christian is meant to live by faith - we walk by faith, not by sight. But what we mean is, we are looking to God for our provision, our need. I'm not on a salary. The other reason I don't talk about it is that everybody thinks you're begging when you talk about it, and I don't like doing that. But sometimes through not talking about it you rob God of glory for the things He does. You know that I go to The Stables once a month for the last couple of years, and they tolerate me down there - and this time last year, or just round about it (you'll not believe this, but you better because it's true!), a wee Chinese man from America, who listens to the sermons on the Internet, got on a plane and came to Ireland. He went to Dublin for a couple of days just to put in the time, and he went up to Belfast for a couple of days to put in the time, but do you know what his one errand was? To come to Derrygore to The Stables with an envelope, a brown envelope with \$1500 in it for me. Now, I'm not scolding you folk, but the reason why that was: we were getting it hard at that particular time. I don't know whether God couldn't get anybody's ear over here, but He got somebody's ear over there - and He was prepared to put him on a plane and get him the whole way over to Derrygore - I never knew where it was until a couple of years ago! But he was able to find it!

Do you believe Jehovah-Jireh will provide? But you've got to believe God, you've got to

believe that God is true to His name. But do you know the greatest compound name of Jehovah is? Do you know what it is? JE-SUS, Jesus! 'Jehovah, I Am the God Who Saves', and sooner or later God must meet our greatest need. If He is the God who meet every need, He must meet our greatest need - and where there is need, there is God, that's what 'Jehovah' means, 'I Am Whatever You Need'. But our greatest need is the sin issue, and where there is sin there is Jesus - hallelujah! Are you a sinner tonight? Jesus died for you, you can find all your need in Him. He says seven times in John's Gospel: 'I am, I am the Bread of Life', He'll feed you, 'I am the Light of the World', He'll dispel the darkness, 'I am the Good Shepherd, I will lead you into pastures new; I am the Door to heaven, I am the Door to God; I am the Resurrection and the Life; I am the True Vine, I will give you sustenance and fruitfulness; I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by Me'. The wee chorus years ago said: 'All I need, all I need, Jesus is all I need'.

Let me show you this, chapter 6, look at Exodus chapter 6 - Moses said 'I can't, I am not, and I won't', that was rich! 'I can't, I am not, and I won't', and look at what God says, verse 6: 'Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD'. God says: 'I can, I am, and I will'.

So, God wants to defeat Satan with supernatural power. Secondly, He wants to provide for your needs. He wants to demonstrate to you, thirdly, and I'll be quick, He wants to demonstrate Himself to you in commissioning you or recommissioning you - whatever the case may be. Look at chapter 4 of Exodus, verse 1, we've read it already: 'Moses answered and said, 'But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you'. So the LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' He said, 'A rod'. Do you see if you come to Christ tonight, or if you've already come to Him maybe years ago, but if you give God whatever is in your hand, whatever you have, He will use it for Himself and for His glory.

Maybe you're saved, but you haven't given into God's hand what's in your hand. Ehud was a handicapped hero, and he was only left-handed but in those days that was seen as a handicap, and he may have had a disability for some reason - but he slew Eglon and overcame the Moabites. Gideon was at a disadvantage, God said: 'The Israelites are too many, lest they vaunt themselves and say, 'Mine own hand has saved me'', and God whittled down the 32,000 troops to 10,000, then to 300, and it's laughable! Armed with nothing but pitchers, lamps, and trumpets they trounced the Midianites, because the power of God did it and He got the glory! David went out against Goliath, a wee lad with a sling and five stones. Simon only had a fishing net, and in Luke 5, because he gave to the Master, it was filled to bursting. The Lord said to Abel, 'What is that in your hand?', And he says 'Nothing, Lord, but a wee lamb', and he offered it to God, and the sweet-smelling savour rose to His nostrils. 'Mary', God said, 'What is that in your hand?'. 'Nothing, but a pot of sweet-smelling ointment', and with that she anointed the Holy One of God, and the fragrance filled the whole house and the world, for the story is recounted wherever the Gospel is preached. 'Poor widow, what is that your hand?'. 'It's only two mites, Lord', it's all she had, but her story has prompted the humblest soul in giving all that they have. 'What is that in your hand, Dorcas?'. 'It's

only a needle and thread, Lord'. 'Take it, and use it for Me', and it says in the Acts of the Apostles that she used it warming the poor and the needy of Joppa. 'Wee fella, what's that in your hand?'. 'It's only a lunchbox, Lord, five loaves and two fish'. 'Take and use it for Me', and with it He fed 5000 besides women and children. 'Moses, what is that in your hand?'. 'A rod, Lord, a piece of wood, a rod, nothing but a staff to tend my flock'. 'Take it and use it for me', and with it he wrought more wonders than great Egypt had ever seen.

Do you see chapter 7? He threw it on the ground it became a snake. Chapter 8, he stretched it over a stream and frogs came from it. He smote the dust with this rod, and it turned into lice. Chapter 9, he put it towards heaven, and hail and fire came raining down. Chapter 10, he put it in the sky, and an east wind came and locusts along with it. Chapter 14, he held it out, and the Red Sea parted. Chapter 17, he smote the rock, and the water flooded out. Chapter 17 as well, he held it above his head, and Aaron and Hur held up his arms, and as he prayed in intercession, God's people prevailed over Amalek - this is what this rod did. Only a piece of wood, but because it was put in the hands of Almighty God! Whatever we give God, He will bless it, and He will work miracles through it. Do you believe that? He can even use hands with nothing in them, maybe that's what you're saying just now: 'I haven't got anything to give God'.

'Emptied that Thou shouldst fill me,  
A clean vessel in Thy hand;  
With no power but that Thou givest  
Graciously with each command.

Channels only, blessed Master,  
But with all Thy wondrous power  
Flowing through us, Thou canst use us  
Every day and every hour'.

Hudson Taylor, the father of the China Inland Mission, asked God why he chose him to do this great work, and he said: 'God chose me because I was weak enough'. Do you believe tonight that God wants to demonstrate His power to you through defeating the devil by supernatural power; through providing your every need - my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus, Philippians 4:19 - and by commissioning or recommissioning you if you will give Him whatever you have? Will you believe God tonight? Will you?

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## Let My People Go - Chapter 2

# "For The Sake Of The Children"

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**W**ell, evening all! It's good to be with you again tonight. We're turning in our Bibles to two portions of Scripture this evening. The first is in the book of Exodus, leading on from where we were last evening, so we're going to Exodus chapter 10, and then we're going to look at the book of Jonah. Now, let me just allow you right now to look at the contents page of your Bible and find Jonah, alright. Just be honest! I'll do the same, because it's a hard one to find - but it's page 1252 in my Bible, I don't know what it is in yours - but it's a hard one to find there! OK, so Exodus chapter 10 first of all - we're not going to read it just right away. If you were with us last evening, you will know that we looked quite extensively at Moses, and how Moses is like the Lord Jesus Christ - we'll not go into all that, we'll not repeat it from last evening - but just how that our Saviour, of course, supersedes Moses. We know from Hebrews that He is greater than Moses, but how there are many pictures in the book of Exodus about the Lord's deliverance of us. We also saw that Pharaoh was a very graphic picture of Satan, the evil one. We know that also Herod was a picture of the devil as well, in that both of them slew the innocents, the children, the massacre of the children.

I was chatting to someone last evening over a cup of tea, and we were talking about how there is still with us today in our modern generation the spirit of Pharaoh and the spirit of Herod. I hadn't really thought of that an awful lot until last evening, and just on the way home I was listening to a sermon on a podcast - if you don't know what that is, I'll educate you later on over a cup of tea - but this gentleman (and he wasn't speaking about Moses, and he wasn't speaking from Exodus) and he just threw this in: he threw in how the spirit of Pharaoh wants the children. Did you know that?

I want you to look here at chapter 10, this was actually - I think - my reading today in my own Bible reading, Exodus chapter 10. I had never seen this before in my life, verse 7 - now this is in the context where the plagues are starting to be visited upon Pharaoh. You remember I told you last evening that each of these plagues represented a deity or deities of the Egyptian religion, and God was judging them. We're just about to see the locusts coming upon Egypt - but look at verse 7: *"Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, 'How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go",* note that please, *"Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?"*. So what's going on here is: Pharaoh's advisers are telling him, 'Let the males go, but we will keep the women and the children'. Effectively what they were wanting to do was tap into the following succeeding generations, to get a foothold in the progeny of God's people. But look at verse 8: *"So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, 'Go, serve the LORD your God. Who are the ones that are going?'. And Moses said, 'We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD'"*.

Satan wants the children. The spirit of Pharaoh, the spirit of Herod today wants the

children - but the mighty message of redemption, which is what Exodus is all about, salvation, it's found in verse 26 of this same chapter: 'Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind'. Amen? That is what the cross of Jesus has done for us! Not a hoof has to be left behind - in other words, there is nothing that the power of the blood of Jesus cannot effect in our lives. Do you understand? There is no problem too big - you need to hear this tonight, whether you're not a Christian or you are: there is nothing in your life that is too great a problem, that the power of the cross cannot rectify.

But the spirit of Pharaoh is still alive and well, and it holds people captive just like this ancient despot did. It holds people captive in spiritual bondage and fear, it's a kind of anti-Christ spirit that denies the true and the living God. It sets itself up as a deity and it demoralises God's people - in fact, it wants to crush the Lord's people. It brings a hardening effect into people's hearts. In fact, Jesus talked about this in Matthew 13:15, He says, quoting Isaiah: 'The hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them'. Maybe you've been afflicted by this yourself, you just can't see this Gospel stuff! No matter how many times you hear preaching, it just doesn't sink in. Could it be that there is an actual spirit of Pharaoh that has gripped you, a hardening of the heart? An extinguishing of light and life, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ should shine unto you and you should be saved. There is also the spirit of Herod, and like the spirit of Pharaoh, it kills the young. It kills the young through abortion, through poverty, and through all sorts of addictions and also sex-trafficking. It murders the dreams of youth. Just like Pharaoh and Herod engaged in a massacre of the innocents, that spirit is doing exactly the same today - now, not in some ethereal spiritual dimension, but in real-time terms in our own nation.

There have been 8 million abortions since the 1967 Abortion Act in the UK. You just think about that. That's a Holocaust - 8 million. This very day, because on average there are 552 abortions take place in Britain - do you know that's equivalent to? The entire school roll of over two typical primary schools in the UK slaughtered every day. You can't tell me that the spirit of Pharaoh and the spirit of Herod is not alive and well in our society, and of course that's because Satan is alive and well. But there are other spirits: there is the spirit of Goliath, who mocks God's people, who intimidates them. There is the spirit of Jezebel that still seduces with sexuality and seeks to control and manipulate through various forms of witchcraft. There is the spirit of Absalom that continues to divide between parents and children, not only dividing homes, but dividing churches and every conceivable relationship there is. All of this is because the devil, Jesus said in John 10:10, is a thief. He comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. Don't be under any illusion: the devil is not your friend, he wants to murder you, and he wants to take you to hell along with him.

Yet, in the midst of all this chaos and destruction there is another spirit at work, stronger than all the rest combined. I want to declare to you tonight the message of God, and that is that the most powerful spiritual force in the universe is alive today on our planet and in this very meeting. It is none other than the power of the Holy Spirit of Almighty God - more powerful than the spirit of Pharaoh, the spirit of Herod, the spirit of Saul, Absalom, Goliath, Jezebel, the whole lot of them. The Spirit of God is working to save the children. Do you believe that? John 10:10: 'The thief comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy', but Jesus says, 'I am come that you may have life, that

you might have it to the full, that you might have it in abundance, that you may have it to overflowing'.

Now, this is where we turn to Jonah, so come with me please to Jonah chapter 4 and the very last verse, verse 11. God is speaking, and He says: *"Should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left; and much livestock?"*. Do you see that? Look at it again: 'Should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left', that's children, 'and much livestock?'. Do you know the pity, and the mercy, and the compassion that God has towards children? It's incredible! If you keep a marker in there and come back with me to Deuteronomy chapter 1, there is a very interesting verse. The children of Israel have wandered around forty years in the wilderness, through disobedience they have not entered into the promised land, and here in verse 39 God makes this astonishing remark: 'Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil', that's the same as not being able to tell between the left and the right hand, they have no knowledge of good and evil these young infants, 'they shall go in there', into the promised land, 'to them I will give it, and they shall possess it'.

Now, I need to give you the context of such a statement. The great excuse of Israel why they wouldn't enter into the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey, was that their wives would be killed and their children would be killed - that was the excuse they made in unbelief at a place called Kadesh-Barnea. They said: 'If we go in and take the land, our children will be killed!'. Now, God answers that excuse here in Deuteronomy 1:39, and says: 'You will be killed, but your children will live, and your children will enter the land'. You see, this is the heart that God has for the children.

I'm involved in Portadown House of Prayer, and every Friday - nearly every Friday - we pray a prayer that was devised in Wales by a place called 'Ffald-y-Brenin', another house of prayer - some of you may have read the book 'Grace Outpouring', the whole story about that place. But it's called 'The Caleb Prayer', this is how it goes:

'O High King of Heaven  
Have mercy on our land.  
Revive Your church;  
Send the Holy Spirit  
For the sake of the children.  
Let Your kingdom come to this nation  
In Jesus' mighty name  
Amen'.

What we have here in Jonah 4:11 is God's heart for the children. There are 120,000 of them that cannot discern between their left and their right hand. But we've also got God's compassion for the city, the city of Nineveh, we will see in a moment what a wicked city it was. We've even got God's compassion for His creation, for the animal kingdom. This is very instructive. I don't know whether you've ever read Hosea chapter 4, you might want to turn to it - it's a number of books just before Jonah - Hosea chapter 4, an astounding passage, verses 1 to 3. Just listen to it if you can't find it: 'Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge',



that's a legal complaint, 'against the inhabitants of the land: 'There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed', now watch this verse, 'Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away'. The land mourns when there is ungodliness committed on the land by the inhabitants of the land, you and me. God even had pity, not only on the children - because the children were innocent - but on the animals that were innocent. In fact, Romans chapter 8 and verse 19 tells us that creation groans: 'For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed'. Now, I'm not going to go into all that that means, but do you know one of the things of that does mean? That the whole of creation is just waiting until you understand your identity as a child of God, if you're a Christian, and you start to live according to your inheritance. Everything is waiting on you, you getting with it, getting with God's programme, believing His promises, living in the destiny that He has chosen for you before the foundation of the world, stepping into those works that were before ordained for you before the foundation of the world.

Now I've got a message tonight from the book of Jonah, and the first part of it is a message to the church, and the second is a message to the lost - but it will all be mixed together as usual, so you'll not need to worry. What I want you to see, if you go to chapter 1 and verses 1 and 2, the beginning of this book of Jonah: 'Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me''. So we see right away the wickedness of the city, and then in verse 3: 'But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD'. So we see the wickedness of the city, a preacher is sent to warn them and he flees. Now if ever there was a picture of the modern day church, it is that! We are in great darkness, perhaps unprecedented - certainly in modern times - but where are we as the church in the midst of all this? Oh, we want the presence of God, don't we? But part of what that actually means, the presence of God is where vision is imparted, the presence of God is where burden is begotten as we share God's heart. Jonah is fleeing from the presence of God.

Look at verse 4: 'But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up'. This is what God does, He puts pointers and obstacles in our way to remind us of our responsibilities as the church. Look at verse 5: 'Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep'. The church! That's the church! Do you know what perhaps is an even greater tragedy than the church being asleep? It's that some of the ungodly, we might even call them the heathen, are more in touch with the perilous situation as it is than we are! Look at verse 6: 'So the captain came to him', to Jonah, 'and said to him, 'What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish''.

Now I know that there are mockers today, saying: 'Where is your God? Where is this supernatural power? Where are the claims of the Gospel?'. I know all that, and Peter warns us that in the last days there will be more mockers: 'Where is the promise of His coming? Everything is going on as it always has done in aeons past in history!'. But, you know, there are also a crowd of unbelieving people who are broken, who are

needy, who are crying out for someone to waken up, to waken them up. Amos chapter 6 verse 1 says: 'Woe to those who are at ease in Zion!' - that's where the church is in the West, I have no doubt about it whatsoever. I can be called a prophet of doom, a naysayer, a depressive - I don't care, because I believe that God has made it very clear: the spiritual stupor that the church of Jesus Christ is in in the Western world, in Western Europe in particular.

Paul, in his book of Ephesians, reflects this when he says in Ephesians chapter 5 verse 14: 'Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light'. See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil'. What time is it? What time is it in biblical history? What do you think? Romans 13, in Paul's day, in verse 11 he says: 'Do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed'. Listen: the night is far spent. If you're not a Christian tonight, you need to sit up and listen, because the signs of the times are all pointing to the fact that Jesus is coming again very soon, and you need to get ready! You need to get ready! But believer: you might be able to discern the signs in the sky of the weather - red sky at night, shepherd's delight, and all the rest - but you cannot discern the signs of the times. You're living your life, you're marrying and giving in marriage, you're eating and drinking, and making merry and making money - but you don't realise the time is short, and it's your job to buy up the truth and sell it not, to redeem the time, to walk circumspectly.

Do you know what that means? That's a big word, 'circumspectly'. Where I come from in East Belfast, a lot of people in terraced houses, they had an entry and they had a yard wall - some had a yard toilet as well, but we'll not go into that. But on the yard wall, to keep bad people out, and maybe sometimes to keep folk in, they put broken glass bottles around the top of the yard wall. Maybe you've never seen this, but if you've ever seen a cat walking on that yard wall, if you've ever seen a cat walking circumspectly through all that glass, carefully, walking carefully - not as fools but as wise, understanding what the will of the Lord is. That basically means: knowing what time it is. Do you know what time it is? The church is asleep.

Look at verse 10: 'Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, 'Why have you done this?'. For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them'. We as the church must share in guilt concerning the state of our society. Now some of you will not agree with that, but I believe that is true. We share responsibility for how our society is. You can point the finger at the government, you can point the finger at certain political parties, and the ones you don't like and all the rest; but as the church, so goes the world - there is an element of truth to that. We're not to blame for everything, but certainly in a land like ours where we have had a Christian heritage, and we've been living in the end glow of the blessing of years of revival gone by - we have responsibility as to what we have done with the stewardship that God has given to us.

We are meant to be salt and light, aren't we? 'How shall they hear without a preacher?', that's what we're seeing here in the book of Jonah. Our society is exactly the same: we are the ones who have got the answer. A recent survey was done in 2012 by Life Way Research Group, probably in the United States, and they found that 61% of Christians failed to share their faith on a regular basis. Now, I want to tell you, I think that that's a very conservative estimate. I would have put it up in the 90s, but

that's me. 61% never share their faith. But let me ask: if we don't affect our society positively with the salt and the light of the Gospel, how have we affected our society? How have we? Do you know what I think our society in Ulster and in Ireland could say? What these Mariners say in verse 10, look at it: 'Why have you done this?'

What am I talking about? I'm talking about how we have affected our society in our own country. We'll talk about it a wee bit later, but how we have mixed the Gospel with politics, and a form of man-made religion and tradition that's got nothing to do with heaven. Do you understand what I'm talking about here? Things that have been done in the name of religion, whatever colour and hue on the spectrum that might be, I'm not hitting any particular denomination or group or persuasion, I just want us to waken up. The whole world could turn to the church and say: 'What have you done to us?'. Even Mahatma Gandhi believed in Jesus, he believed He was a great religious leader and teacher. A man by the name of E. Stanley Jones on one occasion, a Christian missionary, asked Gandhi: 'Why is it you quote Jesus so much, but you have never followed Him?'. He said: 'Dear man, my problem is not with your Jesus, my problem is with your Christians - because your Christians are so unlike your Jesus'.

Look at that verse 10: 'Why have you done this?'. Verse 11: 'Then they said to him, 'What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?'; for the sea was growing more tempestuous'. That's very gracious, isn't it? Sometimes the godless can be more merciful. Now, I know that Jonah was very courageous here in verse 12, because he agrees to be picked up and thrown into the sea that the sea may become calm, 'For I know that this great tempest is because of me'. 'Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them'. It's amazing, they tried their best not to have to throw Jonah over the side. You see, sometimes the children of this world can have more compassion and more everyday goodness than the church. Now, I know this is hard for us to take, but we need to waken up to this. You see, that's what the parable of the Good Samaritan was about - did you realise that? The priest and the Levite walked by the man that was beat up on the roadside to Jericho, but it was the Samaritan that came to his aid. Now, you've got to be putting yourself in a Hebrew's shoes listening to that story, and basically what that's saying is: the person that you most despise in the world (the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans, they hated them), he's the one who's got more goodness in his heart than you. That's what Jesus was saying. So if you can imagine the person - whether it's politically, or religiously, or ethically, or whatever particular philosophical persuasion you might have, or even lifestyle wise - you think of the person that is most detestable to you, and you put them in the place of the Samaritan. That's the story: they had more goodness in their heart than the Jew had at that particular time.

Here we see these mariners, in fact in verse 14: 'Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You''. Do you see it? They were concerned about having innocent blood on their hands! Are we? Are we? Ezekiel says that if we don't warn people we have blood on our hands. Paul said about the Ephesians, that he had discharged the Gospel and he had no longer any blood on his hands. Ah, but does that mean us? Look at verse 17: 'Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah'. They threw him over the side, and God had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. You know, I believe this is prophetic, what I'm about to say: God is

preparing a fish for the church. God is preparing a fish for the church in the West. What am I talking about? I'm talking about a time of testing, a time of breaking, a time of purging, a time when we will be thrown out, we will be swallowed up, we will be churned around, we will then be spat out. I believe it, because we're asleep! We're asleep, and the world is crying out for a message, it is crying out for hope, it's crying out for light and meaning, and we are silent! Jesus said this in Matthew chapter 5 verse 13: 'You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men'. Imagine preaching a sermon: 'Good for nothing Christians, good for nothing churches!' - that's what Jesus said! If the salt loses its flavour, it's good for nothing, and to be thrown out and trodden under the foot of men. If you want to know what that means: it means that you will mean nothing, your message will mean nothing, and your significance will mean nothing to people outside - they'll just tread it underfoot.

'Oh, you're being too harsh' - well, Jesus said in Revelation 3:16 of a church that thought they had need of nothing: 'Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth'. 'I will vomit you out of my mouth, I will spew you out of my mouth!' - that's Jesus, gentle Jesus, meek and mild. Do we know Him?

If you're unsaved tonight, and you don't know Christ as your Saviour, God might be preparing a big fish for you too. Maybe you're already in the belly of that fish, because the Bible says the way of the transgressor is hard. This is what the prodigal son found out when he went to the far country, and he went there because he wanted to be happy. Most people do things because they want to be happy, but he believed the devil's lies: that thief who wants to kill and destroy. He hit rock bottom, and it wasn't until he was at the floor that he realised that there was bread in his father's house, and that to spare, and even the servants were living better lives than he was. You see, this is the lie of the devil. Sometimes God has to prepare a big fish to swallow us up, to churn us up, and to spew us out.

That's not the end of the story, thank God, look at verse 1 of chapter 3: 'Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time'. Are you glad tonight that God is a God of the second chance - and, praise Him, the third, and fourth, and keep going? That is our God! He spoke again, and I don't know how many times God has spoken to you in meetings like this, or missions that you have attended, maybe even in this very week He has spoken to you several times - but He is coming again this very night, and He is speaking again. But look at the message in verse 4, it's a message of judgement: 'Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!'. Now I want you to see this: this is just a message of judgement, this is doom and gloom, this is hellfire and brimstone stuff - alright? It's even worse, and here's why I know it: he doesn't even say 'Repent!'. You'll not find Jonah saying 'Repent!', unless I missed it today. He just says: 'Ninevites, judgement is coming, 40 days and it's over!'. No hope, no escape. Look at the response, verse 5, immediately: 'So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh', right to the very top of society, 'and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything', the animals fasted, 'do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with

sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it'.

Now let me ask you a question: if you knew that there wasn't a way out, would you still repent? Be honest with me. Christian, tonight, you be honest with me. Do I need to repeat the question? If you didn't know there was a way out, and all you heard was a message of judgement, and all you knew was that God was holy and you had broken His commands and you were doomed and damned, and He didn't give you a way out - He didn't give these Ninevites a way out - but they knew their sin, and they recognised the authenticity of the holy God of heaven, and they said: 'We're going to repent, because it's the right thing to do' - the right thing to do. I'm led to believe that in the Hebridean revival, when Duncan Campbell was preaching, that at least at the beginning of that particular move of God he would have preached judgement messages. He wouldn't get very many invites to the churches these days, but he preached judgement messages, and he wouldn't give an invitation and he didn't even preach the Gospel. He didn't preach the Gospel, what he did was pronounce judgement, close the meeting, and anybody who was concerned about their soul would come to him afterwards and then he would preach the grace of God. I'm not saying that's the way to do it, that's the way he did it - he lived through revival.

All I'm wanting to point out here tonight is that sometimes it is because we know there is something in it for us - and, praise God, there is something in it for us! It's good news, and we're not in any way diluting that, but what I want you to understand is: these Ninevites didn't get a fire exit from hell, and yet they still repented! Now look at verse 1 of chapter 4, this is priceless: 'But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry'. What? Is this not a preacher's greatest dream? To preach one sermon, and see revival? A whole city, potentially a nation impacted for God - and he's displeased exceedingly, and he is angry! Now hold on a wee minute, because I can be too hard on Jonah, and so can you - and here's the reason why: he was a prophet of God, do you know what that means? He was hearing from God - I hope you are, but he was. He was a representative of God, he was speaking for God. He wasn't just a petty minded bigot that some people make him out to be, and here's the context of why I'm saying this, listen: Assyria was the rising power in that modern world. Do you understand? It was actually our modern day nation of Iraq. Assyria was rising, Nineveh was the capital, most likely it was the largest city in the whole world. So here is this one man revival walking into the biggest city in the world of the rising empire of the world, and add to that that this man knew his Bible. He knew that 20 years before his ministry a man called Isaiah prophesied that Assyria would spoil and destroy Israel, OK? So he knows Scripture, and he also knows that the Ninevites were notoriously brutal - if you want to know more about that, read Nahum chapter 3 verses 1 to 4. If I could give an illustration of what the Ninevites were like, they were like present-day ISIS, Islamic State - that's the way they were. I read today of a military leader in Nineveh who recorded that he beheaded so many people he made a pyramid of their heads, the butchery of the Ninevites. Add to this fact that Jonah lived in a border town with Assyria, and probably at some stage in his life, if he hadn't seen their savagery he had heard the stories over the years.

So Jonah, the prophet of God, was a patriot, and he had a heart for the nation, and he

had a heart for God - and do you know what his biggest fear was? Look at verse 2 of chapter 4: 'So he prayed to the LORD, and said, 'Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm'. 'I know what You're like, Lord!', so he chose not to go - that's why he went the other direction. Do you understand? He was afraid that they would repent, they would become strong again, and they would destroy Israel, God's people. So he's torn between what God seems to be saying, and what his whole background says, and what even Scripture says. Here's a principle folks: people do the wrong things so often for the right reasons. Now you'll need to tease that out, but you might want to write it down: people do the wrong things for the right reasons. They've got the right motivation, the right reasoning and rationale, but it's the wrong thing they do.

So over here is the heart of God, and over here is the heart of Jonah, and they aren't meeting - there is not a meeting of hearts. I want to ask you here tonight: where is your heart in relation to God's heart? Let me bring this home, OK? When revival comes to Ireland the majority of converts will be from a Roman Catholic background. Look at the demography of the island, it's just the way it's going to be. You can't argue with me on that one. That means they will be from a nationalist background. And when revival comes, in a sense they will take over the church in numbers - are you ready for that? Oh, I'm ready for it! I'm not telling you how to vote, you can vote however you like - but listen: this is what it looks like. Do you know what it's going to look like? If you think anything of this is new, all you have to do is go to the Acts of the Apostles chapter 6, and even the Jews were fighting among themselves. Some of them spoke Greek, they were Hellenistic Jews, and some of them spoke Hebrew from Jerusalem, and they were fighting over how the charitable deeds were given out - the Jews were fighting among the Jews. What do you think happens when you come to Acts chapter 10 and Gentiles start to be converted, and the Holy Spirit falls on them just like it did upon the Jews in Acts chapter 2? Peter goes through a whole dilemma: 'How can this be happening?'. He accepts it one minute, and the next minute he won't even eat with Gentiles. God comes along and He says to him: 'Do not call unclean what I have cleansed, what I have purified. Do not call common what I have purified'. I don't know if I'm prophesying or not, but I think I maybe am: that there are people going to be displeased when God starts to move in the Roman Catholic community, people in the churches.

It's serious, look at verse 3: 'Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!'. 'Oh, woe is me, this is not what I envisaged my career to be as a prophet, I thought I was going to be a prophet of God's people to save God's people, and now You've got me to go to the enemy, and now You've raised them up and You've saved them'. There's maybe another way of interpreting this, I don't think this is necessarily what Jonah meant, but you've heard the expression 'Over my dead body' - have you heard that one? It's a wee bit like what he's saying, isn't it? 'I can't face this, You'll have to do this without me'.

Look at verse 6, he's sitting there, he makes a shelter, sits under it depressed, feeling sorry for himself until he sees what will become of the city - he's waiting for hell to come down. Verse 6: 'And the LORD God prepared a plant', or a gourd, 'and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But as morning dawned the next day

God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, 'It is better for me to die than to live'. Do you see what's going on here? Sunstroke, he weeps for this plant that is destroyed by the worm, but listen: the point of all this is that he is more concerned for the gourd, the plant, than the lost! Do you understand? This comfort and protection that he's been given, and he's been given it by God you understand - and there are many blessings that we in the church have been given by God, but we can value those more than the lost outside! Do you understand what I'm meaning? There are so many other gourds of our traditions, our ways, our evangelical subculture, and we are more concerned about preserving those than saving the lost!

Look at verse 9: 'Then God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?'. And he said, 'It is right for me to be angry, even to death!'. But the LORD said, 'You have had pity on the plant for which you have not laboured, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left; and much livestock?'. Here's the heart of God: 'For the sake of the children, Jonah, for the sake of the children, is it not worth it?'

There is a message to the church, but there is a message to the lost: what is God like? Even God in the Old Testament! Look at verse 2 of chapter 4: 'I know', Jonah said, 'that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm'. Do you know that is God? Do you want to know what God is like? Here He is - in the Old Testament now - loving the world, and coming to redeem and save a godless, wicked people for the sake of the children! Isn't He wonderful? His heart is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Do you know that's why the day of judgement hasn't come yet? Did the Ninevites deserve judgement? Yes. Do you deserve judgement? Yes. Does ISIS deserve judgement? Yes. But He is withholding judgement, He's not willing that any should perish, but that all to come to repentance - that's why He hasn't come yet. It's not because He's forgotten, or He's not true to His promise, it's because He is waiting for you to come to Jesus. He's waiting for Ireland to be saved!

In Matthew 12 Jesus said to an unbelieving people who were looking signs from Him - we were talking about signs and wonders last night - He said: 'No sign will be given to you, except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth'. You see Jonah's whole book, his whole experience, his whole belly of the fish experience was a picture of Jesus Christ. I mean, if you look at chapter 2, look at verse 2, this is what Jesus endured on the cross: 'Out of the belly of Sheol', the grave, 'I cried, and You heard my voice. For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me. Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple'. The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me; weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God'. This is Christ's experience on the cross! The greatest sign ever: as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so Jesus is three days and three nights in the earth. He paid the

penalty for your sins on the cross, He was buried, and the third day He rose again.

This is the great sign to those that are lost, because God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, abundant in lovingkindness, and relents in doing evil. Do you know how much God loves you tonight? Oh, I wish I could describe it to you - but God loves you, and He sent Jesus to the cross to die to save you. That's why we read in verse 9 of chapter 2: 'Salvation is of the Lord'. It's not about church, it's not about religion - whether Protestant or Roman Catholic - it's not of any religious leader or any single philosophy in this world, it is only through the Lord. Salvation is through the Lord. You need to come to the Lord tonight! You need to come to the Lord! You need to come to that cross where Jesus bled and died for you. You need to know that He has a heart for you, He has a heart for your children and your children's children - those that can't even know their right from their left, those that can't yet discern right from wrong. God has a heart for this nation! God has a heart for the children!

It's interesting, if you look at chapter 1, God prepared a great fish, didn't He, for Jonah? Then in chapter 4 and verse 6 He prepares a plant for Jonah. Then in verse 7 of chapter 4 He prepares a worm to eat the plant. In verse 8 He prepares an east wind to clear away the clouds and bring the sunshine to give him sunstroke - all was done for Jonah. God is preparing for you to, He has prepared for you to be here tonight, He has prepared the pathway - made straight the way of the Lord tonight - so that you could be here, so that you could hear a word from the Lord. But do you know something else that God was preparing in Jonah? He prepared a people ripe for harvest. He prepared a people ripe for harvest, but the tragedy was: Jonah didn't want it. That's incredible.

Do you know what Jesus said in John chapter 4 and verse 35? 'Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!'. Do you believe that? Do you? That the fields out there are white unto harvest? Do you really? Well that's what Jesus says, it has to be true. But let me give you the context: the Samaritan woman, John chapter 4, who said 'The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans'. She was untouchable because she was morally unclean, she had been married five times, she was living with a fellow - and she was a Samaritan, religiously and ethically unclean to the Jew. She gets converted, finds water, spiritual water that she will never thirst again, in Christ. She goes to the men of village, and says: 'Come see a Man that told me all things that ever I did, is not this the Christ?'. It says that many of them believed, and it was in that context when Jesus saw a crowd of Samaritans who were coming to Him, that He said: 'Behold, the fields are white unto harvest'.

Do you know something? The Protestant community in our country has had the Gospel for years, and their hearts are hardened - but there are fields white unto harvest around us, but we're not lifting up our eyes to see them. The tragedy is - and I'm going to make a very strong statement here, and I'm speaking to my own heart too - it's a harvest that some people don't want. Luke chapter 10: 'The harvest truly is great', Jesus said, 'but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest'. We're all good with that, aren't we? 'Lord, send the missionaries, please, send the missionaries to those poor people. Raise up young men, Lord' - get off your backside and go and tell them! Don't pray for labourers to go into the harvest field when you want go in! That's hypocrisy! I analyse my own heart tonight as well, and can I say to you tonight - listen, listen carefully, I'm bringing all



this to a close: 'But the men of Nineveh', Jesus said, 'will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here'.

Jesus is here! He was there in Matthew 12, but He's here now. The God Agent that we have dealings with is the Holy Spirit, who brings Christ to men and women, who convinces of sin, of judgement and righteousness, and witnesses Christ to men's hearts and minds. Jesus is here, a greater than Jonah - and maybe you haven't repented yet. Will you repent tonight? Christian, will you repent? Here's why you need to repent, whatever you need to repent of - listen: for the sake of the children, for there is a harvest, and I believe it's going to be a harvest of kids and young people. We need labourers, will you be one? Let us pray.

Let me just take a few moments here now. Is there anyone in the meeting tonight and you're not a Christian? I'm not talking about 'Are you baptised into the church?' - that's not what a Christian is. A true Christian is someone that has a personal experience of realising that they are a sinner, and confessing their sins, repenting of them, and believing in Jesus Christ for their Saviour. You cannot be born into that, do you understand? You can be born into Christendom, you can be born into the church, but you can't be born into Christ. You must believe into Christ. Is there anyone here tonight, whether from a religious background or none, and God has spoken to you this evening? You know the time it is, you know the help that you need, and you know you need rescued. You know right from wrong and you've got a conscience. You know that Jesus died for you. You know the sign of the cross, and His burial and His resurrection - and you want to be right with God tonight. Is there anyone here - while heads are bowed and eyes are closed - is there anyone that will just raise their hand to say, 'I want to trust Christ tonight, I want to make Him my Saviour'? We're putting the net out, and we want to give an opportunity for anyone that is here - there might not be anybody that is unconverted here, but I want to ask you, if there is: will you take that step to Jesus tonight? Just raise your hand where you're sitting - anyone.

Are there any backsliders here tonight, and you know that you're not redeeming the time, you're frittering away the time, you're wasting the time, squandering the time. You've sold the truth, and you've sold out Christ - but you want to come home tonight, you want to make things right. Is there anyone who has backslidden? You once walked with the Lord, you once professed faith in Jesus, but you're far from Him - would you raise your hand say that you're coming home, and we will help you in a prayer? Just where you're seated.

Now, church, I said to you last evening that I believe the church needs converted, the church need saved. God has spoken to you tonight - heads bowed and eyes closed, please respect that it is between God and people - is there anybody and God has really spoken to you tonight? Maybe you have been a Jonah running the opposite way, and maybe it's because of things you don't understand, things God has told you, or things God has been doing, and you just don't understand - but you know God is going one way and you are going the other. You need to stop saying: 'God bless what I'm doing', and you need to start getting with what God is doing. I don't know what else it might be, it might be sin. I don't know what it is, but it might be sectarianism, it might be bigotry, it might be that you have wrapped this message - in your psyche, or in your behaviour - you've wrapped it up in a flag or a political persuasion. You've married it with something that is - listen to my words tonight - something that is idolatrous, it's

idolatrous! God will not share His glory with another.

Is there anybody tonight who would raise their hand, while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, to say: 'I'm repenting of this, I'm repenting, I'm repenting'. God bless. God bless. Praise the Lord! Worth it for one, it's worth it for one! Is there anybody else, anybody else? Is there anybody who will raise a hand and say tonight: 'Not only do I want to be part of the end time harvest, but I want to make myself available to be a labourer for the harvest field'? Now that might mean going to your next door neighbour, it might mean going down the motorway, across the border, but it might mean more! It might mean more. Is there anybody who will say 'I will be a part of it'? Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Father, I thank You for what You are doing tonight - and I want to keep my hands right off it. Lord, I just pray that You will do what You alone can do, and that what You are birthing in spirits right now, and hearts, Lord, that You will incubate that. There are those struggling - and I can understand that - we've all had the struggles with our own past, and our upbringing, and scars. Some of us have lived on borders and we've seen atrocities, just like Jonah, and we've heard about them. Lord, it's not easy, we're not saying it's easy, Lord. It wasn't easy for Jonah, and it will not be easy for us - but Lord, I pray that You will bring the gestation of this child forth, and give us strength to give birth. Lord, that we will see a new thing born in our day and generation in Ireland, north and south, with both Protestants and Roman Catholics, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and people of no faith. Lord, that the one new man that You envisaged when You died on the cross, Lord Jesus, to bring together Jew and Greek, bond and free, male and female, that it will be finally realised, finally realised - not just in some kind of airy-fairy spiritual form, but on the earth, that people may know that Jesus Christ has come as the Saviour of the world. This is what this world needs, and Lord this is what we need. Thank You for what You're doing here, thank You that You can meet every need. We pray that whatever needs people have here tonight, that they will find them met in You, just like that woman at the well. O God, we pray - but Lord, for the sake of the children, for the sake of the children have mercy, even for the sake of the animals, Lord, on the land that is defiled have mercy. Oh, High King of Heaven, have mercy on our land, revive Your church, send the Holy Spirit for the sake of the children, let Your kingdom come to our nation, in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

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## Let My People Go - Chapter 3

# "Wonder-Working Power"

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**W**ell, evening everyone. Good to be back with you again. Guess what book in the Bible we're turning to tonight? Have a guess! Exodus! Well done! Some of you have been listening! Exodus, and we're turning to chapter 12. Now, I haven't been planning this, but we're just going as the Lord leads. Let me just share with you something that happened today. I had my message ready this morning, coming up to about lunchtime, and I was in prayer there at about a quarter to four. As I was on my knees before God (in the sunroom, because it was quite sunny and it was nice and warm, and I went into the back because the study was cold!) - so in the sunroom before the Lord, I was just thinking about how the Lord has led in the messages. We've been in Exodus a lot, and we've been talking about Moses and what happened with the Passover and leading out of bondage and so on - and I could just see, I was thinking 'This is a series is happening here, and I'm not even trying to do one!'. I thought that you could have over this series the title: 'Let My People Go', let My people go. Then at about a quarter past four I thought, 'It's such a beautiful day, I'm going to go out for a walk' - and the dog nearly had a heart attack, because it's that long since I've given him a walk! I took him out, and it was bitter cold, but as I was walking along on the way back I felt within my spirit: 'You know, that is a declaration that we should be making to the enemy: 'Let My people go!'. Then I heard this wee 'ding' (and it wasn't the microwave because I was out for a walk) - do you know what it was? It was my mobile phone, and it was an email, and I just lifted it and looked quickly and it was one of these - I get loads, and I'm sure you do, loads of these emails, and if you subscribe to anything spiritual you get a load of emails - but this was a particular email, and I thought 'Right, I'll put that in my and wait until I get home'. When I got home, I sat down and thought 'I'll look and see what this was', and you'll not believe it - well, you better believe it, because I tell the truth, alright? I looked, and it was a prophetic email that I would get on a regular basis, and this lady was sending out this message which was to America specifically - and guess what it was? 'We need to tell the enemy: 'Let My people go" - what about that? You don't seem too excited about that! I thought it was great!

I want us to do that tonight, I want us to do that together as we pray. I'm going to pray just now before we read the Scriptures - and I want us, together, to say: 'Let My people go' to the enemy. If you don't believe me, look here at chapter 8 verse 1 and remember it's spoken to Pharaoh - who we saw is a picture of Satan, and we've seen that the spirit of Pharaoh is alive and well in our modern age: 'And the LORD spoke to Moses', verse 1 of chapter 8, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me"'. That's what we need! Let's pray.

Father, we come to You as the Almighty God, You are far above all, and You are King of heaven, King of the universe. Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, is the King of all Kings and the Lord of all Lords, and He is far above all principalities and powers, might and dominion, and every name that is named - not only in this age, but also in that which is to come. You have given Him a name that is above every name, that at the

name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess of things in heaven, things on earth, and things under the earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord. So, Lord, we come, and we invoke by faith the name of Jesus, and everything that He claimed, and everything that He did. We say to the enemy tonight - let's say it together: 'Let My people go'. You can do better than that, let's say it again - we want him to hear, I know he's not deaf, but we want him to know that we mean it, let's say it: 'Let My people go', says the Lord. We want to serve You, Lord Jesus; we want to serve You, we don't want to be in bondage any longer. We pray that Your church, Lord Jesus, would be emancipated and liberated from the shackles, from the paralysis, from the impotence. O Lord, come tonight and do something more that will release us, that we might worship You in spirit and in truth. We pray that You will meet the needs of every person here, whatever their particular issue is, whether they're saved or not, Lord, that You will move tonight. For Christ's sake, Amen.

Exodus chapter 12, did I tell you that? Exodus 12, and I don't know where I'll be tomorrow, it might not be Exodus, but it might. Verse 1 of Exodus 12, we're going to read the first 13 verses or so: *"Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 'This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire; its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover'"*.

Now let's just pause there for a moment. What verse 11 is saying is that you need to be ready for the deliverance that God is going to perform this night, do you see it? Belt on your waist, sandals on your feet, staff in your hand, eat it in haste - because God is going to do something. Now I want to ask you here tonight: have you come with expectancy? Expectancy is just another word for faith, 'He that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him'. If you're seeking God tonight, whether you're an unbeliever and you're searching, or you're a believer of many years but you want more of God - and there is always more - I urge you tonight: well, get ready, because God will do something! He will meet you in your expectancy, but that desire has got to be there. That's one of the biggest challenges in my life: I've always been rather laid-back. Now, sometimes that can betray... you can be like a rollercoaster inside, and that's the way my life has been in the past - praise the Lord, I'm delivered from that now. Just because people look laid-back on the outside, doesn't mean they're not in dire straits on the inside - but I've always been kind of laid-back. I was always the last wee fellow to cross the road with the patrol lady, you know at school - you can't believe that, I know, but it's true! But

sometimes, you know, I need the proverbial boot up the, you know, to get going. Even in the things of God - we can be so passionate about sin, let's be honest, can't we? But we need to get more passionate about the things of God, more zealous.

Then look at verse 12, the Lord says: *"For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD"*. We saw the other night that each of the plagues that God visited upon Egypt corresponded to an Egyptian deity, so what the Lord was doing here was smacking the devil in the mouth ten times. I would love to have seen it! The miracle was that none of these plagues affected the children of God, the congregation of Israel. I believe, this evening, some of you need to get ready because the Lord is going to put the enemy down in your life, He's going to defeat the devil. Hebrews chapter 2 and verses 14 and 15 says: 'Through death', this is speaking of Jesus, 'He might destroyed who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and released those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage'. There could be someone here tonight, and you're not only in bondage to fear, but you're in bondage to the fear of death. You see, that's what Pharaoh brought upon the Israelites. We saw it last evening in John 10:10, the thief that comes to steal, kill and destroy. He made them all slaves and he wrecked their lives, that's what the devil is doing to some of you tonight - even some of you Christians! But you need to hear this evening that God is going to execute judgement on the enemy.

Look at verse 13: *"Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are"*. God says: *"And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt"*. Now some of the terminology that I'm using tonight might be confusing to you, but hopefully as I go through this evening you will understand and I will explain it. But I want you to note verse 13, it says 'This will be a sign', the blood, 'When I see the blood, I will pass over you'. That is what God is looking for, OK? When God looks down on humanity this very evening, He's not looking to see the goody-two-shoes that are in church, and those that are watching Coronation Street - that's not what God is interested in. Do you understand? He's not interested to see who is the Protestant and who is the Catholic, and where the border is. I'm not saying that is important, I'm just saying God is not interested. What is God looking for? He's not looking for whether you're religious or not, He's not looking for whether or not you're charitable, you're kind - I'm not saying those things aren't good, of course they are - but what God looks for is a sign, and that is the sign of the blood. That means those who are marked for Him, those who have decided that they will avail of the sacrifice of the slain Lamb, Jesus, and they have applied by faith His blood over their lives, over the door posts and lintel of their lives, the place where they dwell on this earth.

Now you've got to understand that, because some of you may make the mistake of thinking God is looking at your good works, or your religious deeds, and He's sort of totting them all up in some kind of account, and one day it's all going to be totalled and we'll see whether you get into heaven or not - that is not what the Bible teaches at all. What God looks for is the blood. Now come with me down to verse 21 of this chapter, skip a few verses down to 21: *"Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop"*, it's a herb, a plant, he's using it like a paintbrush here, *"dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike*

*the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households'. So the people bowed their heads and worshiped".*

Now, what's happening is: they're taking the blood with this hyssop, this bush, and they're painting it on the door posts and the lintel. In other words, they're sheltering under the blood. Now there is a big word for that in the Bible, it's called 'atonement'. All it simply means is that the blood of the lamb was covering their sins over so that God could save them, and that's what needs to happen to you and me. Our sins are abhorrent in the sight of God, He is holy, He's of holier eyes than to behold iniquity. He wouldn't be God if He wasn't like that. But He has a heart of love, and grace, and mercy towards us, and He wants to save us - so our sin has to be put away from His sight, it has to be covered, and it's covered by a cost: and that's blood. But listen, there is a responsibility for you: you have to be obedient. You not only have to have faith in the blood, but you have to be obedient and you have to shelter beneath the blood. If any of these Israelites decided: 'Well, I'm going to go out for a wee stroll tonight, it's a lovely night, and I will put the blood on the doorposts and all the rest' - and they went out, and they were a firstborn, they would be slain no matter whether they were chosen Israelites, no matter whether they trusted in God's word and slew the lamb and put the blood, they had to shelter beneath the blood, they had to be obedient. There is a myth, you know, going about the church, and that is that you can wilfully sin, and remain in sin, and presume upon the protection of God. It's a lie.

I'm not saying that if you sin, or you fall back, or are backslidden, that you lose your salvation - I'm not saying that. But I am saying this: that there is no concept of remaining in wilful sin. The Bible is very clear, 1 John 1: you've to walk in the light as He is in the light, then we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, goes on cleansing us from all sin. We've to bring our sin into the light, and we've to be obedient to God's word.

We see the children again in verse 26 - you remember last evening I spoke a little bit about how the spirit of Pharaoh wants the children, he slew the innocents at the very beginning, that's how Moses went down the Nile. He slew the innocents, and then he was wanting to keep the women and the children back, he wants the next generation. Can I just say again to the church tonight: the enemy still wants the next generation. The next generation were being invested in here in verse 26: 'Your children shall say, 'What do you mean by this service?'. I wonder are our children asking us questions about our godliness? The sad thing is, in our day and generation, the ancient landmarks are being removed, the boundary points. Our children so often are tossed about to and fro in the philosophies, and the lifestyles, and outlooks of this world.

Now I want to make a statement here, and it might confuse some of you even who are Christians - but it's not the blood that saves, per se. Now there is wonder-working

power in the blood, and if I had a title for my message it would be 'Wonder-Working Power'. Don't misunderstand what I'm saying. It's not the blood that saves in a sense, it is God who saves us - we saw that last night in Jonah chapter 2 and verse 9: 'Salvation is of the Lord'. There's only one Saviour, and He is a person, He's more than a substance. I believe there is supernatural power in the blood, please don't misunderstand me - but God looks for the mark of the blood so that He will save us personally Himself.

Now this is mighty, because God doesn't send an angel to save us, He comes Himself. That's why He sent Jesus in human flesh - now I know He was the Angel of the Lord, but He came as the Son, Only Begotten of God, came Himself in human flesh. Here at the Passover there is a picture of this, God does not send an angel. He might send a destroying angel to kill the firstborn, but He comes Himself to save His people - isn't that wonderful? Look at verse 23 till I show you this: 'The LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians', we know that the destroyer was sent by the Lord, 'and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you'. Now a lot of people miss this, even Christians: Passover does not speak of the angel of death passing over Egypt, that's not what Passover speaks of. Passover speaks of the Lord passing over the door where the blood was on the lintel and the doorposts, it literally means 'hovering over' the door. There is a verse corresponding to it in Isaiah 31 verse 5, listen to it in the Amplified Version: 'Like birds hovering, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; He will protect and deliver it, He will pass over and spare and preserve it'. Here's a wonderful picture here: God was looking all throughout Egypt, and the destroying angel was coming through, sent by the Lord, and the Lord is looking for the mark of the blood. Where there was a mark of the blood, He stood Himself in front of that door - isn't that amazing? He hovered over the door, He passed over the door - that's mighty!

But the tragic thing is, verse 30 if you look at: 'So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead'. Isn't that very sad? You think of the houses across our land, that if this very thing was to happen - which of them would be marked by the blood? I wonder is your house, your husband, your wife, your children, your work colleagues - there wasn't one house.

I want you to turn to the New Testament now, I want you to go with me to Luke chapter 22. You know Jesus was a Jew, did you know that? Jewish! A Jew died for you! Did you know that? He wasn't a Christian, He was the Christ. He wasn't a Protestant, and He wasn't a Catholic, He was a Jew. As He comes on the scene, John the Baptist is baptising people with the baptism of repentance, and the Holy Spirit has already revealed to him who the Christ, the Anointed of God, is. As he sees Him, he says: 'Behold! Look! Lift up your eyes! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world!'. So, what you're getting here is: the Bible is a unique book in many ways, but one of the unique aspects is that it circulates blood. If you look at the book of Genesis from the start to the book of Revelation, it's filled with blood - I think there are more than 700 references to blood in the Bible, why? It's because sacrifice is central to what needs to happen in order that our sins are covered, that God can be known by us and we can be saved, and have our sins purged away and we can go to heaven one day. But all these sacrifices of bulls and goats and lambs were all pointing toward the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. When we come here to Luke chapter

22, just before Jesus goes to the cross, look at verse 14, He institutes what we know as 'The Lord's Supper', and it says: 'When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer'. He's eating the Passover now, alright? Communion as we know it was the Passover. 'For I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God'. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes'. And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me'. Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you'.

Now everything is here for the Passover: there is a roasted lamb; there is the bread that is unleavened - they hadn't time to leaven it, and leaven speaks of sin anyway, but they hadn't time because it was done in haste - there were bitter herbs, that speak of their suffering in Egypt; and there is salt water, speaking of their tears. So it's all sitting out there, but what you might miss is, in Jewish tradition what had come to be added to the Passover were four cups, four cups of wine. It says here in verse 20 that He took the cup after supper, now we know that the cup after supper was the third cup on that table. Cup number one was the cup of sanctification; cup number two was the cup of remembrance; cup number three was the cup of salvation, the cup of redemption, to be bought back from slavery, to be saved and rescued from the consequences of sin. Jesus takes that third cup after supper, and He says: 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you'. It's of that cup that He said: 'This is the new covenant'.

Do you know what a covenant is in the Bible? Do you know how a covenant is made? You cut a covenant, you cut a covenant, it's cut, and it's usually signified with bloodshed. Jesus says: 'I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands. I'm going to cut a covenant out for you on My nail-pierced hands' - isn't that amazing? Look at verse 19 and look at verse 20, it says: 'For you', 'For you' - do you know that, tonight, that it's for you? Why? Well, there was no other good enough to pay the price of sin, He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in - that's why He had to die. But why? I used to sing in Sunday school:

'Wounded for me, wounded for me,  
There on the cross He was wounded for me.  
Gone my transgressions and now I am free,  
All because Jesus was wounded for me'.

You know the other one, don't you? 'Jesus loves me' - that's why! 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so'. Jesus was sacrificed on the cross at the time of the Passover sacrificial lamb being slain and offered in the Temple. He died on the cross, and as Hebrews 10:11-12 says: 'Every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God' - one sacrifice forever! Boy, this is great! You know Jesus was a carpenter, don't you? Joseph, His earthly guardian, was a carpenter; and probably His earthly guardian died quite early, He seems to have been the man in the home for a considerable amount of time. I'm sure that there was many an order came into that carpenter shop, and many a big order, maybe for a whole home, or an inn, or something like that. He would take



the order, and He would make the furniture or whatever it was - and maybe it was such a large amount that people would come in periodically and pay off a wee bit that they owed. When the day came that the customer paid the last shekel, Jesus - I'm sure, I'm sure He did this at some stage - would take a pen, or the equivalent, a quill, or chalk, and He would write 'Tetelestai', 'Paid in full'. That's what He cried from the cross: 'It is finished! Tetelestai!'. The debt of our sinfulness that we owe to God was paid through His shed blood. He is making atonement, He is covering over our abhorrence in the sight of God. That's why 1 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 7 says: 'Christ is our Passover' - He is our Lamb, His blood is our atonement.

Turn with me to 1 Peter, we are on a journey here tonight, I trust you're coming with me. First Peter 1, I hope I'm not confusing you, 1 Peter 1:18: 'Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot'. Look at verse 20: 'He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times' - say those next two words - 'for you'. Say it like you mean it! For you! 'Who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God' - for you! For you! I hope somebody else is going to get excited tonight!

Verse 20: 'For you' - for you, what? Verse 18: 'You were redeemed'. Do you see the picture? Egypt, slavery, bondage to sin, bondage to sinful habits, bondage to the world, bondage to the flesh, bondage to the devil himself - but we are now redeemed, we are bought back out of the slave market of sin by the blood of Jesus. Not by silver or gold, that's the way human slaves in a normal secular sense would be redeemed, by money - but this is not financial redemption. Listen: you can't buy your salvation! I don't know if there's anybody here tonight, and you're paying into the church or something, and you hope that that's going to be enough; or you're giving alms to charity. It's a good thing to give money away, don't get me wrong, but that will not buy your salvation - why? Because your salvation can't be bought with silver or gold, it has been bought with the precious blood of Jesus, the priceless, inestimable blood of Jesus - beyond any value

You're not redeemed by your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers - do you know what aimless conduct is here? It's keeping of the law. I believe Peter is speaking to Jews here, and they believed in the Ten Commandments, they believed in the first five books of Moses in the Bible, and there's nothing wrong with them. But they thought that it was a ladder to climb to God, when in fact it was just a magnifying glass to show them their sin. So it was aimless in the sense that they had an aim of trying to gain favour with God through it, but it was aimless in that it didn't work. Religious redemption doesn't work, religion is perhaps the biggest curse that has ever been in the world. I agree with the atheists on that. Man-made religion, I'm talking about, it can't redeem you. The NIV translates verse 18 'the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors' - you can't be redeemed by the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors. So that covers the Jews, their heritage, they had the patriarchs and the prophets, and they rested in that, 'Oh, you know our fathers'. Jesus says: 'You are of your father, the devil'. But even their pagan background, whatever religion they may have had - here's the message here: you can't get to God and you can't get to heaven by the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, whether that's your ethnicity, whatever nationality you are, whether it's your spirituality. You can only be redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus,

that's God's way, it's the only way. Jesus said: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me'. The apostles declared: 'There is one name, neither is there any other name, but one name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved' - and that's the name of Jesus.

That's not very PC these days, I know that, but I'm going to go with Jesus and God if you don't mind, not what everybody else says. This was foreordained, verse 20 says: 'He indeed was foreordained'. So this wasn't some kind of emergency plan that was just cooked up at the last moment, and God creates humanity and thinks: 'Oh dear, they've gone their own way, I better do something about it'. Before the foundation of the world God had a way to put the devil down and to save our souls. We have got to, verse 21, 'Believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God'. We know that the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross was acceptable to God, satisfied His just demands of holiness, because God raised Him from the dead - it was the full-stop on the whole operation, He brought Him back to life.

So you've got to believe in the power of the blood. Do you? Can I share with you quickly some of the things the blood of Jesus has the power to do? Well, we've already seen some of them, OK? The blood of Jesus has the power to redeem us, to buy us back from the slave market of sin. Amen? The blood of Jesus has the power to protect us, the blood was on the door posts and the lintel, and as they sheltered beneath the blood they were protected by God Himself. The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, we know that - and I believe in the angelic hosts, and I believe in many angels that God uses - but isn't it wonderful that we know that when we are under the blood, when we have trusted in Jesus, that we are protected by God Himself! God is our defence! Abraham could say: 'You are my shield and my exceeding great reward'. Wow. The blood of Jesus has power to redeem us, power to protect us, power to deliver us. You see these Israelites were being delivered from Egyptian bondage, the yoke of Pharaoh was on them - but that bondage was broken overnight by the blood of the lamb.

Are you in bondage to the enemy tonight? A particular sin? A habit? I don't know what it might be. Another thing the blood has power to do is to break sinful inheritances and lifestyles. We've seen that in 1 Peter 1:18: 'The empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors'. It can't redeem you. One thing it will do: it can really really tie you up in knots spiritually - but the blood of Jesus has power to break sinful inheritances, things that are passing down family lines, whether it's serious serial adultery, or serial alcoholism, or serial deception, or serial family dysfunction, or Freemasonry, or other secret societies. You might fall out with me over this, I don't care, but it needs to be broken - it needs to be broken! Lifestyles, maybe there is lifestyle sin that you can't get free from. I want to declare to you tonight: the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, will set you free if you, by faith, appropriate it.

Something else the blood of the Lamb has power to do is bring fellowship with God. Listen to Ephesians 2 and verse 13: 'Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ'. Isn't that wonderful? Do you want to get to God? That's what religion is all about, isn't it? Man attempting to reach God. That's not what Christianity is: Christianity is God coming down to man, and sacrificing Himself on the cross - God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, shedding His own blood so that we might know Him. Listen: the only way you can know God is

through Jesus. All the pluralists, and all the modernists might say: 'All the religions are leading to the one God, we're all going the same way, and we're all going the same direction' - poppycock! Rubbish! Nonsense! Lies! We are not! Jesus was the most dogmatic man that ever lived: 'I am the only way, the only truth, and the only life'. He is either to be believed or disbelieved. He was either a liar, a lunatic, or a He is Lord. You've got to choose, you can't stick your head in the sand. He is the only way to God, and if you want to be close to God tonight you've got to go through Jesus - He is the only way, He is the only one that died for our sins, the only one that shed His blood.

The power of Jesus' blood has power to make peace with God. You know, man by nature is at war with God. Colossians 1 verse 20 says: 'Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross'. People talk about: 'Oh, you need to make your peace with God' - usually it's just before they pop their clogs - 'Oh, you need to make peace with God!'. Listen: your peace with God was made 2000 years ago. I know people are saying, and I agree with it, that you need to get right with the Lord - but listen: don't wait until you're dying, don't wait to call the priest, don't wait to get the clergyman to come and say some magic prayer over you to get you right - no! Everything that needed to happen for you to be right with God happened at the cross, and you just need to believe it! You need to repent and believe, and you will have peace! Sure, the whole world is crying out for peace, countries, homes, minds, hearts. There is an old hymn, I'm trying to remember it:

'Peace, peace, in this lonely world of sin,  
The blood of Jesus speaks peace within'.

Do you need peace tonight? You need the blood of Jesus. Listen, the blood of Jesus, something else it does: it cleanses. You see, it not only removes the punishment for sin - oh, you listen to this - it removes the pollution of sin. It cleanses, and purges, and sets us free! Isn't that mighty? It brings holiness, Hebrews 13:12: 'Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate'. Why did He die? He died to make us holy, He died to make us good, He died that we at last would go to heaven, saved by His precious blood. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord. There is a myth that you can become a Christian and live the rest of your life in sin - it's a lie, it's a lie from the pit of hell. I'm not saying you're perfect, I'm not perfect, and you certainly aren't - but we know we're not, and by the power of the Holy Spirit we're seeking to strive after this holiness that has been bought by the blood of Jesus at the cross. If you are hungering after holiness, dump legalism, and stop all that religious nonsense and start trusting in the blood of Jesus. Get holy through the blood of Jesus, through the cross.

I love this one: the blood of Jesus has power to cleanse the conscience. Oh, some of our consciences are a hell in our bosom. We know we've been forgiven perhaps, we're saved and we know we've been forgiven - maybe you haven't, and your conscience is burning - but even some of us who have been saved, there are skeletons in the cupboard. We have told the Lord about them, I hope, but we still can't get over them. Listen to Hebrews 9:14: 'How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?'. Oh, that you tonight would ask Jesus to, by the power of the Holy Spirit, sprinkle His blood onto your conscience, onto your mind. Some of you are wracked with condemnation from the enemy, and you need Jesus to sprinkle His blood on your conscience, to cleanse your conscience.

Something else: the blood of Jesus gives power over the devil. Amen! Revelation 12:11, we've seen it already this week: 'They overcame him', the devil, that old dragon, that old serpent, Satan 'by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony'. Do you know what the word of their testimony is? It's not standing up in church and saying 'Oh, I was saved on the 20th of whatever', that's not the word of your testimony. The word of your testimony is speaking out what the word of God says the blood of Jesus does for us, all these things I'm talking about. It is declaring the power that is in the blood of the Lamb to overcome the enemy. You see, we don't declare it, we don't take these weapons that God has given us and use them against the enemy. Robert the Bruce of Scotland was being pursued by the English - they didn't want him to be King - because he was next in line to the throne. The English set his own bloodhounds on him with his scent, and his attendant said to the Bruce: 'We're done for! The dogs are on our trail, we're finished!'. Do you know what Bruce did? Immediately he ran into a stream, and he completely immersed himself in that stream, and he came out the other side and the scent was off him, the scent that he had carried was off him.

I want to tell you tonight: the enemy might be after you to accuse you, and to condemn you of things that you have done and things that you haven't done, but if you are washed in the blood of Jesus the scent of your sin will be off you. Do you believe that? That's what God's word says, that you can overcome the devil. Oh, he will come accusing, he'll keep doing that. Something else: the blood of Jesus, there is power to heal. Are you still in 1 Peter there? Look at chapter 2 and verse 24, we're back at the cross again: 'Who himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed'. I believe that all healing - mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical - is through the cross of Jesus Christ. Now I know that ultimate healing will not come until the resurrection of the body into immortality, I know that - but I believe the power of the blood still can, in this day and age, do wonders of healing in minds, souls, spirits, and even bodies. We need to see more of it, but I believe it. Seeing is not believing, I believe it without even seeing it - because that's what God's word says.

I want to show you something else, I'm bringing it all to a close. Go back to Exodus chapter 12 quickly - do you know what else the blood of Jesus does? Exodus chapter 12 verse 2, look at it, the very beginning of the institution of the Passover, God says to Israel: 'This month', verse 2 of Exodus 12, 'shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you'. Now this isn't the book of Genesis, this isn't the beginning of time, is it? No. What is God doing here? He's saying: 'I want you to set your calendars aright now, this is now going to be the first month and the first day of the month from this moment of Passover'. This is a new day - that's what the blood of Jesus does. The blood of Jesus has power to give a new day, a new dawn, a new start. He is able to restore to you tonight the years that the locusts have eaten. Second Corinthians 5:17: 'If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new'. You remember that this was to be passed on to their children and their children's children, this was a new day for a future generation. I want to say to you tonight, Christians, you need to start pleading the blood! Start pleading the blood to overcome sin in your life, so that you will get the bondage and shackle of Pharaoh off you! You need to start pleading the blood over your home, over your children. I mentioned 'Ffald-y-Brenin' last night, a house of prayer, I talked about that little 'Caleb Prayer'. Something else that they did in 'Ffald-

y-Brenin' before God really came in power was, they went around the whole of this - it was an ancient monastery, and it became a sort of bed-and-breakfast - they went to the whole place, and by prayer (this is just the way they put it, you can disagree with it if you like) but they were pleading the blood, and it was as if they were pushing the power of the blood into the ceilings, into the walls, into the floors of that whole ancient building. Do you know what I'm going to tell you? The day after they did that, the following night, I think it was nearly all the people, when they came down from breakfast, they all had dreams from God, because the atmosphere was changed by the power of the blood. They pleaded the blood.

We need to plead the blood over our lives. We need to plead the blood over our marriages. We need to plead the blood over our children. We need to plead the blood over our homes, the atmosphere of our homes. We need to plead the blood over our church, and the atmosphere in our churches. Oh, I could preach on on that. But you know, blood is spiritual currency, do you know that? That's why - I'll let you into a wee secret - that's why vampire novels, young adult novels about vampire romance - who ever thought that would have been possible, I mean 10, 15, 20 years ago, vampire romance? What? It's the most popular youth fiction that there is, and supernatural programmes on television and all this fascination with the occult and blood, is because the enemy knows that blood is spiritual currency. That's why people wrapped up in the occult are often cutting themselves, sacrificing blood. But listen: do you know tonight that there is power in the blood of the Lamb like no other power in existence, to do all these aforementioned things? Will you avail of that power? Will you tap into that power to neutralise sin, to neutralise affliction, to neutralise death, to neutralise hell itself?

Oh, there is power, power, wonder-working power in the blood of the Lamb. Let's pray. Now let's take a moment or two, and I just feel I should say this because - the more hallelujahs, the more amens the better, we need more of them - but, you know, this is an easy sermon to say 'Hallelujah, Amen' to. Some folk think, 'Oh, we're not hearing enough about the blood', and that might be true - but listen: that's not what this is about. This is about availing of what Christ has done for us. We've got to do something about it. You can sing about the blood; you can talk about it; you can pray about it; you can moan about how it's not talked about, and prayed about, and preached about enough - but if you don't do something with the power of the blood, you'll be held responsible.

Now I want to first of all address anyone in this place - I don't know, you could all be Christians, but if there is anybody here tonight who doesn't know Christ as personal Saviour, I'm not asking your religion, I'm not asking anything like that, or what church you go to. I'm asking: do you know the power of the blood that I have spoken about tonight? Are you forgiven of your sin? Do you know you're cleansed? Are you having victory? If you're not, and you want to be a true blood-bought child of God who is trusting in the death of Jesus, you want to be saved tonight, you want His blood to cover your sins, you want come to know Him and have peace with God - just where you are, would you raise your hand? Eyes closed please, and heads bowed, would you just raise your hand where you're seated if there is a non-Christian here and you want to take that step to Jesus, could you just raise your hand? Is there anyone? I'm going to move on in just a moment, but I just want to give an opportunity - young or old - do you want to make tonight your night?

Is there anyone, and you've been disobedient to the Lord, and you've professed faith

in Jesus - in a sense you've been washed in the blood, but you're not walking in obedience anymore. You've presumed upon the protection of God, when you're not walking in the light. You need to repent of that, and you need to confess your sins. If you confess your sin, He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness - but you need to meet Him on His terms. Is there anyone here tonight, we might call you a backslider or whatever, is there anyone here and you want to come back to the Lord? Just raise your hand where you're sitting, anyone?

I'm going to close in just a minute, I'm not going to do any more appeal, but what I am going to say is: believers, I believe this week is more about you than anything. I told you that at the beginning. The declaration tonight is: 'Let My people go'. God the Holy Spirit is showing you how to be set free through the blood of the Lamb, are you going to plead the blood tonight over yourself and everything that is yours? Over this church? Over our land and our people? I pray you will.

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## Let My People Go - Chapter 4

# "The Red Sea Route"

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This has been a strange week! Any 'Amens' for that? It's been a strange week - what I mean by that is usually I know where I'm going with regards to the ministry and the preaching, but up until Sunday morning I didn't have a clue what I was going to bring. I have plenty of stuff, you need to look at the website and you'll find that out - but I just had nothing on my heart, but I knew God was going to speak. Then God directed us to Exodus and to Moses, and a few thoughts on Sunday night, and then we ended up starting in Moses and Exodus on Monday night, and ended up in Jonah. Then last night the penny dropped, or during the afternoon, that God was creating a series here. I have been preaching the Gospel, I hope you'll agree with that, but there has been a lot of ministry to the church and to God's people as well - and we realised that this is a series, and the title of the series is 'Let My People Go'. That is what God is saying: 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me'. And that is a cry to the church, that the church should come out of bondage - but it's also a cry to people who are still in the slave market of sin, folk who are unbelievers who have never been born again and converted. You need to be saved, and you need to be liberated. So what we're really preaching about is a new Exodus, where the church comes out of its bondage, and unconverted people are delivered from their sin and their self to find freedom in Christ.

Tonight we're turning to Exodus chapter 14, we are in Exodus again. We're going to be here again tomorrow night, I'm giving you a heads up on this - because this has been so strange, I mean it now. Your pastor will tell you this: preparation for ministry isn't easy, and sometimes it can take me a couple of days getting a message together. The Lord has been downloading these messages in an hour or two, an hour or two in the morning. I've had a busy week with other things, I was down at the RVH for a hospital appointment today - not for me, but someone else - so I've been running around the place, even took the dog for a walk yesterday! But you understand: when God is moving and God is speaking, it becomes very easy - His yoke is easy and His burden is light. I want you to understand: I'm not just firing stuff at you these nights, that God is speaking. So we're going to be in Exodus at least tonight and tomorrow night, and who knows.

Exodus chapter 14, and we're coming to the Red Sea crossing. If you want a title for this message, it's 'The Red Sea Route' - OK? Verse 1 of Exodus 14: *"Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in'".* I wonder is there anybody here tonight, and you're bewildered - it's a wonderful phrase, isn't it? Bewildered with life, bewildered with why you're here, what life is all about, where you're going. Maybe you're bewildered about the church - join the club! You're maybe bewildered about Christianity. Dare I say this? Am I allowed to say this in the church? You could be bewildered about God. You know, God is hard to understand. If He was easy to

understand, He wouldn't be God - isn't that right? There are certain things that God does that are quite hard to get your head around at times. You see, the carnal mind does not perceive the things of the Spirit, they are foolishness unto him. Who can understand everything that happens to us in this life?

Anyway, that's another sermon. We are bewildered here, and then we move into verse 4 God says: *"Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD". And they did so. Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, 'Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?'. So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon".*

Now let me just pause there for a moment. At the end of verse 8 it says that Pharaoh pursued the children of Israel. At the beginning of verse 9 it says the Egyptians pursued them. Now we have been looking these nights, right from at least Monday night anyway, at how Pharaoh is a picture of Satan. The spirit of Pharaoh is still alive and well in our modern day world, the spirit of Pharaoh is on this planet right now making slaves of sinners, robbing people of life and hope. Do you know something? Maybe you have never become aware of this before, you're maybe not even a Christian: Satan is pursuing you, just like Pharaoh and the Egyptians were pursuing the Israelites, Satan is pursuing you. I would say to Christians here, born-again believers: you need to waken up, because if Satan is pursuing unbelievers you can be absolutely assured that Satan is pursuing you. In fact, he perhaps is more interested in you because you are a threat to him, because you're in the kingdom of light and you know God. So it's as if the crosshair sights are on you, you are public enemy number one for Satan. In fact, the Bible says that he is like a roaring lion, going about seeking whom he may devour. The only way we can resist him is steadfast in the faith, so you've got to be in the faith. I'm not talking about in the church, I'm talking about in the faith - you've got to be a Christian, a true Bible-believing Christian who has repented of their sins, turned around, changed your mind, and come to Jesus Christ who was crucified for you - believe in His death alone for your salvation. That's the only way you can resist the evil one. Do you know the devil wants to kill you? Do you know that? We have these wee cartoon images of this wee guy on your shoulder, you know, like Tom and Jerry - you remember, was it the mouse sat on the shoulder with the horns and the pitchfork and the tail? That's the way we think of the devil. Wait till I tell you: the devil wants to destroy you, and he wants to take you to hell. I know those are strong words, but that's the truth of God's word.

Maybe that shakes you a bit, well in verse 10 it shook the Israelites - Pharaoh breathing down their neck. Verse 10: *"And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD"* - they were very afraid! Fear is one of the enemy's biggest weapons. When we talk about the devil, you might think of the Satanists, or witches, or occult things - you know, ouija boards and spells. All that is in the kingdom of darkness, believe you me, and it's more prevalent than



you could imagine. But one of the most potent weapons that Satan has today in our world is fear. I wonder is that a problem for you? Fear, anxiety, nervous tension, it can often lead to depression and all sorts of mental and emotional disorders, and even physical ailments. Jesus said that in the last days men and women's hearts would fail them for fear, literally they would be taking heart attacks - but metaphorically they would be emotionally broken and wrecked.

Mental health care in our own society is near breaking point, I think. You know, fear is at epidemic proportions. I know I can be a bit cynical at times with stuff that comes on the news or in the newspapers, but there was something yesterday - I don't know where I read it, or what it was, whether it was on a news website or in a paper or something like that. But did any of you hear this: about another cancer scare - I think it was a cancer scare anyway. This time it was candles - did you hear that one? Put your hand up if you heard that one - candles - have you heard that one? Candles, and is it joss sticks? There's probably something weird about those - but anyway, burning sticks with scent on them - and 'You've got to stay away from those!'. (I like candles by the way, don't be telling anybody - but I like candles! Birthday candles are the best ones!). I thought: 'That's interesting, isn't it?'. Then 'Open fires', I thought 'Ah, come on! Open fires?'. They're talking about pollution in the air. Then this really did it for me: 'Going outside!' That was the next thing in this article! Going outside! It started off with candles, and you could start to believe: 'Well, maybe there is a problem with candles' - but we're not to go outside anymore? I would challenge you to study the papers, study the news with a filter on your eyes to see how much scaremongering goes on. I was even reading a Christian news article just before I came out tonight, and the headline was: 'Should we be stocking up food?' - you know, this apocalyptic concept. Now I believe we are in the end times, and I believe we are in the last of the last days - but I don't believe in this pessimistic type of attitude.

So we see that fear is so prevalent. This is what the enemy was using with the Israelites, this is what the enemy is using with you. I don't know whether your heart is wracked by fear, but I want to tell you tonight that the only way to be delivered from fear is Jesus Christ. The only way to be delivered from fear is to fear God. That's not a 'shaking in your boots' fear, that's a reverential awe and love for God. Perfect love casts out fear. Fear has got to do with judgement, Jesus said: 'Come unto Me all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light, and you will find rest for your souls'.

But the Lord knew the Israelites were fearful. If you look back at chapter 13 quickly and verse 17, there is a very interesting statement here: 'Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near' - can I paraphrase that? That was a shortcut through the territory of the Philistines, but God didn't lead them that way - why? 'God said, 'Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt''. Do you see that? They weren't strong enough to fight the enemy, God knew that fear would grip them. Now, we need balance, OK? You're not to be ignorant of Satan's devices, you're not to walk around with your head in the sand about how powerful he is and how much he hates you and how much he wants to destroy you. But we're not to be cowards either - do you know what I mean? We're not to forget the inheritance that we have, and the blessings that we enjoy. We're not to be negligent in understanding who we are in Christ, who our Father is, who our Elder Brother, our

Saviour, and our Great High Priest is. Are you afraid of the devil? Are you? Corrie Ten Boom spent time in the concentration camps of the Nazis, so she suffered a thing or two. Her family, I think most of them died if not all of them. She said: 'Fear of the demons comes from the demons' - that is profound, isn't it? The devil wants you to be afraid of him - that's why whenever (and I don't want to get into any of this stuff), but whenever somebody manifests who has a demon, there's a whole lot of amateur dramatics, and shouting, and rolling, and getting on - because the devil, he's like a puff adder: he likes to make himself bigger and more intimidating than he really is.

I want to say to you tonight, especially if you're a Christian - 2 Timothy 1:7: 'God has not given you a spirit of fear'. So if God has not given you a spirit of fear, where does it come from? It comes from the devil. So don't you tell me, dear, that because your Mummy was a worrier, and your Granny was a worrier, that you're just a worrier - that it's a family trait. That's a lie that you have believed: it is a sin. Now it might be inherited, it certainly was in my family, but it's not from God and you ought to reject it!

It says that Pharaoh drew near, if you go back to chapter 14 verse 10, it says Pharaoh drew near. I wonder is Satan drawing near to some of you here tonight? Christian or not, have you sensed evil near you? Have you sensed darkness? Maybe you have been dabbling in doorways of darkness and danger, and the enemy has revealed himself to you in some way, and it has freaked you out. Maybe you have seen something, heard something, maybe you have had some kind of a visitation? Well, it says here in verse 10: 'Pharaoh drew near, and the children of Israel lifted their eyes' - they had got their eyes on the devil! Now listen folks: the devil is real, and he can show up big-time - but we're not to have our eyes on the devil. Wait till I tell you: you can see it all around you, you don't have to look hardly beyond your own nose to see the devil at times - you need to think about that one! But he is everywhere, his fingerprints are everywhere - but we're not meant to walk by sight, we are meant to walk by faith. We're not meant to be walking by our physical senses, what we see, what we hear, what our mind perceives. Sure, as I'm talking about listening to the news, you'd be depressed after watching the news every night in the week if you didn't have a Christian worldview and filter it through the word of God. So we, of all people, are meant to understand what God's mind is, we are meant to have the mind of Christ. If you focus on the devil, guess what happens? The devil gets bigger! Do you ever notice that when you're driving along the road, if you're trying to avoid the wall that's likely what you're going to hit - for whatever you focus on, you go towards. If you focus on the devil, you will attract the devil, you will see the devil everywhere. God wants us to be God-conscious, not devil-conscious.

We see what this led to in the lives of the Israelites, verse 11 - they are very afraid remember, as Pharaoh drew near they put their eyes on him, and they were very afraid: *"Then they said to Moses, 'Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?'"*. Despair! Dejection! Then they start murmuring and moaning against the Lord's servant. Look at verse 12: *"Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt",* OK, this is going back a wee bit. Even before they left, this was the word they told Moses: *"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"*. Are you getting the picture here? Do you see what the devil is doing on them? Now I can give you as many cliches as you want, alright: 'Don't rock the apple cart', 'Oh, we

prefer the status quo', 'Don't rock the boat', 'Don't push us out of our comfort zone'. Now they had forgotten a lot, because they weren't that comfortable in Egypt as slaves - but now the grass is always greener on the other side, there's another one for you. They were remembering, here's another, with rose tinted spectacles - they're all coming tonight! They were remembering, revising history, the way Egypt wasn't - because now they are facing the devil eyeball to eyeball, they're seeing what he's really like and what he could do. Fear has gripped them, you see this is what fear does to us - and the consequence was that they would rather be slaves in Egypt than die in freedom!

Now, I'm not going to ask you did you watch 'Braveheart' the film. I quoted Robert the Bruce last night, about the English trying to get him. You know that William Wallace, the English didn't like him much either. If you have seen the film, you probably remember this part, where he says: 'Tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they will never take our freedom!'. Remember? 'Freedom!'. But you know, Christian, and non-Christian, how much do you value freedom, true freedom? Do you know what is true of the church? We have lost our fight, we have become so intimidated by the enemy that we are weak-willed, passive, limp. Oh, there is a wonderful verse that I love, turn with me to it - keep a marker in there in Exodus - turn to Matthew chapter 11 verse 12: 'And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force'. That's a sort of tricky verse, isn't it? 'From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force'. Listen to it in the Amplified Version: 'The kingdom of heaven suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it by force as a precious prize'. Jesus says: 'The gate is narrow, the way is straight and the gate is narrow', and you've got to push in. So you've got to fight in a sense - now I'm not talking about being saved, OK? 'By grace are you saved through faith', if you want to know God, your sins forgiven, it's a gift that you just take, because God says it's there and Jesus died for your sins. What I'm talking about is - I once quoted it, and when I quoted it, it wasn't even my quote, and it went all over the Internet on all these different social media things, but it was somebody else's - 'A little faith will take you to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to you'.

'The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent', remember I talked last night about passion, and zeal, and desire - how much do you want to bring God down, do you want to bring the kingdom of God to us? We've lost our fight. In John chapter 2, you remember Jesus cleansed the Temple - now that doesn't fit in with the Sunday School picture type version of the Lord Jesus, does it, or the stained-glass window portrait of Jesus? He takes time, and it was premeditated, He braided together a whip, the Bible says. He thought about it and planned it. It wasn't an angry explosion. He went down in complete order, He didn't lose His temper; but He upended the money changer's tables, and He whipped the animals - not the people now, but He whipped the animals out of the place. He said: 'You have made My Father's House a den of thieves and robbers, My Father's House shall be a house of prayer', and it says 'Then the disciples remembered where it said in the word of the Lord', it's a Psalm, 'The zeal of My house has eaten me up' - the zeal of God, that's how it's sometimes displayed. I'm not talking about violence towards people, we don't believe in any of that - but here was a passionate Saviour, a zealous Christ who had fight in Him! Aren't you glad He had fight in Him? If He didn't have fight in Him, He would never have went to the cross - because they were all trying to kill Him before He got to the cross.

Do you want to know what the antidote to fear, and the incubator of zeal is? Guess what? Faith! That's the antidote to fear, and it's the incubator of zeal. Now I've heard it that many times, that there are 365 times in the Bible, some people say 366, one for every day and one for a leap year, it says 'Fear not', or 'Do not fear', or 'Be not afraid'. That's good, isn't it? I don't know whether it's true, but it's good anyway! It depends what version you're reading probably! But there is no doubt about it, whether that's the case or not: every day of our lives the Lord would say, 'Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me'. If you don't want your heart to be troubled, friend tonight, whether for your sins, or for circumstances in your life, or for your future or your eternity, you need to believe in Jesus Christ.

'Fear not', and here we see it in verse 13, look down with me in Exodus 14: *"Moses said to the people", they said 'Let us alone, leave us alone!', Moses said, "'Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever'"*. Oh, I love that! Will you, someone in this place tonight, everyone, will you believe God for your deliverance? Deliverance is another word for salvation or rescue. Whatever you need to be delivered from tonight, sin, Satan, sickness, sadness - what is it? Storms of life? Do you believe God to deliver you? That means you need to stop the fretting, you need to stop the panicking, and you need to stop the attempts at manipulating your circumstances to make things better. You need to give up, and give over to God - that's what Moses was saying: 'Stand still, and see the salvation of God', 'I'm going to do this for you today, I will do it!'

Some of you believers really need to do this. You know the armour of God in Ephesians chapter 6, all those different pieces of armour - well, one is pertinent to this, it's called the helmet. What is it the helmet of? Salvation! What did I say was another word for salvation? Deliverance. So it's a helmet of deliverance. When you go to 1 Thessalonians, we find out that it is a helmet of hope. So the helmet of salvation and deliverance is a helmet of hope, do you know what that means? We are to put on our heads - in other words, we are to renew our minds in faith, hoping that God is going to come through for us. Now, is that what we do, or do we get our eyes on Pharaoh breathing down our neck, and the Egyptians? Do we see what they are like, the devil, and do we be so terrified that we are paralysed? Do you know something? I was meditating half of the day yesterday on Psalm 27:13: 'I had fainted if I had not believed that I would see the goodness of God in the land of the living'. Do you know how the NIV translates that? It puts it more positively, it says: 'I am confident that I will see the goodness of God in the land of the living'. What? Do you know what I was saying half of the day to the Lord yesterday? 'Lord, that is now! That's now, that's not when I die and go to heaven, and play some harp' (we're not going to be doing that anyway), but you know that's the way we think: 'Everything will be alright when we get to glory', and nothing for today. The verse says it's now: 'I would have fainted', and I'll tell you I would despair, I would pack it all in, if I did not believe that I would see the goodness of God now. That's the helmet of the hope of deliverance.

Oh, look at this verse 13 again, at the end of it: 'For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever' - isn't that mighty? That's victory! If I was to tell you tonight - and you were an alcoholic tonight, or you're a drug abuser, or you're steeped in pornography or gambling, or whatever it might be - if I was to say to you: 'If you come to Christ tonight you will see that no more forever', you would say 'Boy, that's a tall claim'. It's not me that's making it, I couldn't make that; but I assure

you tonight, if you give your life to Christ, that He will change it. Everything may not happen overnight, but it will happen if you walk with God, if you trust Him with your life, if you obey Him and do everything He tells you to do - I guarantee you, you will see those enemies no more. That's victory! That's our message! That's our message, it's not: 'Say a wee sinner's prayer, and try and do your best until you die or until Jesus comes again - but really, just try and make the best of it'. That's not Christianity! Christianity is a triumphant, all-conquering, victorious message!

Look at chapter 6 and verse 1. Do you remember what God said to Moses when he was a bit fearful of going to Pharaoh? 'Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh'. Have I told you yet that the devil is defeated? Have I told you that this week? He is defeated. I've been quoting Revelation 12, and I want you to turn to it - I don't think we've actually turned to it yet. Keep a marker there in Exodus, go to Revelation 12 till we read it, to show how defeated the devil is. Revelation chapter 12 and verse 9: 'So the great dragon', that's the devil, 'was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation', what does that word salvation mean? Deliverance! 'Now salvation' - deliverance - 'and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death'. That's victory, that's victory! Not just your sins forgiven and the slate wiped clean, victory is power over sin now and victory over the devil in your life - that's the Gospel! Don't water it down.

If you go to Exodus 15, right after the deliverance through the Red Sea - we'll be looking at it in a moment, but most of it tomorrow night - in chapter 15 you've got what is called 'The Song of Moses'. Later on, about verse 20, Miriam, Moses and Aaron's sister takes up a tambourine - I don't know whether she was Elim or not, but she took up a tambourine - and she starts to sing, she was a prophetess. But look at some of the words here in chapter 15, listen to the note of victory, we've lost this note of victory - the first verse of chapter 15, in the middle: 'I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him. The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. The depths have covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble'. Look at verse 11 too, this is a favourite of mine: 'Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?' - small 'g'. But there are gods - small 'g' - you know that? Principalities and powers, these captains in Pharaoh's army, if you like: 'Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?'

Look at verse 16: 'Fear and dread will fall on them; by the greatness of Your arm they will be as still as a stone, till Your people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over whom You have purchased'. Do you know what God wants to do for you tonight, friend? Listen: He wants to take all your fears, all your worries, and all your burdens - and, because of what Jesus did on the cross, He's going to take them all off you and

He's going to put them on the devil. Do you believe that? 'The devil trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees' - the devil gets terrified when he sees a Christian really trusting in God. He can't do anything, he can't do anything with that. I'll tell you something, do you see in Revelation 15 - we'll not go there - but in Revelation 15 there is a crowd in heaven around a glassy sea, and they are the people who have been victorious over the beast, that's the Antichrist, and his whole regime - the mark of the beast and all the rest. Do you know what they are singing? They're singing the song of Moses, the song of Moses and the Lamb.

This is about victory over the devil, that's what we have at the cross! Psalm 24: 'Lift up your heads, O you gates! Be lifted up, you everlasting doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle'. What does Moses song say in verse 3 of chapter 15?: 'The LORD is a man of war' - that's a strange verse, isn't it? But it's true: God is a warrior. We've got so effeminate, no offence to the ladies here - that's not referring to you anyway - but we've become so effeminate, so namby-pamby in our attitude. I believe in grace and graciousness, I try my best, but do you know what I'm saying? God is a man of war, He is the mighty conqueror - let us not forget that. I believe, as I was preparing this, I believe I had to say something here - and it's not any of you, it's to the devil. I believe I have to say this tonight: 'Devil, you're at work in this church, you are at work in this church, but you are defeated, you're defeated!' - and he hears me.

Look at verse 14, back to chapter 14 verse 14: "*The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace*". Oh, isn't that wonderful? You've got to trust the Lord, and then He will fight for you - and you just have to hold your peace. I know that's hard for some of you, but it has to be done. Now, my mind immediately when I read this went - keep a marker in there - to 2 Chronicles, turn to this because you will see such a parallel. Second Chronicles chapter 20 verse 2, and the background is that the people of Moab, people of Ammon, are coming against Jehoshaphat king of Judah. Look at verse 2: 'Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, 'A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar' (which is En Gedi). And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD'. Do you see the similarity here? A great multitude, like Pharaoh and the Egyptians, coming against God's King and His people. I tell you: if you haven't already realised it, there is a great multitude coming against us today. 'Woe unto you who call evil good and good evil', that's what's happening today - whether it's in politics, in the legislature, whether it's even in the ranks of the church, in popular culture. Everybody is feeling this: there is a great multitude coming against us, and it is fearful. Just like the children of Israel feared Pharaoh, Jehoshaphat is fearing the Moabites and the Ammonites - what does he do but, what does he do with his fear? He gets on his face before God, and he seeks the Lord, he proclaims a fast - verse 3 - throughout all Judah. 'So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD' - that's what we need to do. Now I'm not disparaging people with mental illness or anything like that, please don't misunderstand me - but listen: worry needs to be repented of, first and foremost, because it's sin.

The best remedy for fear is faith, and prayer, and seeking God's face. This is what Jehoshaphat does. Look down at verse 14: 'Then the Spirit of the LORD came' - that's what happens when you turn your fear into faith and prayer and fasting - 'The Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the

assembly'. Now look carefully at what happens here: 'And he said, 'Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid'', there it is again, "Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's". Some of you need to underline that! It's not your battle, you stop fighting, let God fight for you. Now, I know I said we've lost our fight, but really what I'm talking about is being behind what the Lord is doing, rather than trying to do the Lord's work for Him. Do you understand?

Look at verse 17: 'You will not need to fight in this battle'. It's just like the Israelites: 'You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves', that's vital, don't just sit on your blessed assurance and do nothing about it, or lie back and say 'We'll let the Lord do everything'. It's not this passivity, you've to position yourself correctly and 'Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them' - they had to do something - 'go out against them, for the LORD is with you'. Don't you love it? And do you know who they sent out at the front? It wasn't the SAS, or their equivalent, they sent the praise band out in front - that's what they did! They sent the musicians, and look at verse 22, they went out praising the Lord, their faith was so great in the Lord that they praised and worshipped, and verse 22 says: 'When they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated'.

Now here's 'The Red Sea Route', OK? I'm summarising here. If you want to go through obstacles in your life, and you want to escape the enemy, here is the Red Sea route: one, it must be faith, not fear. I've said enough on that, haven't I? It must be faith and not fear. Secondly, it must be fight and not flight. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds - and we need to start using them again. But do you know one weapon that is here in Exodus and with Jehoshaphat that we don't often use? It is the weapon of waiting. Did you know that was a weapon? It's the most difficult weapon to wield, I can tell you, but it's one of the most effective weapons there is. Praise, as we've seen, is an antidote for the devil - the devil hates praise.

Look at verse 15 of chapter 14, I haven't got much more to go, verse 15 of chapter 14: 'And the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me?' - that's lovely, isn't it? 'Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward'. Now please don't misunderstand me: prayer is not for the work, prayer is the work. Prayer is the work! Prayer is vital, but there is a time that comes where we need to move from prayer to action. So this is the third principle in 'The Red Sea Route', you need a faith that functions, a faith that functions. Doesn't James 2:20 say: 'Faith without works is dead'? Is it not true, let's be honest, and I'm talking to my own heart here tonight: the things that we profess, we declare, the things we read and we preach, the things we sing and we pray - we could say that many of us go to the church of sanctimonious sentiment in what we say. There is a pastor there, by the way, in Sanctimonious Sentiment Church, Dr Doolittle - and everybody follows Dr Doolittle, because we speak all these creeds and these confessions, but we don't actually do - faith without works is dead. Are you with me? There is so much hot air in the church today, and I know I create an awful lot of it - it's a wonder we're not like a hotair balloon, the only problem is we don't seem to get off the ground ever!

God says: 'Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward'. That is a word from the Lord for someone here tonight. I'm not talking about activity, or work for work's sake - I'm talking about functioning faith, doing the works that God has ordained. Wait till I tell you: you'll never get burnout if you do the things God has ordained for you, it doesn't exist if you do what God is asking you to do, not what men or tradition asks you to do. You'll never burnout: 'My yoke is easy, and My burden is light' - and I had a bit of burnout, so I know what I'm talking about. Romans 14 says: 'That which is not of faith is sin'. So if you're functioning without faith, you're sinning - but you've got to work in faith, and go forward. Now I want to ask you tonight: are you going forward? Unbeliever, are you moving towards Christ or are you moving away from Christ? I pray that some of you will step over the line tonight. But Christian, listen: you can't be standing still! I know it says 'Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD', but they had to go forward in faith with God. There is no such a thing as standing still in the Christian life: you're either going forward or you're going backward. There is no static position.

I was reminded of an old hymn we used to sing years ago in Redemption Hymnal it says:

'When Israel out of bondage came,  
A sea before them lay' - do you know that one?  
'And God put forth His mighty hand,  
And rolled the sea away.

Forward still - 'tis Jehovah's will,  
Though the billows crash and spray.  
With a conquering tread we will push ahead;  
And roll the sea away'.

'Forward still is Jehovah's will' - are you going forward? Look at verse 16: 'Lift up your rod', God said, 'and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea'. 'Lift up your rod', remember we saw the significance of that rod, was it Sunday night? Use what God has given you! So many of us, including myself, are saying: 'Lord, look at the things You haven't given me, look what that person has' - if we just used what God gave us, what we know we have and possess! Imagine for a moment if, collectively and individually as the church, we put together the knowledge we already have, and the resources we already possess, and went forward with them! The result would be what you find in verse 18, look at it: 'Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honour for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen'.

Do you know what God is still doing? Go back with me to chapter 5 verse 2 quickly, I think it's chapter 5 verse 2, it is. Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and say: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness'. Pharaoh said: 'Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go'. God is showing Pharaoh who He is. I believe with all my heart that God is going to answer the critics, God is going to answer the cynics, God is going to answer the sceptics, God is going to answer the naysayers, God is going to do a wonderful work in our day and generation - but we've got to get on 'The Red Sea Route'. We've got to put out fear and start to have faith again, we've got to get our fight back and stop fleeing away from the battle, and we've got to put a function



behind our faith. Then we can cry with authenticity to God from Psalm 68 and verse 28, the NIV puts it like this: 'Summon Your power, O God; show us Your strength, our God, as You have done before' - isn't that a wonderful verse? 'Summon Your power, O God; show us Your strength, our God, as You have done before'.

Are you facing a Red Sea tonight? Is it your sin? Is it your selfishness, your circumstances, whatever? The enemy is behind you, and in obstacle is in front of you, and the mountains are at either side of you, and you've no place to go? I say to you tonight: stand still, trust Jesus who died for you, and you will see the salvation of the Lord. Let us pray. Now, while heads are bowed, just for a moment, let me recite two verses of a poem, two separate poems that are very precious to me over the years. Listen, and they will speak to your heart if you receive them:

"Stand still", my soul, for so the Lord commands:  
E'en when thy way seems blocked, leave it in His wise hands;  
His arm is mighty to divide the wave.  
'Stand still', my soul, 'stand still' and thou shalt see  
How God can work the 'impossible' for thee,  
For with a great deliverance He doth save'.

"Stand still" and thou shalt see how God can work the 'impossible' for thee'. Annie Johnson Flint, who has written some wonderful poems, wrote this:

'Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life,  
Where in spite of all you can do,  
There is no way out, there is no way back,  
There is no other way but through?  
Then wait on the Lord with a trust serene  
Till the night of your fear is gone;  
He will send the wind, He will heap the floods,  
When He says to your soul 'Go on'.

'Go on' - that's what He's saying to some of you tonight: 'Go on. Go out of your sin. Go out of your selfishness. Go out of these circumstances. Go into victory. Go out of your fear'. Now I want to ask first of all tonight, as heads are bowed and eyes are closed: is there anyone here this evening and you're not born again Christian, you've never trusted Christ personally as your Saviour, you've never come to the foot of the cross and said 'I'm sorry for my sins and, Lord, I believe Jesus died for me and it's the only way I'm going to get to God, have my sins pardoned, and be in heaven one day' - but you want to be saved tonight. Maybe fear has been your sin, as it was very much mine. Is there anyone here, and just where you are, while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, you would raise your hand to say 'I want to be a Christian tonight, I want to get right with God'? Just raise your hand quickly, I will see it, we're not going to embarrass you, we want to lead you in a prayer just now quietly between you and the Lord. Is there anyone, just where you're sitting, don't be afraid. Jesus hung naked on a cross for you between heaven and earth, He wasn't ashamed of you - don't be afraid to put your hand up in the air, if you're afraid of putting your hand up in the air, how are you going to tell people and confess Him before men if you can't put your hand up in the air? Is there anyone? Just slip that hand up and down and I'll see it.

Is there a backslider, and you've wandered away from the Lord, you want to come

home tonight. Is there a backslider, just raise your hand and I will see it. Is there a Christian - and if there is no response to this there are liars among you - is there a Christian who knows that they have been in the bondage of fear, or the bondage of some other oppressive force, and you know you need set free tonight, and you know you need faith. Well, guess what: God gives faith, God gives faith. You don't have to try and muster it up. People think faith is standing in front of the mirror saying: 'I do believe, I do believe, I do believe, I do believe' - it's not! God gives it if you go to Him and ask for it. Is there any Christian, and you want to be set free from fear, or you want to be set free from some other power of the enemy - would you raise your hand where you're sitting? There are some truthful people here. You can put your hand down now.

There could be others, and you've been weak in the fight. You're overcome, rather than overcoming. You're a victim, rather than a victor. You're conquered, rather than conquering. You want to avail of the power of the cross tonight, and the victory of Calvary and the resurrection, to take this fight to the devil - not in your strength, but in the power of God alone. Is there anyone who will say: 'I'm going to fight from now on in the power of the Lord, I'm going to put on the armour of God, and I'm going to stand'? Is there anyone? 'I haven't been doing it, and I'm going to do it', God bless you. God bless. God bless. I'm not interested in numbers or anything like that.

Let me help you, if you are here and you didn't put your hand up but you want to be saved, maybe you've been here on another night and you want to be saved, you want to trust Christ - pray this prayer with me. Now it's not a magic spell or a mantra, it's not the words, it's the faith in your heart that God will hear you, and the repentance. Pray this with me from your heart, just between you and the Lord, if you want to trust Him tonight as your Saviour: 'O God, I come to You in the name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I confess I am a sinner, and I repent. I turn from my sin, believing that Jesus died on the cross for me. I ask You to save me now, forgive my sin, cleanse me of it, make me Your child. I confess Jesus Christ as Lord, I renounce Satan and all his works. I ask You now that You will fill me, Father, with the power of the Holy Spirit, that I might live a life of glory to Your name'. If you prayed that prayer, why not tell us tonight. We can help you.

If you're a backslider, pray something similar to it, but just confess your sin and come back to the Lord. If you're a person that has been wracked with fear or other oppressions of the enemy, well, do you know what you need to do? You need to confess your cooperation in that area, you need to say: 'Lord, I'm sorry I worried, I'm sorry I've been fearful, I'm sorry I believed the lies of the devil, I'm sorry for unbelief'. You need to own up to your part in the whole thing. Come and confess to the Lord, say 'I repent of it, Lord, and I renounce it'. If it's something else, if it's other things I've mentioned tonight, just fill in the gaps: 'I repent of that, I confess it, and I renounce it'. Then I want you to do something else, I want you to say: 'Lord Jesus, I believe in the power of Your blood to free me from this bondage, and I ask You to do that now'. Then I want you to do something else, I want you to say now: 'I submit myself to God, and I resist the devil'. There might be a particular demon that's at your heels, it might be fear, that spirit of fear that God hasn't given you. It might be, well, it could be stress, it could be a spirit of heaviness, it could be mind-manipulating, lying, tormenting, deceiving spirits - I don't know what it is. It could be an addictive spirit, it could be a sexual spirit. Well, just say: 'In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command the spirit of', whatever, 'to leave me now. Leave me now, you have nothing

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in me. Jesus Christ is my Lord, you leave me now'.

Father, I thank You for what You're doing tonight. Thank You for what You're doing this week. I don't really understand it all, I don't know it all, but I know something is going on - and I praise You and thank You. Lord, I just come behind what the people in the gathering tonight have been doing, and we agree - those of us who are in touch with You now - we agree, Lord, that the bondage of darkness be broken now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ over lives here, that people will be set free. Enemy, I command you, in the name of Christ Jesus, the Lord of Nazareth, to leave people's lives right now. Go in Jesus' name. I pray, Father, in the name of Jesus Your Son, that You will send the Holy Spirit to fill, baptise, completely immerse, submerge, infill, own and control the people gathered here; that they would be vessels of honour to Your glory. Lord, that we will go forward as Your army for Your glory. For Christ's sake, Amen.

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## Let My People Go - Chapter 5

# "The Red Sea Route Continued"

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**A**s some of you will know, who have been here on previous nights, the Lord has brought a series out of what I've been speaking. I didn't envisage that, but the Holy Spirit obviously did. So we're turning to Exodus again tonight, because we have unfinished business from last night. We started looking at the Red Sea crossing last night, and we didn't quite get across! But we're going to get across tonight! We're going to cross over tonight, the Red Sea that is. Chapter 14 of Exodus. Now this series I've entitled, or the Lord has entitled: 'Let My People Go', that they may serve Me. We've been looking at how Pharaoh is a picture of Satan, and there is a spirit of Pharaoh still alive and well in the earth. Of course, the Bible says that Satan is the god - small 'g' - of this world, that the world lies in the lap of the wicked one.

Now, if you're a theologian - we in east Belfast, sorry to bring this up again, but it's hard not to - we have the shipyard, and we have Shortts (just about), and years ago they used to have Bible classes in the shipyard in particular. My grandfather was a shipyard man, and they used to go and have their lunch, and very instructive times - but sometimes a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. There were some men, not all of them, but there were some men and they thought they had a knowledge of the Bible - we called them 'shipyard theologians'. If they had heard that song 'You're the God of this city', or 'the God of this island', they would have quickly come in and said: 'Oh no, the god of this world is Satan'. But I was praying today with the Lord Psalm 24, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, and the people that dwell therein'. Yes, Satan has his little season for this time, it's his innings, and God is allowing him to do certain things - but this world belongs to God. God is in charge, God is on the throne.

I believe God wants a new Exodus for individual Christians in their lives. God wants them to be delivered. If you're not converted tonight, God wants you to be released and emancipated from the slave market of sin. But I believe - and I'll just be honest with you (terrible for a man in a pulpit to be honest, but I'm going to be honest!) - I believe the reason why I'm here this week (I was asked to do a mission, and I try and respect what I'm asked to do), but I believe the reason why I'm here is because this church needs an exodus. I'm not talking about people going out the door, I'm talking about being delivered from bondage. I'm not telling you what that bondage is, I'm not sure even what it is - but I believe the word of the Lord over this place this week is: 'Let My people go', to the enemy, 'Let My people go that they may serve Me'.

Now, last night we began looking at 'The Red Sea Route', and that was how to break through obstacles and escape the enemy effectively. We saw, just to remind you if you weren't here, if you look at verse 8, you will see that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he pursued the children of Israel. Verse 9 of chapter 14: 'So the Egyptians pursued them', and then by the time we come to verse 10 it says, 'Pharaoh drew near'. We talked about how the enemy is out to get us, he is the enemy of our souls, he seeks to devour us, and he would seek to engender fear within our hearts and intimidate us. That's one of the biggest weapons the enemy has: fear, intimidation. We

see here that the saints of God, Israel, got their eyes on - look at it in verse 10: 'the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and beheld the Egyptians'. If we get our eyes on the devil, we will become just like the Israelites here at the end of verse 10: 'they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD'. They began to renege on this journey, verse 12: 'Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone?'. That's the way a lot of Christians are today. They want to stay in their comfort zone, want the status quo to continue - that's the way churches are. You know, 'We've been doing this for years, and it's been like this for years, and we'll just keep it going the way it's going' - and it's going into the grave! But they are happy to toe the line, hold the line, 'Hold the fort, for I am coming', batten down the hatches, 'Us four and no more, and we'll just keep going the way it's always been going' - and God is not in it. I'm not saying that's what you're doing here, but that's what's happening in a lot of places: 'Let us alone! Don't rock the boat!'. Well, I'm here to rock the boat.

Verse 13: 'And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever''. This was the remedy: "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace'. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward''. Here was 'The Red Sea Route', the points that we found last night. First of all there has got to be faith, not fear. We've got to move from fear into faith, and start believing God - stop listening to the devil, stop listening to society, stop listening to even what the church is saying, popular evangelical culture or whatever. We start listening to the truth of God. Then we need to fight and not flight, we saw that also. We need to get our fight back, our zeal for the Lord, and stop running away, stop being scared of him, and start practising the word of God that: greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Now, we have to be careful, the Archangel Michael dared not bring a railing accusation against Satan over the bones of Moses - read the book of Jude. So we're not to step out of our remit, and start to think we are some big fellow or - I better not say 'big girl', but 'big lady' - well, we'll just forget about that! Big person, alright? We have got nothing of ourselves to face the enemy, we've got to understand that. We need to stand in Christ, that's what it says in Peter: 'He is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, whom resist, steadfast in the faith' - standing in Christ and in His claims. But when we're doing that, do you know when we're doing that, where we are? We are up there in heavenly places, where Christ is seated, far above all principality, power, might, and dominion, every name that is named - that means everything is beneath us, but only when we're dwelling in heavenly realms.

So we need to start fighting and stop fleeing away. Then the third thing we learned last night was: we need a faith that functions. God told Moses in verse 15: 'Why do you cry to Me? Stop your crying out to Me and start doing something!'. Put your prayers into action. Faith without works is dead, and we need more prayer, but we need prayer with action. The word of the Lord in verse 15 at the end was: 'Tell the children of Israel to go forward'. Then in a moment or two the Lord tells Moses to 'Take that rod', verse 16, 'Lift up your rod' - to use what God has given.

Now, tonight we're going to continue - it's 'The Red Sea Route Continued'. The first principle I want you to see from this same chapter is: if we're going to break through the obstacles that are before us, if we're going to escape the enemy into a new Exodus, a new day, a new beginning for the church or in your life - becoming a Christian - you need heavenly help. You need heavenly help. So we're looking at

verses 19 and 20: "And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night". Now that is profound, that is profound. There is this pillar, this cloud, that goes before them; and now it is coming to their rear-guard. This Angel of God is actually the Lord Himself. Now here's how we know that, if you look back at chapter 13 verse 21: 'The LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night'. It says 'The LORD went before them'. We believe, from the totality of Scripture, that often, if not always, when the Angel of the Lord is mentioned that it is what we call a pre-incarnate manifestation of Jesus Christ, or the Word of God, the second Person of the Trinity. Yet there are times when the Angel of the Lord is mentioned where there seems to be a distinguishing from the Lord Himself. It's the same with Jesus, isn't it? Sometimes He is distinguished from God, 'The Word was with God', and yet 'The Word was God'. Yet other times the Angel of the Lord is identified as God, or speaking as God, or being spoken to as God.

Now whatever is the case here, I believe it's the Lord Himself, but He is in verse 19 designated an 'Angel'. Do you know what the word 'Angel' just means? 'Messenger'. Now we know from the book of Hebrews that Jesus is - though He is called 'the Angel of the Lord' before He came in flesh - He is greater than the angels. We've got to beware, because there is in the New Age fraternal an obsession with angels. I have ministered - the power of God, of course - but people I have been ministering to have been delivered of demons that they thought were angels that were coming to guide them and guard them in their life. They were demons masquerading - Satan comes as an angel of light of course, and his demons can do the same. Of course, even in the occult, there can be demonisation from fallen angels, and even in false religion, and even in parts of Christendom, people are worshipping angels. The New Testament is very clear, that you ought not to worship angels - and even when men fell down and were awestruck in the presence of angels, and it would seem gave a semblance of worship, the angel told them: 'Get up on your feet!', we are not to worship angels. But wait till I tell you something: if we're going to break through, if we're really going to break through the obstacles and escape the enemy, we're going to have to be open to angelic assistance.

You see, what happens - and it has happened for years, particularly in conservative evangelicalism - they see an error over here, and they are so terrified of it that out of fear (they are motivated by fear) there is a pendulum swing to the opposite extreme, and they begin to deny the reality that is the kernel biblical truth. It might be over there in extreme, but it is still maybe there. If we're going to see an exodus in our modern day and generation, we've got to be open to angelic assistance - for, after all, one of the compound names of God, remember I started with those on Sunday night? God revealed Himself to Moses as the 'I Am', He had never been revealed like that before, 'Yahweh', we call it 'Jehovah' sometimes. One of His compound names is 'Jehovah-Sabaoth', which means 'The Lord of Hosts', or 'The Lord of Heaven's Armies' - that's our God! You can't say: 'Well, I'll have You, but I'll not have Your army'. I mean, who would do that anyway? If He's got an army, I'll have the army too. Jesus is the King of angels, and we ignore at our peril the whole angelic realm. We need to keep in balance, yes, but wait till I tell you: you'll not be long reading your Bible until you realise that when God shows up, there are usually angels about. It's a bit like

'Shekinah Glory' - if you know anything about that. Study it from Genesis right to Revelation. When God shows up there are often certain phenomena that appear, there can be light, there can be smoke, there can be thunder, there can be all sorts - even darkness can come. There's a whole list of things, but one of the personality types that turn up is an angel. There are Cherubim and Seraphim that attend the very throne of Almighty God.

I try to read the Bible through in a year, and my Bible is all scribbled over, and colours, and colour codes, and nobody could make head nor tail out of it. But I've now started symbols - I've run out of space for colours, and now I'm doing symbols of things. I have a wee symbol of an angel, now it doesn't look like an angel, but it's just like a head with two wings - OK? But I'm astounded, having started reading through the Bible again, the amount of times I have to do that symbol over and over again and again. Here's the reason why, turn with me to Hebrews chapter 1 - keep a marker in there at Exodus, we're going back there - Hebrews chapter 1 verse 14, speaking of angels, and telling us that Jesus is greater than them all, it says here: 'Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?'. Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister, to serve, those who will inherit salvation? I've heard it said that we've got nothing to do with angels, that's God's realm, and He's sovereign, and He dispenses them as He likes. They can't look into the issues of our redemption - and the Bible does say that, but it doesn't mean they have nothing to do with it. This Scripture says the contrary, that actually they are for us, to be dispensed for our disposal and for our help in various types of administrations. In fact, if you read through the book of Revelation, the last book that has an awful lot to say on end times, I tell you, my head with the wings is going dotty as we go through Revelation, because it seems that everything that God is doing He sends angels to do - almost everything, even in the churches there are angels mentioned. But when there are judgements being poured out, when there is even the Gospel of the Kingdom being proclaimed, there are angels going about doing all sorts of wonderful things.

When God does something He often does it through an angel - are you ready for that? Are you open for heavenly help? Are you open for the Lord of Hosts to send His heavenly armies to your assistance? Because if you aren't, I don't think you will really know breakthrough the way you could, and an escape from the enemy. Here is a verse for you to memorise, Psalm 34 and verse 7, what does it say: 'The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them' - what a verse! 'The angel of the LORD encamps', surrounds, 'those who fear Him, and delivers them'. Now, that's what's happening here as the Israelites are coming about to cross the Red Sea. God is before them as a pillar, and He has come now to the rear-guard behind them - this is the Angel of the Lord defending those who fear God. Now, did they understand it? I'm not sure they did. Did they know what was going on? How often is it the case that there has been angelic intervention in our own lives, and it has been unknown to us, we've been ignorant of it? In fact, Hebrew says as much, Hebrews 13 and verse 2 tells us that at times we can entertain angels unawares. In other words, somebody has come across our path - and this was the case often in the Old and New Testament, that angels could appear as humanoid, in human form - and you just think you're talking to a person, when you're not. Maybe it dawns on you afterwards, 'That was a bit weird, there was something strange about that', and you think perhaps an angel has visited you.

I want to ask you tonight: do you ask for angels? Now this is a bit controversial, and

people say: 'No, no, you shouldn't do that, God is sovereign and He dispenses angels'. Well, ask God for angels. I'm not saying we should be walking around like sergeant majors ordering angels about, but God says that these are ministering spirits to minister to those who inherit salvation - that's you, if you're born again! When was the last time you asked for angelic help? I've found myself asking for it quite a lot these days. I haven't seen an angel in a manifest form, but I've seen what angels can do, I've seen it with my actual eyes in deliverance situations. I've seen the fear in the eyes of a spirit when they see the shining holy warrior angels of God coming for them - it's great. I've seen people being bound by angels, people who were going to take my head off. We need our eyes opened, don't we, to the heavenly help that is at our disposal? We need to believe it! We need to have faith!

Turn with me to 2 Kings chapter 6, I love this story, I'm sure many of you know it. Elisha's servant, he's got fear again - this is a bit like the Israelites, who were very afraid when they saw Pharaoh's army. Do you remember, was at last night or the night before, I can't remember, they're all mixed into one now for me! Do you remember Jehoshaphat, and it says there was a great multitude coming against him, and he was afraid. Now we can pat him on the back, at least he went to prayer and he fasted. But here is Elisha's servant, and we find here 2 Kings chapter 6 and verse 15, the servant of Elisha says: 'Alas, my master!', at the end of the verse, 'What shall we do?' - because the Syrian army was surrounding Elisha and his servant and their house. Look at what Elisha says: 'So he answered', verse 16, "Do not fear". How many times have we read that over this week? 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them'. Now, is that the way you assess things right now in your life, in this land, in this world and the universe? Do you believe it? Now, if you were looking with the naked eye at the way things are in our society, you would think the government is against us, the law is going against us, what else? Popular culture is going against us, the devil worshippers are rising up, occult, New Age, alternative mystic Eastern philosophies - everything is against us. The church is going down, attendance is going down, doors are closing, they're turning into mosques, they're turning into restaurants - open your eyes, your spiritual eyes, and understand what the truth is! There is more with us than be with them.

We have to get our eyes opened. Verse 17: 'And Elisha prayed', this is what we need, 'and said, 'LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see'. Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, 'Strike this people, I pray, with blindness'. And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha'. What a wonderful story! One of the best prayers that you could pray is a New Testament prayer in Ephesians, and that is: 'Lord, open the eyes of my understanding, open the eyes of my heart'.

Look at verse 20, back to Exodus 14 verse 20: 'So it came', this presence of God, this Angel of the Lord, God Himself, 'came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night'. It came between them and the enemy. Now, I want you to see now, secondly tonight but fifth in the whole order of this Red Sea route, not just that we need heavenly help - and this follows through from that - we need a perimeter of protection, a perimeter of protection. You see, God's children here in verse 20 needed enlightenment - that's why it was a cloudy pillar probably filled with light, but it was also at night a pillar of fire to



guide them and lead them, to enlighten them. Yet the devil's servants needed to be confused, they needed to be confounded, and that's exactly what happened here. What was light to the children of God was darkness to the children of the evil one.

Now, I have to say that the tables are turned the wrong way today in the church. Hosea says: 'My people are destroyed through lack of knowledge'. There is a lack of enlightenment, and some of you will be appalled at what I'm about to say, but there is no doubt in my mind that some occult practitioners are more in the grip of spiritual realities than many a Christian is. Now, yes, they are deceived, but at least they believe in spiritual realities. The book of James says that even the demons believe and tremble. Sure, the Satanists fast, I think they still fast, regularly, once a week for the destruction of Christian marriages. They believe in fasting, because they know there is power in it. Do Christians? You see, we need to walk as children of light, and we need to start praying this prayer: 'Lord, open the eyes of my heart, that I might see You'. I'm not talking about just spiritual conceptions, I'm talking about where the spiritual dimension and realm becomes more real to you than the material. Can that be? Yes, it can be, if you believe the Bible.

Now, you can be one of these fellows who says: 'Oh, that doesn't happen any more'. God bless you, if that's you, but I'm leaving you - sorry. I can't stay with you on that one. God must be the God of the Bible, or He is not God at all. He is God who changes not, and Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. If Elisha could pray a prayer and say: 'Open this young fellow's eyes and let him see', and it happened, I believe that can happen today. I believe it needs to happen with me, and it needs to happen with all of us. But we also need to be praying the prayer, which is often neglected, of verse 18 of 2 Kings 6, which is: 'Blind the eyes of the enemy', so that the wall of light that you have to guide you is a wall of darkness to the enemy to thwart him, because we need a perimeter of protection around us. Do you believe this?

We need to walk as children of light. I love John 1 and verse 5: 'The light shone into the darkness, and the darkness', the Authorised says, 'comprehended it not', which means the darkness could not overcome it. The light shines on the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it. We need a turning of the tables that have been turned. We need them to be re-turned into the right place, where God will be light to us but He will be a darkness to our enemies, He will blind our enemies, He will confuse and confound them - because we need protection from the enemy. We need protection from the enemy.

Now, I'm going to share my heart, I didn't prepare to say this as such - but I believe what's happening in many churches across our land, maybe our world, but I can only speak for here, is that the protection has been broken down. There is a teaching in the Bible which is a teaching about spiritual covering, I'm not going to go into it tonight, but it is reflected: God is our ultimate covering, but it's reflected throughout society with institutional coverings that God has ordained. One is a husband over a wife, another is a parent over a child, another is a government over a people - but the one I want to address tonight is headship in the local assembly, and leadership over the body. Do you know, if you think of covering - just like an umbrella - whether it's a parent over a child, or a husband over a wife, or leaders over congregations; if you think of a covering as an umbrella, there are a lot of holes in the umbrella, and the holes are created by certain things that are lacking, certain things that are lacking. But when there are holes in the covering, the sheep get hurt, they get damaged, and

brokenness comes in. This is why, if we're really going to see a breakthrough in this day and generation, we need to avail of heavenly help, the hosts of heaven, but we need a perimeter of protection around us. Zechariah chapter 2 and verse 5 says the LORD says: 'I will be a wall of fire all around you, and I will be the glory in the midst'. We need the wall of fire back, because I think it's broken down. The enemy is riding roughshod over God's people, they are overcome.

Do you know what a firewall is? Well, if you're a builder - I'm just realising I'm not a builder, so I don't really know what I'm talking about - but a firewall, I think, is a wall where the fire can't go through, yes? Any builders in our midst? Is that right? Who is a builder? Yes, firewall, fire can't get through. But I'm more familiar with a computer firewall, which you will maybe not know about, eh? A computer firewall, it's the same principle, it's a security network, a software security network that monitors and actually controls - this is literally what it says - incoming and outgoing traffic. It monitors and controls what is coming into your system, and what is going out of the system, and it can block or allow certain things if they are benign, but it can block viruses, people who are wanting to hack into your system - and you know why they are doing that, they want to thief from you, they want to take your identity, and take all the money in your bank account or something along those lines. That's what a firewall is, and we saw the other evening in John 10:10 that the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I want to tell you tonight, and I know I'm ministering mainly to Christians, but listen, you'll get the word of God and the light and the Gospel of truth in all of this: Satan is stealing from you. You think you're maybe enjoying yourself in sin - he's thieving from you, he's killing your life, he's destroying any semblance of existence and satisfaction there is! The only one who can give you life is Jesus. But the reason why it's happening is because you've given him a free for all by your will, the choices you have made, the sins you have engaged in, he's riding roughshod over your life and he's wrecking it.

It's the same with many Christians, it's the same in the church - and it's not the way it's meant to be. God is meant to be round about us for protection. Psalm 125 verse 2 says: 'As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever'. God wants to be our perimeter of protection. There's a good study in the word of God you should do some time, and it's about the hedge. Do you know God puts a hedge around His people, or He wants to? In Job chapter 1 - and I know Job suffered an awful awful lot - but Satan was fit to tell God that Job had a hedge around him, Job 1:10: 'Have You not made a hedge around him', Satan says to God, 'around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land'. That's instructive, isn't it? In fact, in Matthew 21, Jesus talks about the parable that says: 'There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard', and the vineyard is a picture of Israel. But then He goes on to say, and we often miss this: 'And he set a hedge around it'. There is a hedge of protection around Israel, the nation of Israel, do you know that? That's why she has survived, that's why she survived the Holocaust, that's why she has survived all her enemies round about her, and that's why she will survive until the end, until Jesus comes - because God has put a hedge round about her.

But listen to this, you might want to look at this verse, and it applies to everybody here, whatever your situation. Proverbs 25, turn with me to it, Proverbs 25:28 - you can mark this one, because I'm sure if this penetrates your mind and your heart, you will meditate on this in days that are ahead. Proverbs 25:28: 'Whoever has no rule

over his own spirit', OK, if there is a free for all - you know that firewall, if it is down, and there is traffic going in and out, all sorts of rubbish, sin, defilement - 'Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls'. There it is. The book of Nehemiah tells us that one day he visited Jerusalem that had been destroyed, and the walls were all broken down, and he wept. He fasted and he cried to God because of the state of the place. He was commissioned by God to rebuild the walls, and do you know how he rebuilt the walls? You look at the book, there's a lot of instruction there, but one of the things that really is enlightening is: he began building from the gates outward. Now you know what a gate is: it's the weak point, it's the entry point, it's where all that traffic comes in and out. He started at the areas of weakness and built out from there.

I want to ask you tonight: what is your area of weakness? If you're not a Christian tonight, what are the sins that have dragged you down and destroyed your life? They might be secret, or they might be wide open to everybody, and it's wrecking your life. They will take you to hell if you don't get Christ's help tonight. But believer, you're letting the enemy in too. We are all susceptible to this, and we have many gateways in our life. Sure we talk about 'eye-gate', what are you looking at? Porn? Some of you men are, some of you men are addicted to it - that's not prophetic, that's statistical. What are you looking at with your eyes? Are you looking at other people? Are you coveting other people with your eyes? It's not just the lust of the flesh that means sexual immorality, but wanting material things - the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life. Then there is 'ear-gate', what are you listening to? Some of the things we listen to defile us. I'm not just talking about heavy metal rock music or something like that, and that's not good for you - but I'm talking about slander, and gossip, and backbiting, that will defile you. What are we letting into our ears, or even our nose? What are we savouring? What are we smelling? What are we tasting with our mouths? What are we saying with our mouths? What are we touching with our hands? What are we pondering with our minds? These are the gates - even our imagination in our heart - what are we doing with our emotions? Are we exercising our emotions in answer to what the enemy is telling us, rather than what God's word tells us? Are we gripped with fear? What are we doing with our volition? What are we doing with our choice, our behaviours?

Wait till I tell you something: if we are really going to get through the Sea that is before us, and we're going to have an exodus in the church, and we're going to have a new day, we're going to have to get serious with sin. I'm not saying I'm perfect, I'm far from it, and me and the Lord have a running conversation about the weaknesses that I have, and the gates, the areas that I need to deal with - alright? So I'm not all that, but I know this, 2 Corinthians chapter 7 verse 1: 'Therefore, having these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God'. Now you can't get round that, and there is a message going around today of grace that is a false grace, a counterfeit grace, and it says this: 'You can be forgiven, you can know Jesus as your Saviour, and you can live how you like, and there is no consequence' - and that's a lie of the devil. It's a lie of the devil. I believe in grace, I believe grace is greater than all your sins; I believe we're not to look at our own performance, but we're to look to the cross - but it is a false salvation that says you can live in sin wilfully, habitually, and celebrate it almost, without consequence. God's word says the opposite.

So will you - did you know you can cleanse yourself? Will you? If that wasn't in the

Bible, people wouldn't believe me saying that now: you can cleanse yourself. In the book of Revelation it talks about people who are in white robes, and they have washed themselves - they have washed themselves, made themselves ready for the coming of Jesus. Did you know you can cleanse yourself? You can cleanse your flesh, see those works of the flesh - look at Galatians 5 some time when you've time and you'll see the works of the flesh there. Those are the things that we often associate with sin, but do you know what we often don't associate with sin - we associate adultery, and murder, and drunkenness, and all those other things - but we very seldom associate the defilement of the spirit, and that's a whole ream of things. Jealousy, slander, idolatry - and that comes right after 2 Corinthians 6, where Christians were actually sitting at the table of idols as well as the table of the Lord. Their spirit was defiled, Paul had to say to them in Corinthians: 'I'm afraid that you're going to go astray, as Eve was deceived in the Garden by the subtlety of the serpent, that you will be deceived from the simplicity of devotion that is in Christ; that you will accept another Gospel, believe in another Christ, and receive another spirit'.

Christians tell me today: 'Oh no, a Christian couldn't receive another spirit, a Christian couldn't have a demonic spirit on them or whatever'. Do you want to talk to Paul about it? 'I'm afraid, lest you receive another spirit'. What's he talking about? A Christian can believe another gospel, follow another Christ, they can receive another spirit - and if you have a defiled spirit tonight, the enemy may well have got in because of the broken down walls, and the gateways that he is coming in by. That's the answer for your lostness, friend, if you're without Christ tonight - this goes right across the board. What's the answer? Do you know what the answer is? Ephesians chapter 6 verse 16, there is the whole armour of God. Now I'm not going to touch on any other point except Ephesians 6:16, which says: 'Above all, take the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one'. Now, I looked up the Greek, and 'all', do you know what it means? 'All'. That's what it means, all the fiery darts of the evil one. And it says 'above all', and that means 'all' as well, all what? All the other pieces of armour. Now it's all important: the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the girdle of truth, the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit, feet shod in the preparation of the Gospel of peace, and all-prayer - it's all important, but where does that big door shield, it's about 6x3 feet, where does it go logistically? It goes in front of them all. If you don't have a shield, you can have all the armour you like, but you'll not have that perimeter of protection. So God's word says that it is the shield of faith that will protect you against all the fiery darts of the enemy. It's a bit like the Angel of the Lord, Abraham said: 'You are my shield, and my exceeding great reward'. So when you have faith in God, effectively what you're doing is, you're putting God round you: 'God is round about me, then shall I be afraid?'.

Do you take up the shield of faith? That's what God's word says: 'Above all, taking the shield of faith'. Christians often have this laissez-faire attitude: 'Oh, I'm saved, I'm under the blood, I'm in Christ, and I'm protected - the devil cannot touch me'. Bully for you! But that's not what this Scripture teaches, the Scripture teaches that we have to work out our salvation, we are to avail by faith of the things that God has given to us. It says here: 'Above all, taking the shield of faith'. So I want to ask you: do you take up the shield of faith? Do you take it up on a regular basis? Do you take it up daily? You really need to take it up daily! How do you take it up? Well, you believe God.

But there is this aspect that I want to look at quickly, and it's this perimeter of protection. I must have started later tonight, did I? Did I? Tell me I did! A perimeter of

protection, the shield of faith. Now, you understand this, please understand this. I was talking to a pastor at the beginning of the week, and you can take this or leave it - and I can't prove this, but I believe the man. He said he knew for years the truth of the armour of God, but he didn't know how to actually appropriate, in real terms, the efficacy of the armour - and particularly this shield of faith. Then it came to him, this revelation, 'Above all, taking' - that faith is the most important thing. Do you know what he was perturbed about? There seemed to be something broken down in his fellowship, and there was cancer. OK, now I know cancer happens, but he was in prayer interceding, and saying 'Lord, there must be an answer for this, there must be something we can do, there must be some fight we can take to the enemy'. Do you know what he decided? He said: 'I'm going to take the shield of faith', and one day in prayer - now the Spirit of God was on him, I'm not saying everybody can just do this and it will work - but he drew a line in the sand, and he looked at the enemy and said: 'I'm going to tell you now, I'm taking up the shield of faith, and I'm commanding you - enemy - you will not step over this. I declare that there will be no more cancer in this fellowship'. He told me, believe him if you like, that for the last 15 years there has been nobody, there has been nobody, and I think they have 120 in membership. You say: 'That's a coincidence', I will choose to believe God.

But here's where I'm going: have you got a perimeter of protection around you, or is the devil having a free for all? Have you got a perimeter of protection around your family? Job prayed regularly and made sacrifices for his children who were ungodly, and I believe it was for a perimeter of protection. Do you have a perimeter of protection around your marriage? Around your children? Is there a perimeter of protection around this fellowship or is it broken down?

Look at verse 22 of Exodus chapter 14: 'So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left'. Now this is amazing, because the tables are being turned here, aren't they? The sea, what was it? It was their barrier, and now it becomes their blessing. The sea's wall of protection - it was a hindrance, now it's their help. It was going to drown them, and now it's defending them. It would kill them, now it's keeping them. God can do that - sure, we believe in the God who can turn death into life! Jesus died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, was buried, rose again according to the Scriptures. Listen, friend, if you're not saved tonight, He can turn everything around for you, everything around for you! He can give you new life.

Genesis 50 verse 20: what the enemy means for evil, God can work for good. Romans 8 verse 28: God works all things together for good to them that love God, to those that are called according to His purpose. Even the wrath of man, God can cause to praise Him. Sure, in the book of Revelation chapter 3 verse 9 we read, God says to a church there: 'I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie; indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you' - that's what the Lord is able to do! He is able to turn everything.

Look at verse 24: 'Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians'. That's just wonderful! You picture this in your mind's eye, OK? This big pillar of cloud, I don't know whether they saw it, and it was darkness to the Egyptians - and there are these two big eyes, the Almighty God

looking down on them. I'll tell you something, the enemy might be watching you, but God is watching the enemy; God's eye is on the enemy. It says here: God troubled them. God is troubling the enemy. I believe a lot of the disturbance that is going on in this place this week, and in my own life too - and you don't know all about that - but it's because the enemy is troubled. God is troubling the enemy, and it says that He troubled the army of the Egyptians, and more than that: it says He took their wheels off! That's what He did, look at verse 25: 'He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians''. Lord God Almighty, that You would take the wheels off the chariot run of the devil on the church, on our nation, and on our lives! Take the wheels off, Lord, and let the enemy know that You love us!

Look at verse 26: 'Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand''. Now here's the third thing I'm sharing with you tonight, and this is the sixth point of 'The Red Sea Route': be prepared to share in the miracle. Be prepared to share in the miracle. Look at verse 26: 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen'. I think it's peculiar - it's right across the church - but I think it's peculiar to Ulster, and maybe Ireland, and maybe the British Isles, I'm not sure but particularly our land: it's a false idea of humility. Do you see if anybody gets bold, anybody gets confident in God? People start saying: 'Oh, he thinks he is somebody. Who does he think he is?'. We have this sheepish idea that we have to say, and we are always saying 'Oh, I give praise to God for that, I glorify God for that' - listen, God wants you to be a part of the miracle. Yes, it's all of God, yes, God gets the glory - but He uses means. We saw that He uses angels, but He also uses human messengers, He uses men and women and children. You need to be prepared to share in the miracle.

Look at the feeding of the 5000, Jesus prayed and He blessed the loaves and fishes, but He distributed it to the disciples, and the disciples distributed the loaves and fishes to everybody else. They actually became part of the miracle, that's what God wants to happen! Do you know what true humility is? It's taking your true place in the will of God, your true place. Do you know what that is? It's being who He says you are, it's knowing what He has given you. It's amazing how He allows us to share in the victory and the breakthrough. Let me turn you quickly - and I'm nearly finished - to Luke chapter 10, how He allows us to share in the victory. Verse 17 - He sent out the twelve, and He give them authority over disease, death, demons, sickness - in verse 17 He sends out the 70, or the 72 some versions say: 'They returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name''. Do you know that that's the case? 'And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven''. Now some people think that refers to Satan falling out of heaven at the original rebellion we read about in Revelation 20, that's probably the case - but there is another stream of thought, that Jesus actually saw Satan fall that moment from his high point in heaven, he was being overcome by what these disciples were doing in the will of God. He was toppling.

Then in verse 19: 'Behold', Jesus says, 'I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven'. Look at verse 28 of chapter 14 of Exodus, this is wonderful: 'Then the waters returned' - the waters have parted, they are crossing over, they have got to the other side - 'Then the waters returned and

covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them'. Look at this: 'Not so much as one of them remained'. Not one remained! That's absolute victory. Verse 29: 'But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left'. Verse 30: 'So the LORD saved Israel that day' - can I ask you tonight: are you saved? Are you saved? That's a Bible word, saved from your sin, saved from your selfish ways, saved from hell? That's what lost people need.

Verse 31, this is what the church needs: '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'. The church needs to see the power of God again, they need to fear the Lord, and they need to believe. I want to challenge you tonight - I don't have time to take you through this - but you go to the Acts of the Apostles and read it, and note that the fear of the Lord comes upon every soul, and many wonders and signs are done through the apostles and the early disciples over and over again. Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira are slain because they lied to the Holy Spirit, and great fear comes upon all. Acts chapter 19, the Ephesian people who had believed and were still dabbling in darkness, feared when they saw what demons were doing to people, and so they got a big bonfire and burned all the things. It says: 'The word of God grew mightily, and fear came upon all the vicinity'. We need to get the fear of God back.

Let me recap the Red Sea route: faith not fear, fight not flight, faith that functions, heavenly help from the Lord of Hosts, a perimeter of protection around us all, and be prepared to share in the miracle. Can you say tonight: 'I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind - the God of the Angel armies is always by my side'. Let us pray. Let me just take a moment or two - is there anyone here and you're not saved, you're not a true child of God, you've never been born again, you've never been forgiven, you've never repented, changed your mind and your heart about your sin and turned to Jesus for salvation, trusted in His cross alone for forgiveness - but you want to tonight. You know that your sin is destroying you, and you have let it in in various ways - but now it's got a grip on you, and you're a slave to sin, and you want to be free tonight. Where you're sitting, as heads are bowed and eyes are closed, I would ask if you would be willing, as a declaration of your need tonight, that you would just raise your hand where you're seated to say: 'I need Christ, I need to be saved, I need to be right with God'? Just quickly raise your hand, we will see it, and you can put it down. Is there anyone?

Are there any backsliders in the gathering, people who have once professed faith in the Lord, but you have let the enemy in and he's got a foothold in your life? You need to come home, you're a prodigal - will you raise your hand and say: 'I want to come home'? Is there anyone? Now I want all heads bowed, please, and eyes closed, just to respect people's privacy - it's between them and the Lord. Can I ask: are there any fathers, husbands, leaders, and you know that you've allowed a breach in the covering, and the walls are down? While just the eye of God is on you tonight, would you be willing to say: 'Yes, that's me'? I'm not going to ask you to put your hand up for that one, OK? But would you be willing to say: 'Yes, that's me'? Would you be willing, even as a church, to set in order the things that are lacking - whatever that is? Would you be willing, as an individual, to start at the weak points, those gates of entry, and strengthen those? You might need help with that, you might need to get a whole lot of beasts out from your heart before you put the wall up - but would you be willing to start building tonight?

This is a word from the Lord, a true word from God. I don't want to heap it on heavy, but we are all responsible for how we respond to this word from God, we're all responsible. If it makes you feel better, I'll probably answer more for it than any of you - and that doesn't thrill me, I can tell you, because I know what I'm like.

Father, I pray that You will have mercy - we know You have. We thank You for Your grace, we just pray, Lord, that we will set our navigators to this route of exodus, to cross over those obstacles and to escape the enemy, so that You may have the glory - and so that Your fear might be known, that many will see it and fear, and many will trust in the Lord. Come on, Lord, now we pray, Amen.

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## Let My People Go - Chapter 6

# "Wholeness In Christ"

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**W**ell, good evening everyone! It's good to be here, I hope you agree. It has certainly been good for me to be here with you all week, it has been a real blessing to fellowship with you all and, most importantly, to know the Lord's presence and His blessing. We have enjoyed good times of that. God has been speaking and doing stuff in our midst - we don't know all that is going on, obviously, but we know some of the things, and we are encouraged; but we are looking for more, there is always more, isn't there? We're looking for that tonight.

I want you to turn with me to Exodus again, chapter 15, Exodus chapter 15. Now we have been led by the Lord - I definitely wouldn't have chosen what we've been doing these nights - but we have been led by God to look at the whole exodus, the whole beginning of the book of Exodus, but the story of the exodus of the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. We have entitled this series: 'Let My People Go', that they may serve Me. We have really been preaching, I suppose, primarily to the church, but also to those who are in the bondage of sin and need to be set free from the world, the flesh, and the devil - that the Lord wants you to be liberated and emancipated; He wants you to go from slavery to freedom; He wants you to go from death unto life; from the kingdom of darkness, which is bondage, into the kingdom of His Dear Son, which is true liberty in the Gospel. But this Gospel is not just for unbelievers, it's for all of us, Christians included - because we continue to work out what God has put into us.

Tonight we're going to look at - and if you want a heading it will be 'Wholeness In Christ', and I'll explain what that is as we go through. But we're going to read from verse 20 down to the end of the chapter of chapter 15. The context is that the Israelites have now come over the Red Sea, and there is the Song of Moses, and Miriam is now taking up a tambourine - verse 20: *"Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them: 'Sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!'. So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people complained against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'. So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them, and said, 'If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you'. Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters".*

We've been looking at the exodus, and of course the theme is that Pharaoh has God's

people in his grip. We saw that Pharaoh is a very graphic picture of the devil, and there is still a spirit of Pharaoh at work in our particular day and generation. But we have seen the power of the blood of Jesus - Exodus 12 - to release, to break the power of the enemy. Jesus is stronger than Satan, and Satan to Jesus must bow. Amen? If you're a Christian tonight, you can say: 'Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world'. I know the devil is very powerful, and we ought not to underestimate the potency of the network of influence that he has in this world - but God is greater, Jesus Christ is higher, He is Lord of all! So the Israelites are delivered, there is a wonderful verse in chapter 19 and verse 4, if you look at it. God speaks to them of what He has done - delivering them from slavery, through the Red Sea, and on their way to the promised land - and He says: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself'. Isn't that beautiful? That's what the Lord has done for you if you're saved tonight: He has borne you, picture it, borne you on eagles' wings and brought you to Himself.

But do you know something? A mistake we often make in evangelical Christianity is: we fail to realise that conversion, the new birth, the moment of justification is only the beginning. You know that, don't you? Yet so many of us, even in our preaching and in the emphasis of our churches is: 'We need to get people saved', and that's correct, but that's often where we stop. According to the story here in Exodus, Deuteronomy 6:23 says: 'Then He brought us out from there', that's Egypt, bondage, 'Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers'. So there is this concept: He brought us out to take us in. You see, conversion is only a threshold experience - do you understand what I mean? You're only going through the door of the house, and there is the whole house of salvation that God wants you to explore, and the resources of which to expend. If you know the Old Testament, you will know that God led the children of Israel out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, through the wilderness to get to the promised land - that was God's goal.

Now, we have been affected, for good, by many hymns that we have in our hymnals - we've also been affected adversely in our theology and our teaching by some hymns. Often 'Canaan land' is identified as being heaven. Now, I understand the reason for that, but that is wrong. Canaan land, the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey that was promised to the Israelites is not heaven when you die, it's actually heaven when you live. It's the victorious Christian life now. One of the reasons I know that is: they had to fight to possess the promised land - we're not going to have to fight to get into heaven, at least I hope you don't have to! You shouldn't have to, because we get there through the finished work of Jesus! We're not going to spend our time in glory fighting - I know we spend our time down here fighting in churches, but that's not what heaven is going to be like!

So the promised land is the victorious, overcoming Christian life, where we defeat our enemies and we effectively live a life in the power of the Spirit. Now, if you're a Christian any length on the road you will know that's something you have to fight for, that's not easy. I quoted the other evening Matthew 11:12: 'From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force'. They seize it as a prize! You see, you've got to be determined. There can be no passivity, no lacklustre attitude if you're a Christian - and that's often the laissez-faire attitude that prevails today in the church, and that's why we're not getting anywhere. We've got to fight to possess our possessions, we've got to put our foot on the land that God has promised us and claim it by faith. There will be enemies that will seek to

thwart us, but we must fight on - forward still is Jehovah's will.

So we see here at the exodus, passing through the Red Sea, that ground had to be gained, regained for God. There had to be a recovery of what was God's. I want to ask you tonight, believer: are you saved and stuck? Our land is full of people like that. Now I do need to ask folk here: are you saved at all? You need Christ, you need to repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ - that is vitally important. But many people have taken that step, and that's where they have stayed, they haven't moved on any further. Then I ask another question of you: if you are saved and stuck, why is that? Do you know why it is? Some people don't. They want to move forward, they want to go on, but there is something holding them back, and they don't really perceive what that is.

When we look at the exodus we see that it only took one night to get the Israelites out of Egypt, but as we go on to read the narrative we find out it took 40 years to get Egypt out of the Israelites. Interesting, isn't it? One of the best illustrations I've ever heard of conversion as opposed to sanctification - you know what that means: coming to Christ, as opposed to actually a work being done in your life where you are matured and you grow as a Christian, and sin falls off, and selfishness, and the flesh, and the world don't be as big an encroachment upon you. It's of a bird that is caught in an oil slick, some of you may have heard me using this before. You imagine a bird out there in the ocean, and a big oil tanker bursts and the slick is everywhere, and the wildlife is caught up in it. Some wildlife welfare people will probably get a speedboat, and take it out into the middle of the oil slick, and they will take the birds out of the oil, put them in the boat, and then they will probably take them to the shore where they have some resources. They will begin the painstaking exercise of taking the oil out of the bird. They have taken the bird out of the oil, but the oil still has to be taken out of the bird - because if that bird tries to fly it will break its wings, bones, it will pull muscles, and it certainly won't take off. That's why a lot of Christians come to Christ, but they never make anything of it, they never fly. They have been taken out of the kingdom of darkness and have been planted, positionally, into the kingdom of light - but there is so much darkness still in them, that's what we see with these Israelites.

We ask the question: how long should it have taken them to get Egypt out of their system? Or, to put it another way: how long should it have taken them to get from Egypt to Canaan land? Do you know how long it should have took them? Ten or eleven days! The distance was only about 200 miles, 250 miles or thereabouts - it should have taken them ten or eleven days, and it took them 40 years! Now, figure that - how does that work out? Some of us might say: 'Well, God is slow'. Now, be honest, do you ever feel that about God? 'Boy, I wish He would hurry up!'. You've been praying for something for years, or you've been waiting on a particular breakthrough, and you might think: 'Is God wasting time?'. Now, I know you wouldn't articulate that, you're all good, clean Christians, and we don't say things like that - but you know the Lord reads your heart anyway, so you might as well say it. But you see, the fact of the matter is: God - He's not wasting time and He's not slow, because God is never late. Now, understand that: God is never late, that's why He's never in a hurry, because He's never late! He is always on time! He doesn't waste even a millisecond more than we need! The only reason why we mightn't be experiencing breakthrough right now in our own lives is - wait for it: because you're not ready.

Now, I know that's hard to take, I don't like it either. You see, we all want shortcuts to

blessing. Of course, we live in a very instant formula orientated world. You know: 'Just tell me what to do, and I'll do it, and everything will come together'. But God's concept of time is very different than ours - you do know that? One day with the Lord is a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. So He is not fazed, He is not panicked, He can wait! The blessing will be as quick in your life as you get with God's programme - do you understand? If you want to be quick, you get with it - but the reason why it often is so slow is because we really need more time, we need it, not God!

If any of you have a dog from a puppy, have you ever tried to train it or take it a walk when it's just that wee tiny pup? I saw a man out the other morning when I was taking the children to school, and he had one of those wee Maltese fluffy white balls of a dog - and he couldn't get out of our park with it. It just put the backside down on the pavement, and wouldn't move, and he had to drag it! I put the window down, and I said: 'You may take that dog home, it's not going anywhere today!' - and he did, he turned round on his heels and walked home! Have you ever done that? Have you ever taken a pup for a walk, and sometimes what will happen is: you put the lead on the dog, and you will stand there, and the dog will play with the lead, and go around and play with the lead - and what do you do? Well, if you're patient, you'll just stand there and wait until the dog realises it's going a walk, and you're in charge.

Now, that's exactly what God did with the children of Israel. They got in their hissy fits, they started murmuring, they were unbelieving in heart, they got mixed up in a whole lot of sins of the Canaanite people that they were meant to put out of the land, but they ended up partaking of their wickedness. So God is so patient, He just stands there and watches and waits, till they get with the program and walk in time with God. You see, all of us want Canaan, but we want it on our terms - isn't that right? Can I say something to you tonight: I want blessing with all my heart, but the worst thing that can happen is for a man or a woman to succeed before they are ready, because it will be a premature birth, it will be a miscarriage, it will be something that will not last. If we're going to have something that is genuine, and something that blesses to the thousandth generation - which is what God wants - we need to be in God's timetable.

I have realised that I have the capacity - and so have you - to make the journey that you're on longer than it should be; but do you know what you can't do? You can't make it shorter. I want you to hear that, because that's a revelation to some of you. You can make the journey longer, like the pup, by the way you're getting on; but you cannot shorten the journey, it's got to be in His time on His terms. Now, you can quicken it up for yourself by getting with the program, but we all need work, all of us - and that often takes time.

The first thing I want to share with you tonight is: a work of healing needs to be done in our lives. If we're going to get to the place of promised blessing, the Canaan land in our lives, knowing that heavenly life - Ephesians says: 'We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus'. So that means that while I'm on earth, it's like I'm in two places at once: I can be in heavenly blessings, I can have my head in heavenly blessings - Paul says, 'Set your affections, your minds, on things which are above' - so I'm down here below in this rotten world of sin, and yet I can still experience a heavenly life now. But, for some of you, you're not experiencing that because there is healing that needs to be done.

Look at verse 22 of Exodus 15: 'Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water' - three days, OK? Now on the first day, oh, they are singing and dancing. Miriam has got the tambourine out, right? First day: 'God has delivered us from Pharaoh. He has drowned and all his armies in the Red Sea, and look, we're on the other side! Our enemies are all behind us, not one of them is left!'. That's day one. Day two: the heat of the wilderness sets in. Day three: you know, don't you, that you can only go three days without water? You know that? Then you're dead. So it's three days they are in the heat the wilderness, no water, no food, and they start moaning, grumbling, murmuring - you would do the same. They are at the point of death.

Now, God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. I'm not being irreverent, but He's hard to understand at times. Look at verse 23: 'Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah'. So you imagine them three days in the wilderness, now they are at the point of total exhaustion, and they see on the horizon - maybe it's a mirage, you know the way the mind plays tricks in the desert with no water, maybe it's a mirage - but it is water! It's an expanse of water, and they run to it! They fill their hands with it, and they put it in their mouths - and it's bitter! Now, what do you start thinking? 'God, are You sadistic or what?'. I'm being serious: 'Are You having a laugh?'. Have you ever felt like that? 'You know what I need, and You know when I need it', and all of a sudden this comes along and appears to be the answer to my problem, but it's not!

I think there are probably people here tonight, and you're frustrated not because of what God has done, but because of what He's not doing. He's not coming through for you at the time that you need Him. He's not doing something that you have asked Him to do. Here, do you know what 'Marah' means? They called this place 'Marah' because of the bitterness of the water, that's exactly what 'Marah' means, 'bitterness'. Maybe you're here tonight, and like the Israelites, you're remembering the bitterness of the past: slavery in Egypt. I mean, they had a lot of stuff they had to work through. They experienced, was it 430 years in Egyptian bondage, there was generational slavery going on here that we can't even enter into in our psyche in our modern era. They had to work through this generational inheritance of persecution, and yet now they're having this present current trauma of nearly dying of thirst, and now coming to this brick wall of frustration of these waters.

Now listen, here's a principle you will need to learn as a Christian: at times the Lord forces us to confront the hurts of our past that are hindering us. At times He does frustrate us, because it's the only way we'll face those painful things. Are you hearing what I'm saying? Sometimes it has to happen, because we will ignore them, we will push them into a dark place that we think doesn't exist. We will suppress them, deny them, but eventually they will come to visit us. So the Lord is actually being gracious when, at times, He frustrates our way - because He knows that we need healing. Now I know that I'm speaking to folk here tonight, there are folk in this place and you need the healing touch of the Lord Jesus Christ on your life. I've got good news for you, because He said: 'The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to preach glad tidings to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to set at liberty to the captives, to give recovery of sight to the blind; to preach the acceptable year of the LORD'. The acceptable year of the Lord is the year when land is returned, so what has been taken off you by the enemy is given back, the years that the locusts have eaten.

The debts are cancelled, that means you are cleansed of all your sin, no condemnation in Christ Jesus; and the slaves are released in the year of Jubilee, Jesus came to bring the spiritual year of Jubilee.

Psalms 147 verse 3 says: 'He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds'. Isn't He a wonderful Saviour? 'A bruised reed shall He not break, a smoking flax shall He not quench' - that means, if you're just hung over like a bruised bulrush, by the last sinew you're hanging on to your life, Jesus is not the type of person to come along and break you in two. He wants to restore you, He wants to heal you. 'A smoking flax He will not quench', blowing out a candle - the last dying embers of your life may be just about to be puffed out, but He won't come along and lick His thumb and His finger and put out your last breath. He will fan you to flame, in fact He will give you true life - but you need the hurts healed.

Wholeness is God's goal for you, do you know that? Just like Canaan, the promised land was God's goal for Israel, wholeness is God's goal for you. That's more than just getting your sins forgiven, although that is a part of it. Now, when I talk about 'a holistic Gospel' people start panicking: 'Oh, here he is, he's away with the band again, and it's New Age this time, holistic medicine'. That's immediately - and it's unfortunate that the New Age and Eastern mysticism use this term, holistic therapies and so on - I think we ought to take it back, because we actually own it. The only holistic, true good news and effective healing method is the Gospel of Jesus, because it fixes mind, body, soul, and spirit - it fixes the whole person.

Would you turn with me to 1 Thessalonians 5, please, 1 Thessalonians 5 - keep a marker in Exodus 15 there. First Thessalonians 5, I love these verses, verses 23 and 24: 'Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you', make you holy, 'completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it'. This is God's objective in your life, The Message puts it like this: 'May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together - spirit, soul, and body - and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If He said it, He'll do it!'. Amen! He wants you to be put together, to be fixed, to be mended, spirit, soul and body. So often when we think of healing we just reserve it to the body, to physical disease, illness, and ailments; or we reserve it just to the area of sins forgiven, and having the slate wiped clean - but let me tell you tonight: God is interested in the whole person. He's interested in everything about you: your mind, your mental health; your heart, your emotional well-being; and your spirituality; and your physicality.

If you go to the New Age to get their holistic stuff, you'll get a demon - I'll tell you that for nothing, they'll not do it for nothing, mind you - but if you come to God, you will get His Shalom peace. The God of peace wants to fix you, put you together. Do you know what 'Shalom' means? Maybe you've been to Israel and you hear them saying 'Shalom' the way we say 'Hello'? So often people think the word that means 'peace' in Hebrew, 'Shalom', means the absence of war. That is part of what 'peace' means, isn't it, that's why we shake hands in our society - did you know that? It signifies putting down arms, putting down the sword, and making peace with one another. But God's 'Shalom' peace is not the absence of war only, it is actually the presence of health, wholeness, life, and vitality. In the New Testament there is a word, 'Zoe', and it's the word for 'life'. It speaks of superabundant, absolute fullness of life. Jesus said in John

10:10: 'The thief comes', the devil, 'to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full, life that is overflowing'. Maybe some of you in Sunday School used to sing that: 'My cup's full and running over'. We should start singing that again to get our cups full and running over with the 'Zoe' life of the Lord Jesus Christ - that abundant life that rises up as a well within us, a spring, a fountain that flows out of us as rivers of living water to touch others.

You see, this is the Gospel! Now, how can this happen? How can this happen? How can God take broken people like us, broken in our minds, broken in our hearts, even broken in our bodies, broken through sin, broken through guilt, broken through what the devil has done to us - how can He get us and make us holy and whole, and put us together, spirit, soul, and body, so that we are acceptable in His sight? Here's your answer, Colossians chapter 1 verse 12: 'He has made peace by the blood of His cross' - it's the cross! That's the answer! Look at verse 25, for here is the cross: 'So Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree'.

Can I tell you where this life, this peace is found? It's found at the cross, it's found at the tree, where Peter says: 'Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree'. God said to Moses: 'Take that tree', I don't know why it was the particular tree that it was, but he took the tree and he threw it into the Marah waters and the bitterness was taken away. Do you know that Jesus on the cross took your bitterness, took your brokenness, took your fallenness? You know, I talked about the Passover the other night when we were preaching on Exodus 12, and we spoke about how part of what the Passover is is not just a roasted lamb and unleavened bread and salty water for their tears that they had in Egypt, but there is the bitter herbs. The bitter herbs speak of the suffering, the bitterness that they experienced in the slavery of Egypt. Jesus said that He took the wormwood and the gall, that's the bitterness of our sins, the poison of it all - He took it so that we could be healed and released!

God's word to you tonight, whether you're a Christian or not, the message is the same for us all: you need to lay down your bitterness. We talk about repenting of sin, that's very general, isn't it? But, you see, Jesus is very hard on this, He says: 'Your Father in heaven won't forgive you if you won't forgive your brother'. You can try and explain that one away how you like, but that's what it says, and it means what it says. You'll not enjoy the forgiveness of God, if you won't forgive your brother or sister. Some of you are not breaking through into the promised land of the Spirit-filled life, and a heavenly life down here on earth, because you've got bitterness in your heart. Maybe you've got bitterness because of things that happened in the past, like the Israelites. Maybe your bitterness is not even to another in the flesh, but you're actually bitter toward God because of how He didn't come through for you, or how you feel He allowed certain things to happen to you, or He let you down in some way. That bitterness has caused now a root of bitterness to go deep down, spreading its roots right throughout your whole being.

What you need to do tonight is realise that if you come to the foot of the cross, where Jesus took all the bitterness that you have ever shown and that has ever been foisted upon you, if you come to the foot of the cross He will heal your bitter waters. You will need to forgive, though. You need to forgive, as Christ has forgiven you. You will need to follow His example as He hung on the cross and said: 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing'. That wasn't meaning that all these soldiers were going to heaven - some of them were converted eventually - but it wasn't talking about

salvation, it was talking about Jesus as a human being. I know He was the Son of God, but as a human being He was offering up the wrongs that were being done to Him to His Father in heaven, who judges righteously, because He didn't want any bitterness in His heart. He knew how to do things right, so He offered all the bitterness up to God. He's being nailed to the cross, and not only that: He's bearing the sins of the men that are in front of him, and indeed the sins of the world, your sins and mine - and He says, 'Father, forgive them'.

You need to lay down your bitterness, you need to forgive as He has forgiven you. There is something else you need to do - and I'm actually telling you practically what you need to do, right even at this moment you can do this - you need to ask Him to take the hurt of that incident, or whatever that person did to you, or put it in your own terms. You need to say: 'Lord Jesus, I believe You died on the cross to heal me and to save me, and I ask You now to take that hurt' - whatever it is, you name it - 'out of my soul'. You can do it now. 'Take it out of my soul', and then the next thing to ask Him to do when He does that - and you can even picture that scene, where you were at that time, that place, that event, go there right now and ask Jesus to take it out of your soul. Watch what He does, He often shows up, watch what He does, look for Him, and then ask Him to replace that hurt with some of His good virtues: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control.

You see, you've got to come to the cross. It says in verse 25: 'He cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet' - that is sweet, isn't it? I think there's somebody in this place tonight, and you think your bitterness cannot be solved - but I want to tell you tonight: it can, if you come to the foot of the cross. If you come to Jesus, the Great Physician, He will make - that's amazing - a bitter thing sweet. He's not making it palatable, He's not helping you to swallow it, He's going to make it sweet.

Now, some theologians have some ideas about this water. Some of them are strange, I don't know how much we can put by them. There's a man by the name of Buckingham, and he speculates that even though the waters were now drinkable (when the tree was thrown in it, and they were made bitter to sweet), there was still a significant amount of magnesium and calcium content in the water. I don't know how he knows this, but he says that that magnesium and calcium will have a significant laxative effect. He is serious. He goes on to say that he believes that part of what God was doing, was to clean out the digestive system of the Israelites, cleansing them of many common Egyptian ailments such as dysentery, and another particular weakening disease common among Egyptian peasants and slaves. So God was possibly cleansing the water and making it sweet, but also cleansing their system. In addition, this man says, there would also have been high degrees of calcium and magnesium together in the water that actually formed the basis of a drug called 'dolomite', which is today used by athletes - do you know what for? As a performance enhancer in hot weather conditions.

Here are these children of God, and they are going to walk through a wilderness, and God is providing the right medicine - possibly - to clean out their system and to prepare them for a long, hard, hot march to Sinai. I can't prove that, I don't know if he can either, but I'll tell you this much: what is true is that God wants to clean you out too. It's good for you, you know. My great grandad lived until he was 100, he did! I knew him well, he only died 16 years ago. He was born in 1900 and he died in the year



2000. He got the telegram from the Queen and everything. He was like a miracle himself, do you know what he swore by? Andrews Liver Salts, once a week - that's right! He says it worked wonders. He went to the doctor one time, and he was asked why he was so healthy, he says: 'I take a tonic every night'. The doctor said: 'What's the tonic?'. He said: 'A glass of milk with a teaspoon of whiskey in it' - and the doctor nearly fell off the seat laughing, 'A teaspoon of whiskey, as if that's going to do you any good. It'll do you no harm, but probably do you no good, that'. His hair was grey and it started to go back to black again - so I'm hoping I've got his genes!

But listen, tonight: we need a spiritual detox. We need completely cleansed of all the influences of Egypt in our lives, if we are wanting to be healed. You see, people come: 'Pray over me, I've got this problem, that problem, the other problem, I want God to fix me!' - but they're not willing to meet God on His terms. It's not easy, it's hard, and it can be painful. There are a lot of those hurts and bitternesses that you've had, you've pushed them down, you don't hardly know they're there, because they're difficult to face - but God needs you to face them in His presence. It's not an easy thing to forgive - if it's easy, it's not forgiveness. Did you hear me? If it's easy, it's not forgiveness.

God was not only interested in getting Israel out of Egypt, He wanted Egypt out of Israel spiritually and physically. But it was conditional, look at verse 26, the Lord said to the people: 'If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you'. That is Jehovah-Rapha, 'The LORD Our Healer' - we saw it last Sunday night, didn't we? One of the compound names of Jehovah: 'The LORD Who Heals' - but this is conditional, 'If you heed My voice, do what's right in My sight, give ear to My commandments'; if you agree with God, obey what He says. Are you obeying God? God has told you to do something, you haven't done it, and you're wondering why you're still standing there on the leash, and you're not allowed to move any further, and you haven't gone on into your promised land, and you're not knowing the blessings of abundant life - because you haven't done what He's told you to do! He is not in a hurry, He'll wait.

You know, God was going to give the law at Mount Sinai, and a lot of the laws - many scholars believe that God's laws would have a direct impact on the hygiene and health of the Israelites as they went through the wilderness. For instance, circumcision, quarantine, washing themselves in running water, kosher food laws - that it would keep disease far from them. I believe that, but I'll tell you something else: there was a supernatural dimension to this, that God was putting a hedge around them so that the enemy's diseases would not touch them. Now I know God can use sickness in people's lives, but never ever say God sends sickness, never ever say that unless you know that. He can send it, we've seen it in the Bible, for various reasons against His enemies, but be very careful - a lot of people are bandying things around, and attributing to God things He never did. We live in a fallen world, and that wasn't His fault. We live in a fallen world, there is sickness, there is disease - but it's not His fault.

Look at chapter 23 and verse 25, this is supernatural - it can't be anything else: 'So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you'. Isn't that wonderful? Now, we are so often obsessed with physical healing - and don't misunderstand me, I believe in it. But

a lot of physical diseases, sicknesses, and ailments come from mental, emotional, and spiritual causes. The enemy loves brokenness, he loves bitterness, and if he can manipulate that in our spirit he will make the bones ache, literally. So you can have all the prayer lines - and I'm not despising prayer lines now - you can have all the prayer lines you like, but if you don't get at the root of the bitterness or the true hurt, you're not going to see healing. I believe that's why we don't see more healing.

Look at verse 27 of chapter 15. Jehovah-Rapha leads them, and they come out of the wilderness of Shur and they come to Elim - that wasn't the church or denomination, but this place. 'Elim' means 'trees': 'Where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters'. Now listen carefully to what I'm saying: a work of healing needs to be done - OK - to know wholeness in Christ, a work of healing needs to be done. It's found at the cross. But after the test of the cross, after the brokenness, after the repentance, after the difficulty of facing your particular bitterness, then there will come times of refreshing - that's good, by the way. Times of refreshing.

Now, as Canaan is not heaven - right - but it is heaven on earth, it's the heavenly life here and now; I believe Elim here is a bit of a foretaste of Canaan land. So God, I believe, right now, even in the midst of all the fallen mess that many of us are experiencing day by day - we can't be exempt or immune from hardship, it is part of this life, 'In the world you shall know tribulation', 'The suffering of this life is not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed' - there is suffering in this life, but there is a foretaste of glory in the victorious life. There is a deposit, Paul says, of the heavenly things that are to come. We can actually taste of the heavenly gift, the age to come. We can taste of it now in resurrection life!

But I have to say this to you: whilst that is true, God didn't reveal Himself as Jehovah-Rapha at Elim, He revealed Himself as Jehovah-Rapha at Marah. God can't reveal Himself as a healer if there is no sickness. We don't appreciate His deliverance, His salvation, if there is no bondage. That's a deep one, and you need to think about that. But, you see, for you that means there is a reason for the season that you're going through right now. The reason is: God doesn't want you to stay there, but there is a process going on. We are going at breakneck speed to get to the destination, to get to the conclusion, to get to Canaan, when there is a process of learning. He wants you actually to enjoy the journey, to the extent that you don't lose what He's teaching you there.

Elim really is the rest of faith. Some of you have been striving, some of you have been struggling. Maybe you're a non-Christian and you've been trying to earn your salvation, you've been trying to buy favour with God. You're a good person, and you go to church, and you give to charity, and you try your best to help people, and you say prayers, and you go through rites and rituals - I don't know what it is - but God wants you to know tonight: that's not the way to find Him. There is a rest of faith, where you lay it all down at the cross, and the result is: the heavenly atmosphere of refreshment and rest now. That's what we need, wait till I tell you: that's what we need in the church, we need times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, we need Elim. Not the denomination, we need God's Elim, God's Elim. The Elim need Elim!

Look at Elim quickly, I'm bringing everything to a close, look at Elim. Verse 27: 'There were twelve wells of water' - now that is very significant, not least because these folk

hadn't got any water, only bitter stuff that have been made sweet - but now there are twelve wells of water. Now the number 12 in the Bible speaks of totality, and there is a sense in which it is speaking of the totality of God's provision in His government. Now, I know that sounds complicated, but stay with me. The totality of God's provision in His government - in other words, when God is in charge, when God is given His rightful place in our lives and in His people, there will be absolute, perfect, total provision. We will not want for anything.

When you look at times we find 12: there were 12 tribes of Israel; there were 12 apostles; there are 12 foundations in the book of Revelation future, there are 12 foundations in the New Jerusalem; the woman with the issue of blood was ill 12 years, and Jairus' daughter, the miracle that overlaps with that miracle, she was 12 years of age when she took sick and was raised back to life. Twelve is right throughout, Jesus had 12 disciples, He even said as He was going to the cross that He could call 12 legions of angels - all of this is speaking of God's government and His absolute provision in it. When you go - this is wonderful - when you go to the New Jerusalem in the book of the Revelation, and there is there the Tree of Life growing on either side of the River of Life flowing from the Throne of God, and do you know what Revelation says? 'There are twelve fruit on the Tree of Life for the healing of the nations'.

Here you have twelve wells, and what it's speaking of, I believe, is anointing for God's purposes to obedient people. Water often speaks of the Holy Spirit, this is anointing, this is provision - what you need, if you're obedient to God, God will give you everything you need of the Holy Spirit. Do you understand that? He's not going to leave you short. Do you remember the disciples were out on the mountain with the people, the great multitude, and they were there a whole day, and the people were hungry? The disciples come to Jesus and say: 'These people are starving, what are we going to feed them with?'. Jesus says: 'You feed them' - funny, isn't it? 'You feed them', how are they going to feed them? All the shops are closed, they're not even near - how are they going to do it? Jesus wanted them to have faith. Anyway, that's another story, Jesus then performs this wonderful miracle of the feeding of the 5000. They partake in that miracle - we saw that last night - and they distribute all the loaves and the fish from the wee lad's lunchbox. Now, what a lot of people don't know about is the feeding of the 4000. Do you know about that one? That's another miracle - you see, there is a difference between 4000 and 5000, it's a second miracle. The disciples, this is the point of it, still haven't got the point - they still haven't got the point. What's the point? That the Jesus in their midst is sufficient for every need, whatever resources are at your disposal - whether the shops are closed or not, or your faith isn't great enough - Jesus is in your midst, and He is enough. Here's how I know, Mark 8:19, listen, Jesus says to them: "Why do you not understand yet? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?'. They said to Him, 'Twelve'. That's how much was left over, twelve - that's the feeding of the 5000. Do you know how many were left over at the feeding of the 4000? Seven, that's another number of perfection and completeness. What is Jesus trying to say? 'Look guys, I'm all that you need, if you'll just trust Me, if you'll just come in your emptiness; but you have to come under My government, you have to come under My Lordship, you have to obey Me, you have to abide in Me - and then you will have', listen to this, 'the Spirit without measure' - that means 'the Spirit without limit'. That wasn't just reserved for Jesus, because Jesus says: 'If you believe in Me, those who believe in Me shall do greater works'. Wow.

Then there are 70 palm trees, 12 wells of water and 70 palm trees. Now what does 70 mean? Well, 70 is made up of two perfect numbers: seven and ten. Seven is the number of completeness and perfection in the Bible, and ten is often the number of the law - the Ten Commandments. You put them together and you get the same meaning in a sense: the completeness of God and God's law, it's symbolic of the perfect spiritual order that is carried out with all power when God is in charge. Are you getting it?

'Elim' means 'trees' - and, ladies and gentlemen, that's what you're meant to be tonight: you're meant to be trees. Did you know that? Turn with me, and I'm bringing everything to a close right now, turn with me to Psalm 104 and verse 16, it says: 'The trees of the LORD are full of sap' - do you know what that means? Life! Vitality! Zip! Is that what you're full of tonight? I would go as far as to say that some of you are full of bitterness tonight, is that true? Or some are full of disappointment, despondency, hopelessness. God wants you to be full of life. Turn with me to Psalm 92, God wants you to be like the trees of Elim, refreshed by those wells, Psalm 92 verse 12: 'The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree'. I know nothing about farming, very little about animals, and nothing about horticulture whatsoever - but I'm led to believe that palm trees go down as far as they go up. I hope that's true or I'm telling you lies! But that's why they survive in the storms, they can bend right over - because under the ground is as deep as up on the top of the surface. That's the way God wants you to be, not standing tall, cocky in the church, but deep in Him, deep in Him.

Look at it, verse 12: 'The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon' - strong, tall trees - 'Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age' - do I hear an 'Amen'? Some of you think your day is over, you do - and for some of you it is over, because you've given up and you think there's nothing more that God can do for you or with you. Listen: Moses was 80 when he got out of Midian and started to really serve God. You can bear fruit in your old age. Look at the end of verse 14: 'They shall be fresh and flourishing', 'green' literally is the word - that's what God wants for you! He wants you to come into your spiritual Elim, but it will cost you. If you want wholeness in Christ, if you want that healing, you need to come to the foot of the cross, you need to face your brokenness, the bitterness, you need to forgive other people - and then you will move into the times of refreshing, outpoured from heavenly Elim. Then you shall drink at the well that shall never run dry, the well of sufficiency and unction for God's purposes. Then you will stand tall, like those trees, and you will eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life for your healing and even the healing of the nations.

I wonder - we haven't even got to the wilderness journey, but I wonder when Moses said to Pharaoh: 'Let My people go that they may serve Me', did he have a notion what was going to go on, what was going to happen, and what God was going to do? You've no idea, my friend, what God will do with your life if you give it over to Him, if you come to Calvary He will turn your bitter to sweet, He will turn your darkness to light, He will turn your death to life, He will turn your hell to heaven. Will you come? Let's pray.

Let's just take a moment in these closing seconds of our meeting in the presence of God. I just want to ask is there anyone here who is not a Christian, you have never come to the cross to receive forgiveness of your sins, you've never been born again, you've never become a child of God? But you want to take that step tonight, you realise there is brokenness, you realise there is sin and bitterness there and you need

to let go of it. You realise what Satan has done to you, and you need to be set free. You've been a slave for too long. While heads are bowed and eyes are closed right now, is there anyone just would raise their hand to say: 'I need Christ tonight, I need to become a Christian'? Would you just raise your hand where you are and put it down again, till I see it, is there anyone? You've never taken that step, and God has spoken to you tonight. You know the answer now, you know the answer, don't let the devil hold you back, don't get those lies that he is speaking to you hold you still a slave. Is there anyone, would you just raise your hand where you are?

Is there a backslider, and you once professed faith in Christ, but you've lost your way, lost your way into sin? You're thirsty, you're drinking at wells and cisterns that can't hold any water. Will you come to the Fountain of Life tonight? Will you come back home? Is there any backslider? Would you just raise your hand, just where you are? Would you raise your hand, and I will see it and acknowledge it, and we will lead you in a prayer - anyone?

Are there any Christians here tonight and you have had bitterness in your heart? Nobody is judging you tonight, nobody is condemning you, because bitterness often comes from hurts that aren't usually our fault. But bitterness and unforgiveness is a bit like pouring out a glass of poison for an enemy, and then drinking it yourself - it only hurts you. You know it's destroying you from the inside out, it maybe even is making you physically and mentally ill. Christian, would you be willing to say tonight: 'I'm going to lay the bitterness down at the foot of the cross, I'm going to let the Lord make my bitterness sweet and heal my heartbreak'. Maybe you're angry at God, and you need to bring that to Him tonight. Is there anyone tonight, any Christian, and you would raise your hand to say: 'That's me, and I need to deal with that' - just where you are, we're not going to embarrass you or anything like that, but just to acknowledge your need. There are people acknowledging, God is going to bless them - is there anybody else in this moment? Maybe there has been a deep hurt in your life, maybe it's a father that has not allowed you to see Father God in them, and so you can't see the goodness of the Heavenly Abba on high because of the example that your earthly father or your mother gave you. Maybe it's a lack of trust because people have betrayed your trust, and you can't trust God. You need healed, that's why you can't trust Him, you need healed of that. Is there anybody else before I close up? I believe God wants to heal hearts tonight, there are more people - is there anyone else? Just acknowledge it, God bless you.

Let me pray for you. Let me lead anyone who wants to become a Christian tonight and hadn't the guts to put their hand up, but you want to take that step - let me lead you in a prayer. Pray this after me, believe it, believe God will hear you, and just say it from your heart: 'O God, I come to You in the name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I confess I am a sinner, I turn, I repent from my sins and turn to You for forgiveness - believing that Jesus died for me. I ask You to save me, wash me, cleanse me, and forgive me. Make me Your child as I confess Jesus Christ as Lord. I renounce Satan and all his works. I ask You to fill me full of the power of the Holy Spirit, that I might live a life to glorify You'.

If there is a backslider, you just confess your sin and pray a similar prayer. He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you. If you're someone with bitterness in your heart tonight, you need to forgive that person or people. You might say something like this: 'Lord Jesus, I ask You to forgive me for bitterness. I choose to

forgive', so and so, 'for', whatever they did to you, how they made you feel. Do it now. Say to the Lord: 'I release all bitterness and resentment to You, and I ask You to heal my damaged emotions and set me free'. Whatever else it is, tell God that you're sorry for any resentment you've had toward Him. Confess that you've believed the lies of the devil about Him, that others have told you. Confess to Him Jeremiah 29:11, that He has only good plans and thoughts for you, to prosper you, and to give you a hope and a future - that His heart for you. Don't blame Him for the things the devil has done, or that you have done yourself, or others have done!

Father, I pray for this company of people that You will break the bondage of bitterness tonight in the mighty name of Jesus. I pray now, Lord, that You will replace the hurt with healing. I pray that You will come now and flow the balm of Gilead, the medicine of heaven, Jesus' precious healing, restoring, recovering, redeeming blood into the deep wounds of people's hearts tonight - that You will recover those broken pieces, those fragments of spirits and souls that are scattered all over their history, or attached to other people who have harmed them. Lord, that You will bring them all together, and that You will unite people's hearts to fear Your name. Bring healing and wholeness. You have said You want to make us holy and whole, fix us together, spirit, soul, and body - do that tonight, Lord, in the mighty name of Jesus. Oh, and I pray now Lord that You will open the floodgates of heaven, and that You will pour out those twelve wells, that the seven spirits of Almighty God, the sevenfold Spirit, may flow into every heart. Oh, that people would be baptised in the Holy Ghost tonight; that people will be released from demonic oppression, delivered; that people will be restored; that the gifts of the Spirit would be released, that the fruit of the Spirit will blossom; bodies will be healed, minds will be calmed, emotions will be tranquil in the presence of Almighty God - and that every believing Christian in this place tonight will stand tall like the trees of Lebanon and the palms of the desert, deep rooted in Christ, drawing of His life. Thank You, Father, in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

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## Let My People Go - Chapter 7

# "Remember, Remember!"

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**W**ell, good evening everybody. It's great to be here, it has been wonderful to have been with you this week. It has been a busy week, it has been an intense week for a lot of you and for me included. Where do you think we're turning to in our Bibles tonight? No! First Corinthians chapter 10. Now, I just want to pray - I know we have already had prayer just a moment or two ago - but there's something I want to pray before I preach, OK? So let's just pray together:

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail - they were not strong enough - nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. Father, we come in Jesus' mighty, all-victorious name, Lord of all. We pray now that You will dispense Your heavenly hosts, and that You will tear back those powers that are hindering Your people and our spiritual exercises in this place right now. That You will create a heavenly portal where there is direct communication and interaction with the heaven of heavens on earth in this place, that no principality, power, might, or dominion, or anything nameable will be able to thwart, hinder, or interfere. We ask this in Jesus' name, as the word of God goes forth in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

Right, 1 Corinthians 10 verse 1, and we're reading down to the end of verse 13: *"Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play'. Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twentythree thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it".*

This series has evolved over the week, led by the Spirit, to become a series I've entitled 'Let My People Go', that they may serve Me. This is the cry of heaven tonight, not just to the Israelites in Egyptian bondage who needed to be emancipated, but God's people - I believe - are encapsulated and bound by the enemy himself, and even the spirit of Pharaoh that I believe is alive and well today in our world. So, I believe the Holy Spirit, whilst the Gospel has been preached this week, has really wanted to

come to the church - because judgement must begin at the house of the Lord. If we want people in our community to be set free by the power of the Gospel, we haven't a hope of that happening if we ourselves are not actually experiencing the full import of what the Gospel power is, if we are not living in the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to be set free first! I believe that's the heart of God in this moment.

So, at the end of this series, as we have traced the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, through the Red Sea, and beginning their journey into the promised land, really the message tonight is: 'Remember, Remember!'. Some of you know the rhyme 'Remember, remember, the fifth of November', and other sayings like 'Lest we forget', or 'We will remember them' - all of those sayings devised to cause us to recollect important events in history that we forget that our peril. A famous Harvard philosophy professor once said: 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it'. I wasn't a big fan of history at school, didn't like geography either - I could never find the classroom! - but history can be a bit of a drag, can't it? But we do well as Christians, as Paul exhorts us, to remember the journey that the Israelites took from bondage in Egypt to the promised land, their wilderness wanderings. Why do we need a history lesson? Look at verse 6: 'These things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted'. Verse 11: 'Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come'. All of this stuff in the Old Testament is not for the Jews primarily, it's for us today, God's people - they were our examples, so that we would learn spiritually vital lessons in this end time period that we find ourselves in.

This, of course, was written to the Corinthians. You may not be aware that Corinth was a Greek city, and it was notoriously immoral. The problem, and the reason why Paul was writing to them, was: the church was being affected by the spirit of the age. Does that ring any bells? They had become, rather than a thermostat regulating the temperature of the community, they became a thermometer reflecting the spiritual and moral temperature. Now don't get me wrong: this was a Christian church, and I'll tell you more than that - if you look at chapter 1 and verse 2, Paul addresses them as 'sanctified and called to be saints'. Now, 'sanctified' means 'holy', 'set apart'. Now I think he's speaking here of their position in Christ, they had been born again, they had trusted in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and so they were set apart for God. He's not speaking of practical holiness, I think, but yet they are called to be saints - that's what verse 2 says as well. Now we think of people who are saints, as somebody who has been canonised, and they get a stained-glass window after them, or something like that. That's not what Bible saints are - saints in the Bible are people who are washed in the blood, people who are justified by faith, people who are in the kingdom of God, OK? This was what the Corinthians were.

Not only that, don't you think that they were just 'saved and stuck' the way we talked about the other evening. They were highly gifted Christians. If you look at verse 5 of chapter 1, Paul says: 'You were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge'. Now what that's speaking of is prophetic insight, revelation, the gifts of wisdom and knowledge and prophecy, and also all utterance - those are the vocal gifts, including tongues and interpretation of tongues and prophecy and so on. They were gifted, look at verse 7: 'So that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ'. It implies that they were not coming short, there was no shortfall in their charismatic nature. They had all the gifts of the Spirit, they



were Spirit-filled, Spirit-baptised, and they were exercising these wonderful gifts of God. So this church, the Corinthians, were a blessed people, like the Israelites.

What does it say in verse 1 of the Israelites, in chapter 10? 'They were under the cloud'. Now we saw during the week what that means, that there was a pillar of fire that led the Israelites across the Red Sea, and it was a cloud of smoke, a pillar of smoke during the day; and it actually came to their rearward and became their defence. It was light to them as it led them, but darkness to the enemy to blind them. That's the privilege that they had: they could see God leading and guiding and protecting them. Verse 2 says they: 'were baptised into Moses'. Now that word 'baptised' means 'immersed', and of course they went through the waters of the Red Sea. By doing so, they were identified with Moses. You might be here tonight, and you've gone through the waters of baptism, and been identified and united with the Lord Jesus. Here's another of their blessings, it says in verse 3 they 'all ate the same spiritual food, they all drank the same spiritual drink', verse 4, 'from the Rock that followed them'. You remember the heavenly food that came down, angel's food, 'manna' it was called. It just appeared supernaturally, and they ate that for 40 years - God supplied their need. They drank of the Rock that followed them. Remember Moses struck the rock and the waters came flowing out - this was a supernatural life they were leading. We read here in verse 4 that the Rock that followed then was none other than Jesus Christ. We know now in the New Testament that Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life and He is the Water of Life. These Israelites were living, in a sense, a shadow of New Testament Christianity. It was as if they were water-baptised, Spirit-baptised, and feeding off Christ in a symbol, as a signpost.

How blessed they were - but - here's the shocker. Look at verse 5: 'But with most of them God was not well pleased'. That's hard, isn't it? I know some of what I've had to say this week has been hard. I'm giving you what God has given me each day, and the same goes for tonight. But we've got to get real: God has some difficult things to say to us. God isn't being hard here, in fact, He is understating the matter. Here's how I know: because out of everyone that came out of Egypt and moved on towards the promised land, only two of them, only two of that adult generation that left Egypt entered the promised land - Joshua and Caleb. So he is understating the matter when he says: 'with most of them'. You see, for all the blessings and the spiritual experiences that we just recounted here in verses 1 to 4 that the Israelites had, most of them died in the wilderness. Now that is shocking, is it not? They saw God, they saw the cloud - it astounds me! Any time of the day they could have opened their tent flap, and just looked out, and there was a manifest physical demonstration of the presence of God with them, a pillar of cloud, and at night a pillar of fire - it's incredible! Eating supernatural food, drinking supernatural water, and yet most of them died in the desert.

Now, this is a word to Corinth, here's why: because they had become carnal. Do you know what that means? Fleshly. They are born again, they are sanctified positionally in Christ, they are saints, they are Spirit-filled and they are operating in the gifts of the Spirit, and yet they were carnal - that means they were fleshly, living for themselves and for their senses. Let me show you this, a number of ways their carnality was displayed. If you go to chapter 1, it was displayed through schism. Do you know what that is? Splits among them, sectarianism, partisan spirit. If you look at verse 11 of chapter 1, Paul says: 'For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions', quarrels, 'among you. Now I

say this, that each of you says, 'I am of Paul', or 'I am of Apollos', or 'I am of Cephas', or 'I am of Christ'. OK, they were joining particular preachers that they liked, and following them. Like some people say 'I'm a Calvinist', or 'I'm an Arminian', or 'I'm this', or 'I'm a Presbyterian', 'I'm a Baptist', 'I'm Elim' - I think that's the same spirit, I do. Some were saying: 'I'm of Paul', 'I'm of Apollos', 'I'm of Cephas', and then there were the real - I used to think these were the right ones, 'I am of Christ', because we're all Christians, aren't we meant to follow Christ? Wait till I tell you: they were the most sanctimonious and exclusive of the lot, because they said, 'We're not following mere men, we are following Jesus Christ' - and they used it as a reason to divide from the rest of the body. That's the point, and we could talk about a few groups that do that.

Look at verse 13: 'Is Christ divided?'. The answer to that question is: no! Rhetorically, He is not divided! 'Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?' - no, it's Christ! Yet they were divided! Listen: I haven't got time, nor do I have the desire to talk to you of how divided the church is in Ulster, the province alone. We think sectarianism is between Protestants and Roman Catholics, wait till I tell you: it is rife across the whole of the expression of religion in our country. In fact, it could be worse, at times, within Bible-believing Christianity. It is heinous, it is a cause of nausea to the heart of God, it makes Him sick! It shows our carnality.

But they are also proud - they had great intellectual pride. You know, Corinthian society put a whole lot of value in the mind and reason and so on, philosophy. They fell into that trap, and exalted human wisdom. You see, the natural mind does not discern the things of the Spirit, it is foolishness to them. They got proud in their intellectual prowess. There was also sexual immorality in the church, if you look at chapter 5 and verse 1, there is a staggering - and I need to be careful tonight, I don't want to go into too much detail here, but it is what it says - chapter 5 verse 1: 'It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles; that a man has his father's wife!' - it seems to be his stepmother. Such immorality that the world doesn't even engage in, and it's now in this church - and they are Christians! We'll park that there for a moment. But there is gross sexual immorality in the church, and it's not being addressed.

They were also, if you keep going, they were taking each other to court, which should not be done between believers. He says: 'How are you going to judge angels, if you can't sort out basic matters among yourselves as brothers and sisters?'. Did you know you're going to judge angels? Maybe not all of you, I'm not sure about that, but men and women of God are going to judge angels. Then we see that they were also divorcing their spouses for religious reasons. They thought it was holy not to have any marital relations with one another, there was this ascetic type of group among them, and they were divorcing husbands and wives. Add to all that, some of them were fellowshiping at the table of idols, they were going to feasts where there were offerings of meat given, sacrifices to idols - and they were partaking of it.

In verse 6 Paul, exasperated at this behaviour, says: 'These things', that we heard about the Israelites, 'became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted'. Now, I have a hunch that because the Corinthians partook of the Lord's Supper (that's another one, they were getting drunk at the Lord's Table as well, I forgot about that one). But because they partook of the Lord's Supper, they ate, as it were, the bread from heaven; and because they were baptised, just like

the Israelites baptised unto Moses through the cloud, they were baptised as believers in water, and they were baptised by the Holy Spirit, they thought they were secure and safe. They presumed upon their safety. I don't care what church you belong to, what your religious persuasion is, what your background: you cannot presume upon some form of security if your life is not testifying to the life of God in you.

Now look at chapter 6 please, this is what Paul is at pains to show to them, verse 9: 'Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived'. There is a danger that modern day Christianity is being fooled: 'Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God'. Now, it's a wonderful Gospel that we preach, and if you're not converted tonight, you need to hear this. You see this aforementioned list of misdemeanours and sinners, every one of them can be forgiven, and you can come to know Jesus Christ! Every single one of them! That's what happened in Corinth: they had all those backgrounds. Isn't that wonderful? 'Such were some of you, but you were washed, you were sanctified'. But here's what was happening: some of them were returning, like a dog to his vomit. I'm sorry to be so graphic, but that is a biblical terminology. They were returning to their old ways of sinful living, and Paul is saying: 'Hold on! Do you not know that people with such lifestyles will not get into heaven unless they are justified, forgiven, and transformed? They will not inherit the heavenly blessings. Do not be deceived'.

Now the Gospel that we preach is a Gospel of grace. Do you know what 'grace' means? You don't earn it, you don't work at it, I'm not telling people here to clean themselves up and then come to God - that's not what repentance is, that's not what repentance is! It's the grace of God that is greater than your sin. You can't break your addictions, you can't change your lifestyle, perhaps there's nothing you feel you can do about it - and that's right, there isn't! Don't start trying! You need God's power, which is a free gift that Jesus purchased on the cross when He died for you, and He took your sin and all the punishment and all the hell that you deserved, He took it all so that you could live a righteous life. But here, let's not short-change people, alright? The Gospel of God's grace not only saves us from the consequences of sin, but saves us from the power and the presence of sin in our lives now and in the future.

Listen to what Titus says in Titus 2:11, listen: 'For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age'. That is the grace of God! It delivers us from sin! Is that the grace you've got? The grace that some people have got, is a false message and a false gospel that allows them as a licence to sin: 'That's OK, a little talk with Jesus makes it right'. I know if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us - but I want to tell you: if you are engaging in constant lifestyle, habitual sin, without so much as a tweak or a prick on your conscience, you really need to look at your salvation. You really do. If it doesn't grieve you, if it doesn't bother you, and especially if you're using grace as a loophole, you need to listen up here tonight.

God's word is very clear: 'The grace of God that has appeared to all men teaches us to deny ungodliness, worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in

this present age'. Verse 13: 'Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ'. Is that what you're waiting for? Are you living for Jesus returning again? Are you ready for Him to come at any moment? Verse 14: 'Jesus, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works'. That's why Jesus died on the cross: to save us from sin! Do you hear that? Not just to cleanse our past guilt, to wipe the slate clean - thank God, that's what He does, and He delivers us from punishment - but He died to deliver us from those sins, to make us pure.

Do you know what we need in the church? This is maybe why conviction isn't falling upon our communities: we need a fresh revelation of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Do you know sin is still serious? It was your sin, my sin, that nailed Jesus to that cross. If you take pleasure in those sins, those are the sins that caused Him so much pain and horror, that you're enjoying - and I do it to. Listen: if you want to be saved tonight - and Christian, you need to understand, salvation is a process as well - if you want to continually be delivered from the power of sin, you've got to want to be delivered, you've got to want it! I don't care what anybody says: if a man 'comes to Christ', but he doesn't want to be delivered from his sin, that is false, it's counterfeit! The Bible knows nothing about it! Yes, a person cannot deliver themselves, but they've got to want it! That's what Jesus died for.

So these Israelites did not please the Lord, they did not please the Lord. Paul is going to show these Corinthians why they did not please the Lord. So follow with me, back to 1 Corinthians 10 verse 7: 'Do not become idolaters as were some of them'. Now what this is alluding to is Exodus 32. Do you remember Moses - all of you will know this, even if you've only Charlton Heston in the film - Moses went up Mount Sinai to get the Ten Commandments, and when he was up there the people thought he was dead and gone. That's what they thought had happened, because they knew there was a lot of thunder and lightning, and it was a fearful thing, they weren't allowed to come near the mountain at all. He had been gone so long that they thought, 'We've lost him!'. So, Aaron was there, and Aaron decided: 'Right! We need a god, we need a god!'. So he says: 'See all you folk, get your earrings, and your jewellery, and we will throw it all in, and we will smelt it, and we will make an idol, and that will be our god'. They made a golden calf, and they started worshipping, eating and drinking in a feast to this golden calf. It says that God said to Moses: 'You better get down there, you better get down, because I'm going to have to destroy these people because of what they are at!'. Moses, Joshua was with him, and Moses comes down - and there is such a commotion down there that Joshua says: 'It sounds like there is war!'.

Can you imagine what was going on? The noise was so great that he thought there was a battle on, but do you know what it was? Look at it, verse 7: 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play'. Do you know what that means? There was an orgy. That's what it means: it was revelry, immorality and idolatry. You remember Moses, when he saw it, he took the two tablets that God had written with His own finger, the Ten Commandments, and he threw them and broke them.

The Corinthians too were too close to idols. If you come with me to 2 Corinthians chapter 6 please, the next book, 2 Corinthians chapter 6. Paul is telling them that idolatry does not please the Lord, 2 Corinthians 6, and we are very familiar with some of these verses as Christians, verse 14 of chapter 6: 'Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?

And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people'. Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty'. He's saying: 'If you really want to know Me as a child of God, and I as your Abba Father in intimacy, you've got to come away from unholiness and sin and idolatry'. Look at verse 1 of chapter 7: 'Therefore, having these promises' - what are these promises? That 'If you leave sin, I will meet you'. 'Having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God'.

Now, we know what the filthiness of the flesh is, we have touched on that - all sorts of sins, fornication, and drunkenness, and all sorts of debauchery, and murder, and anger, jealousy, all those things. But what are the sins of the spirit? Well, I'm going to tell you some of the sins of the spirit. One of the great sins of the spirit is idolatry. We are to cleanse ourselves from the sin of idolatry in our spirit. Now, I believe I'm being guided by the Holy Spirit when I'm going to say this: the church has allowed idolatry to grip it. Now there are many ways that this has happened in our land: one is politics, the idolatry of nationalism - and I'm not talking about political nationalism, I'm talking about general nationalism, where you look to a flag, or you look to a political aspiration, and you put it alongside with your religious belief; whether that's the Unionist persuasion, or Republican, or whatever, I'm not interested. It can be all across the world, and when you start doing that, that's idolatry. But I'll tell you more than that: the church is dabbling in occult, in alternative therapies, in charms - I'm led to believe that charms are very prevalent in this particular county - divining, all sorts of divination, fortune-telling. You will not believe me, I know some of you won't, I know some of you won't; but I minister to Christians who have gone to these practitioners, and even some themselves who have practised these arts, and they need deliverance because they have got spirits. Some of you don't even believe they could have spirits, but I'm sorry, I have to part company with you there. I've seen it with my own eyes too many times to bother arguing with anybody.

It's idolatry, and it's in the church. It's in the church, and it could be some of you, some of you could be doing charms because it was passed down from Granny or something. You need deliverance. That is defiling the church. Do you know Isaiah 2 verse 6, what it says of God's ancient people? Listen to this, I read it one time in the NIV and it just opened my eyes, this is God speaking of His own people. Isaiah 2:6: 'They are full of superstitions from the East; they practice divination like the Philistines, and embrace pagan customs' - that's the way the church is going today. I know people who will sooner go to get acupuncture, or some kind of other alternative therapy, than they would ever dream of going to ask prayer from a man or woman of God - and they are Christians. We need to, once and for all - listen, this does not please the Lord, for this reason the bodies of the Israelites were scattered in the desert, because of idolatry. Don't you get some kind of myth: 'Oh, I'm under the blood, and I'm forgiven', and think you can dabble in that stuff without consequence - you cannot! You cannot! I'm not saying you'll go to hell, I'm just saying you cannot dabble in it without consequence, and it is not pleasing to the Lord.

A second thing he told them to remember was not only the idolatry of the Israelites,

but the sexual immorality of the Israelites. Look at verse 8: 'Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twentythree thousand fell'. This is found in Numbers chapter 25, you may want to turn to it. The first four verses read thus, listen, Numbers 25 verse 1: 'Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods'. That's interesting, listen: idolatry and immorality are always wedded. Where you get idolatry, there is always immorality - that's the explanation for a lot of what happens as you move up the echelons of Freemasonry, because in its essence it is really a fertility rite, when you get up to the top you find that out. Verse 3: 'So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel'.

Paul tells us in verse 8 that 23 or 24,000 people fell in one day - not only fell into sin, but they were actually executed to avert the anger of the Lord upon all of God's people. Do you know what they were doing? Now I'm going to be very careful in how I go into this, but I can't talk about it without talking about in some sense. It was Baal and Ashtaroth worship, do you know what 'Baal and Ashtaroth' are? They are the male and the female fertility god and goddess of Canaanite religion. It was believed that they were the ones that brought the harvest, they gave them their food. They had a religion that said that if you want the ground to be fertile and you want to be fed, you have to worship Baal and Ashtaroth - and the way they are stimulated to bring harvest and fruit on the earth is by we entering into ritual prostitution. They had all these high places and groves about the place where this was engaged in.

So there was this idea that to strengthen the gods, OK, to strengthen the gods we had to engage in immorality - and Israel was falling into this. I want to tell you: Baal and Ashtaroth are in the church - they are in the church! I'm telling you. The porn industry has exploded. Do you know that there are over \$3000 spent per second on porn on the Internet? \$3000 a second! There are nearly 30,000 people watching a video every second. There are new videos made every 39 minutes. By the year 2017 it is estimated that a quarter of a billion people are expected to access it through mobile content, that's a 30% increase from 2013 - 30% in a matter of, what, five years? Now listen: we have got a problem in the church - and I'm not saying I'm above temptation, I'm not saying that, I struggle with the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life like everybody, OK? But we've got a problem in the church, and here's what is: we are opposing LBGT rights - you know what that is, lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender. We are opposed to gay marriage, we are opposed to abortion, we are opposed to all of these - what we see as the righteous things, the ancient landmarks that are being destroyed. We are opposed to it, and we are tongue in cheek fighting against it, speaking against it, moving against it; but in secret - in secret - we are committing harlotry with the very spirits that are the strongholds that are bringing these things into society.

Do you know what I'm saying? Do you understand? Our devotion to those gods by engaging in those sins is strengthening them. Paul says: 'You need to remember what happened, you need to remember what happened'. Because of idolatry, because of sexual immorality, God was not well pleased. Here's the third thing, verses 9 and 10: complaining. 'Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were

destroyed by the destroyer'. This is alluding to Numbers 21, and do you know what happened? The Israelites were depressed and dejected, and they were remembering Egypt with rose-tinted spectacles, thinking it was wonderful when it wasn't - but that's the way they were thinking, because now they were in the desert, and they are fed up with manna. They're going to eat it for 40 years, but they are fed up, and they said: 'This manna!' - they were despising supernatural food that God has given them. Then they started to backbite against God's anointed leader, Moses. They wanted to depose him. God was not well pleased, and He sent fiery serpents into their midst. Those serpents bit them and they started dying.

Can I say: we don't consider complaining as serious, we don't, but God does. Especially when our complaints are against His anointed and His God-appointed. Now sometimes when we talk like this we can be misunderstood. People think we're saying: 'Oh, you can't criticise leaders'. I don't believe that, because if we're not able to, in a godly way, approach things that might be wrong; well then, what you've got is a dictatorship - and that's not what the New Testament church is. There are checks and balances to make sure that isn't the case. But it's in the mouth of two or three witnesses that a matter should be established, not over the dinner table, or on the telephone. Order needs to be in the house of God, and if there is anointing and purpose and appointment - like there was on Moses, (and he was by no means perfect, sure he didn't even enter the promised land because he lost his temper, yet he was God's man) - God is not well pleased with that.

We don't take this seriously enough. Do you know what Proverbs 6 says? You might want to turn there with me, Proverbs 6 verse 16: 'These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies', now that's the sixth, those are the six things the Lord hates, and here's the seventh which is an abomination to Him, 'and one who sows discord among brethren', brothers and sisters. It's serious! Now I'm not saying we can't have discernment and we can't see things that are wrong that need to be addressed, but there is a way of doing it, there is a godly way of doing it, and there is a way of doing it that God is not well pleased with - and it caused there to be bodies scattered across the wilderness!

You see, what Paul is speaking to is: these Corinthians believed they were safe because of their past spiritual experiences; baptised, eating the Lord's Supper. Like the Israelites - they had passed through the cloud, passed through the water, they are baptised unto Moses, they had ate heavenly manna - but they were not immune because they engaged in this complaining. Look at verse 10, at the end it says: 'They also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer'. So these fiery serpents were sent, God sent the destroying angel to inhabit these serpents. Can I remind you: that's the same destroying angel that went round the houses of Egypt taking the life of the firstborn while the Israelites were sheltered beneath the covering of the blood, and so they were protected from it. But here, that very same angel is slaying them! This is strong, but it's the Bible.

Look at verse 11: 'Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come'. Romans 15:4 says: 'For whatever things were written before were written for our learning'. We have got all this Exodus stuff that we've been looking at this week, and it's all for us, it's

meant for us upon whom the end of the world has come! Do you understand? This is a good day to be alive, it's wonderful to be in this end-time generation. Not only are we post-Calvary, post-resurrection, post-ascension, post-Pentecost, but we are in the last days where the Spirit is continually being poured out, and I believe that we are at the very threshold of the second coming of Jesus. I also believe that there is a great end-time latter harvest that is to come, but here's the problem, church: the church is not ready, because they have not remembered the mistake of the Israelites! They had got so caught up with their sensuality and their lustful desires, that they engaged in idolatry like the Canaanites and the Egyptians, they engaged in the same sexual immorality, they engaged in the same complaining and agendas - and because of that they didn't enter into the blessing, the promised land, they didn't get there.

Now listen, friend tonight: if you're lost in sin, and the sins that I have mentioned tonight, you're dabbling in them because you're a sinner - and we have all dabbled in a lot of them, if not all of them - do you know what you need to do tonight? You need to repent. Do you know what repentance is? It's changing your mind about your sin, and your heart, and it's saying: 'Lord, I don't want this any more. It's offending You, and it's taking me to hell. It's destroying my life and my family and, Lord, I want You to save me from my sin'. A lot of people get saved because they want to be saved from hell - I'm not saying that's wrong, but I'm saying this: there are fewer people get saved because they want to be saved from sin. Well, you need tonight, if you're lost and you want victory, you want to be released, you want to be delivered, you need to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you know what happened when the serpents went round biting people? Moses threw himself in front of the Lord, and he said: 'You've got to save these people, because You told the Egyptians that You were delivering these people, and that You would be with them - and if they all die in the wilderness, You haven't been true to Your word'. God said: 'Go and get a pole, and put a brass serpent on it, and tell the people to look unto that serpent'. Jesus, when He was talking to a religious man called Nicodemus in John 3, said: 'Just as Moses raised up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life'. You need to look to Christ tonight! You need to look to Jesus for to be set free of your sin!

But listen, church: if you want revival - and that word is bandied about - if you want revival, you need to die out to sin. You need to die out once and for all to sin, to idolatry, to immorality, to complaining. You need to get to the foot of the cross and die out to sin, you need to die out to self - these selfish lusts, these selfish desires - you need to die out! You say you want God to come, you want God down - turn with me to Exodus 19, and I'm almost finished, Exodus 19. Verse 9: 'The LORD said to Moses, 'Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud" - you know, God is hard to see and understand at times, a thick dark cloud - "that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever'. So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people"'.

God is going to come down on the third day, but the people have to get ready! Do you think it's enough to talk about revival, pray about revival, and sing about revival - but



there is immorality, and idolatry, and complaining, and backbiting, and all sorts of stuff in our lives and in the church? We are living in a dream! We are! Look at verse 15: 'And he said to the people, 'Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives''. Now there's nothing wrong with pure sexuality, God created it, God had the first sex thought. The marriage bed is honourable and undefiled. But, you see, there are times that legitimate things, legitimate, even things that are not sinful, need to be set aside for the priority of the desire and passion that is after God. That's what fasting is about: 'Lord, I want You more than I want my dinner!'. 'Don't come near your wives', look at verse 22, 'Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them'.

Now listen: the grace of God has revolutionised my life, it has, and the Father heart of God - if you want to know more, go on my website and you'll find out all about it, a whole series is on it. But do you know what the message of the Lord is tonight? Do you know what the message of the Lord is to the church in the West? We need to hear this again: our God is a consuming fire, and He is holy, and He can't help it. Do you understand? He's not looking to zap people or to hurt people, He can't help it! As C.S. Lewis said of Aslan: 'He is not a tame lion, but he is good' - that's God. So if you come near God unprepared, it will harm you, it will hurt you. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord. It is the pure in heart that shall see God. Listen folks: if we want God to come down, we need to get ready. We need to realise that He will not come down into the midst of our idols, He will not come into the midst of our filth, and He won't come into the midst of our complaining and murmuring.

So, what will you be? Will you be one of the bodies that is left in the wilderness, a casualty of the contamination of Canaan and Egypt? Or will you be one upon whom the end of the age has come, to fulfil the eternal purposes of God in the whole universe - that's who the church is meant to be. I believe, and I'm starting to believe more than ever, that God is looking for a glorious church, God is looking for a beautiful bride to return to in the midst of apostasy, in the midst of compromise, in the midst of false religion and counterfeit. God is getting a remnant for Himself - where are you going to be? Where is this church going to be? Wait till I tell you, and I don't say this to everybody, I poured my heart out to you this week - I'm telling you, I haven't held back one bit, I've given my all this week. I think I'm true in saying that before the Lord, I've given my all this week - and it's over to you. Let us pray.

Now first of all I want to give an invitation to anybody here - if you will all bow your heads and close your eyes please. I want to give an invitation to anybody, if you're not a Christian. By that I mean - I'm not talking about being brought up in religion or in the church, I'm saying that you've never had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, where your sins are forgiven, and you've repented and believed in Him, and come to the cross. This is your night, this is your night. While heads are bowed and eyes are closed, would you be able to acknowledge your need of Christ, to be free of sin, to be saved, to become a new creature in Him? Would you do that by raising your hand, and saying: 'Tonight, I want to become a Christian, I want to be saved'? Is there anyone? Quickly, please just raise your hand, put it down again, and I will see it and acknowledge it. I'm not going to embarrass you, and I will lead you in a prayer to help you to come to Jesus Christ. Is there anyone? I often say it, and it's so true, but Jesus hung stark naked between heaven and earth on a cross, He wasn't embarrassed to do that for you: don't be embarrassed to confess your need of Christ. Just raise your hand. Is there anyone?

Is there a backslider - or let's broaden it out - is there someone that professes faith in Jesus, and you know there is idolatry in your life, you know there are ungodly ways, you know. And we're not talking about slipping up every now and again, everybody slips up every now and again in sin - we're talking about serious sinful lifestyles that are characteristic of who you are, and you're wilfully engaging in it without any remote sorrow in your conscience. Would you raise your hand to say: 'I need help tonight, I need to be set free, and I need to repent of this, and I need the power of God to come and meet with me'? Just where you are, would you raise your hand, nobody knows what your particular issue is - God bless - nobody knows, and we don't need to know, nor will anybody know. Is there anyone else? Is there anyone else, now come on now, let's get real here. Are you telling me there is only one person in this whole gathering that has problems in these areas? Some of you, your problem is lying, if that's the case.

Now, you don't have to put your hand up, but some of you need to put your hand up, some of you need to actually nail this thing and come out from under the rock, the dark rock where all those creepy things are breeding. You need to come out from under it into the light, and agree with God and allow Him to set you free. Is there anybody else? God bless. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Now listen, I know this isn't easy, if there is any secret idolatry or secret immorality in this church - do you hear me? In this church, I'm talking about members in this church, that needs to be sorted out. That needs to be sorted out. I hope and trust and believe that the pastoral team here will not hang you out to dry, they will not embarrass you or make an example of you, they will be gracious - but due diligence needs to be done. I feel very led of God to say that. Even the complaining, listen: if you've got an issue, deal with that issue, and bring it up in a godly way through the right channels. But wait till I tell you: if all the breath thus vainly spent, was in heavenly supplication sent; much more the oftener we would be proclaiming what the Lord has done for us. Why don't you use your energies and put them into intercession for those issues that you see? We need revival.

Father, I think I am true being here and saying what I've said, and concluding these meetings by declaring that I have not been disobedient in the heavenly vision. I've been disobedient to plenty of things in my life, but I'm pretty sure I've not been disobedient this week. Lord, there could be folk are saying: 'Oh, he didn't preach the Gospel', but, Lord, I have preached Your Gospel, but I have preached the whole counsel of God. I have preached what I believe is Your heart for this people in this moment. The responsibility I now, in spirit, I roll it onto them, I roll it onto them. I will go home tonight light and free, Lord, because I roll it onto them.

I say to you dear people tonight, particularly the fellowship in Brookeborough: recognise the day of your visitation, and do not harden your heart. God bless you all, and thank you so much for all your attention.



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