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Decisions the Children of Israel Had To Make Before Leaving Egypt

Introduction

It has been my privilege to travel to a number of countries but there were decisions that had to be made first. The children of Israel were no different when they were told they were going to be released and go on a journey to a land they had never seen but heard about. This is an interesting observation because before one can be released from the enslavement of the domination of sin and assured of Heaven, decisions had to be made. Interestingly, the decisions they had to make are the same decisions a sinner must make before being set free from the physiological bondage of sin and sure of Heaven. They are:

- a) Just as the Israelites believed a message from a man sent by God, so the sinner must believe that the man sent from God to deliver sinful man from the penalty for us, must accept and believe that Jesus was a man sent from God. If the Israelites refused to believe Moses was a man sent from God with the message of blessing, they would never have been free or sure of the promised land. This was fundamental. If a person rejects the truth that Jesus was sent from God with a message, they have sealed their own doom for eternity.
- b) The Israelites had to believe the man sent from God (Moses) was the only one who had the message from God when the Lord was here on earth. "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Jn. 14:10).
- c) They had to believe his message was true and because of this, He could give a challenge. "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?" (Jn. 8:46). The witness of God is greater than that of man and God said, "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Matt. 17:5).
- d) They had to believe the signs Moses did were an authentication he had been sent from God and was who he said he was. In John the Lord did miracles but they are all called signs. "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book" (Jn. 20:30). The Greek word is translated "miracles" (Jn. 2:23), "miracle" (Jn. 6:14), "signs" (Jn. 20:30).

The Big "What If"

1. What if the children of Israel had not listened to the message of Moses and mocked the message of the Passover etc. What would have happened? Suppose some of them said Moses is a man with a futile imagination, don't listen to Him. What would the results have been? What if a religious leader told them everyone will get to the promised land, God would not leave any behind?
2. The answer is clear, they would have been left behind. Egypt is where they would work, sleep and eat in monotonous boredom as they tried to give life meaning by chariot races etc. But it is much more serious for the individual who rejects the message of Jesus. Every individual who, of their own volition, decides their priority:
 - a) To live for passing limited sojourn here or live for the glory of fellowship with God for eternity,
 - b) To be banished to the Lake of Fire forever or enjoy the bliss of eternal joy.
3. For any Israelite to have rejected the message of deliverance and the pledge of the promised land, one would consider them very foolish YET, this is what millions of individuals do every day. The Israelites knew the way of deliverance, they knew the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey, but had they decided to leave it until another time or decide they were not interested, would have been very foolish.
4. Furthermore, there was a limited time to be prepared. Likewise, God warns us, "Prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12). How great will the fury of God be when He did all He could, and His Son suffered for to set us

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free and anyone treats it with a nonchalant attitude, even despising it. Just as they are showing no pity or compassion for the sufferings of Christ so God will show zero compassion for them. The Israelites who made up their mind they would not believe the message of the one sent from God is calling God a liar, and the wrath of God will fall on them without mercy. That is, every individual, man, woman, educated or illiterate, prince or pauper. Some might say, "That is not fair". The fact is, it is perfectly fair for the individual has been given opportunity to accept God's way of Salvation. No one forced them not to accept, no one pressured them to decide to treat the offer of no importance, the individual made a decision not to accept the only way of salvation and God accepted their decision.

5. There is another messenger who is not from God who Paul calls a curse on. It is those messengers of Satan who preach the news of good works; that God would never send anyone to Hell; God is a God of love and will save everybody; there is nothing to fear with God, he is too kindhearted and will be sorry for those who reject and will find a way to balance the scales between their good works and bad. John the Baptist to all such said, "the axe is laid unto the root of the trees" (Matt. 3:10; Lk. 3:9), that is, there is no second chance, judgment is already hovering over the individual and at the moment of death, all hope is gone forever.

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