

You, The Whole You, And Nothing but You
Lesson on Parashah Bo
by Kevin Phipps

“ not a hoof will be left behind”
- Sh'mot/Exodus 10:26

Parashah 15 gives us the story of Passover, however, I will leave Passover lessons for Passover, which is right around the corner. Since it is coming soon, though some lessons from this parashah can help you to begin preparing for the holiday now.

There is something I want everyone to notice from chapter 10 of Sh'mot/Exodus. Pharaoh is negotiating with Moshe concerning the permission for Isra'el to leave Egypt and go to worship their God. God's desire and Moshe's intention is for Isra'el to completely leave Egypt. Pharaoh, on the other hand is reluctant to let that happen. First, he wants to allow only the men to leave, but the women and children are to be left behind. Then after another plague, Pharaoh agreed to allow the women and children go with the men, but the livestock had to be left behind. Pharaoh was playing another deal or no deal game with Moshe, but Moshe was going to accept all or nothing. God had promised a complete withdrawal, so Moshe knew at that point that nothing was not going to happen. God was on their side and plagues were going to keep tormenting Pharaoh and his people until he agreed to Moshe's demands. Finally, with the death of the firstborn of Egypt, Pharaoh agreed to a complete withdrawal. Not only that, but they left with plunder from Egypt.

Why did Pharaoh go through such negotiations? Why wouldn't he just let the people, all the people, and all their possessions go to begin with? Think about it this way. If someone wanted to rob you of your valuables, would you give that person all your valuables, or start with the obvious ones, then hope that the person was satisfied with what you give them. You would probably give up only what you have to give up. Isra'el was a valuable commodity to Pharaoh for a long time, and he was not willing to give them up, especially not permanently. When the plagues started coming, he realized he was going to yield to the demands of Moshe and his God. However, he wasn't going to give up more than he had to. He started with just the men. Then he could keep some of his work force and at the same time keep something that would pretty much guarantee the return of the men he let go. After the next plague, he yielded a little more. By keeping the livestock, he could still get some kind of profit out of the deal if the people didn't return, but with no livestock they were still likely to return.

God's plan was for Isra'el to completely leave Egypt. All of them along with all their possessions, as well as many of Egypt's possessions as well. After the death of the firstborn, Pharaoh was finally willing to get rid of the asset that had become a severe cancerous tumor in his land. The longer he held on to them, the more destruction and suffering he was going to endure. It was like when the P'lishtim stole the ark of the covenant, and later gave it back because of the suffering it caused them.

God has rescued us from bondage to sin. His people are to have nothing to do with the kingdom of darkness we are born into. When we leave, we are to leave completely, heart, mind, and soul. However, as soon as we try to do this, Ha Satan will begin to negotiate for real estate in our heart. He will at first yield some things, but try to hang on to others. He will

say, "God can have your entertainment choices, but I want your finances. God can have your Sabbath days, but I want the rest." He will keep whatever you are willing to leave in his grasp. However, God wants a complete withdrawal from the kingdom of darkness. Anything you leave with Ha Satan is a door he has to your heart and cause for you to return, if only for short visits, to his dark world.

"If we claim to have fellowship with him while we are walking in the darkness, we are lying and not living out the truth. But if we are walking in the light, as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin."
(1 Yochanan/1 John 1:6-7)

You may have heard of the story of the man who bought a cabin from a shrewd man who didn't really want to sell his cabin in the woods. When the one man bought the cabin from the other man, the former owner asked if he could keep ownership of the nail above the door. The other man thought it odd, but it was only a nail, so he agreed. The cabin was wonderful and for a couple of years the man enjoyed his time in the cabin. Then one day he went in the cabin to find a dead rabbit hanging from the nail above the door. He tried to get rid of the rabbit, but the former owner came and reminded him the nail the rabbit was hanging on belonged to him, so he could hang what he wanted on it and the man who now owned the house could do nothing about it. As days went on, the rabbit remained and as it began to rot it began to stink. The smell was noxious and filled the whole cabin. It got to where the man could not enter his cabin without gagging, not to mention he had to pass by the decaying corpse every time he entered and exited through the door. Eventually he gave the cabin back to the original owner, all because of the nail he left in his possession. What seemed insignificant at the time led to the cabin being returned.

Unless we completely give ourselves over to God, and leave the kingdom of darkness, what remains in Ha Satan's control will eventually be used as a door for Ha Satan to come back into our lives and bring us back to the kingdom of darkness.

"no leaven is to be found in your houses" (Sh'mot/Exodus 12:19)

God did not rescue Isra'el from slavery in Egypt so they could live how they wanted and be their own people. He rescued them so they could belong to Him and be a nation set apart unto holiness to be a light for God in the world. In order for this to happen, it was not enough just to remove Isra'el from Egypt. He had to also remove Egypt from Isra'el.

One of the primary conditions of Passover was for the people to remove all leaven from their homes. As we know from Passover, leaven in Scripture represents sin. Houses in Scripture are closely related to the body, both individually and corporately. So removing leaven from your home and removing sin from within each individual as well as the whole community of Isra'el was the same thing.

"For just as the body is one but has many parts; and all the parts of the body, though many, constitute one body; so it is with the Messiah." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

With this in mind, now take a look at this teaching from Yeshua.

“If your right eye makes you sin, gouge it out and throw it away! Better that you should lose one part of you than have your whole body thrown into Gei-Hinnom. And if your right hand makes you sin, cut it off and throw it away! Better that you should lose one part of you than have your whole body thrown into Gei-Hinnom.”

(Mattityahu/Matthew 5:29-30)

There is a clear distinction in God's Word between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. God's people are to have nothing to do with the kingdom of darkness and darkness has no place within God's people. Gold has no value or use until all impurities are removed. The congregation of God's people cannot be used as a light in the world until all sin is removed from that congregation. Removal of sinfulness should not be seen as a bad thing. God removed Isra'el from Egypt to bring them to the Promised Land. God removes sin from His people so they can enjoy the blessings of His righteousness.

It ought to be noted that Isra'el did not remove themselves from Egypt. They left after God enabled them to do so. In the same way, purity is not achieved by human effort. It is provided through the shed blood of Messiah Yeshua and received through faith alone.

“ For you have been delivered by grace through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but God's gift. You were not delivered by your own actions; therefore no one should boast. For we are of God's making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)