

Twice in the New Testament

- We are directed to the children of Israel leaving Egypt as a stark warning.
- They are our example, written for our admonition 1Cor. 10:1-13;
- They had the gospel preached just as we have but it was never united with faith in their hearts so God swore in His wrath “*they shall never enter into My rest.*” Heb 3:7-19; 4:1-10
- What happened back then?
- How can we avoid the same fate?

The History and Legacy of Israel

- What God had already told them:
- *Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ...*
- God warned that they would be wrongfully treated as slaves, but they were not slaves.
- *But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” Gen 15:13-16*

The Legacy and Future of Israel

- *God had told Abraham that No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; ... And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Gen. 17:5-7*
- Israel had two visions:
- The one revealed by God as absolute truth.
- The illusion created by Pharaoh.

Joseph's Last Words Confirmed This

- *And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." 25 Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." Gen 50:24-26*
- *Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage — in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor. Ex 1:13-14*
- This was the paradox of Israel when Moses born.

Moses – Born a Slave made a Prince

- *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. Heb. 11:24-26*
- *And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. Acts 7:22*
- Moses had “double – double vision” From real mother – Those in Israel are sons of Abraham
- From Pharaoh’s daughter Egypt is king

The Prince and the Pauper

- A Story of two boys who look nearly identical.
- One raised by the king saw himself as a prince
- One raised by a peasant saw himself as a pauper
- When roles reversed, neither felt worthy of role.
- Pauper felt unworthy to be treated as a king.
- Prince felt unworthy to be treated as a pauper.
- This is the exact dilemma Israel and Moses faced.
- Moses chose to see himself like the Prince because that is how God had defined him.
- Israel chose to see themselves as slaves because that was how Pharaoh defined them.

Moses – Prince or Pauper (Slave)

- At forty Moses was **both** a prince and a pauper.
- He was a prince in Egypt but a pauper (slave) because of the blood of Abraham.
- He was a prince in Israel in the eyes of God, but a pauper (slave) in the eyes of Egypt.
- He made his choice!
- *when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

Israel Never Made that Choice

- They never saw themselves as anything but slaves! They could not see God's vision for them.
- *“God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt” (Ex 13:17).*
- At the Red Sea *“Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness” (Ex 14:12).*

Israel Remained a Slave in Heart

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

Israel Remained a Slave in Heart

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

What About Us?

- We face exactly the same double-vision.
- How the world sees and portrays us.
- How Jesus sees and portrays us.
- We face the prince and the pauper day by day, just like Moses and Israel.
- How God and Jesus define us.
- How the world of the ungodly define us.
- These competing visions are a constant choice.
- That is why we are warned about Israel.

Double Vision at Corinth

- *For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! 11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. 12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; 13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. 1Cor 4:9-13*

How the Apostles Saw Themselves

- *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:37-39*
- They saw themselves as God saw them and what Jesus had made them.
- They did not allow the world to define them.

Will God or the World define Vision

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



Jesus or this World

- *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matt 5:10-12*
- How do we choose to see ourselves

Jesus or this World

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

Things God has Revealed about Us

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

The Choice is Ours

- We can see God working through us and be the royal priesthood God reveals
- We can see ourselves as the world wants to define us.
- Moses chose the former
- Israel chose the latter.
- Now these things written for our admonition
- What choice have we made thus far?
- What choice will we make in the future?

How we choose to See

- *lay aside every weight, run with patience the race set before us, look to Jesus who endured such hostility of sinners, do not become weary discouraged in your souls. Heb 12:1-3*
- *Seek things that are above, where Christ is, set your mind on the things above, not things on the earth. Col 3:1-4*