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Reading - Exodus Chapter 5 v 2 and Chapter 12 v 12, 13, 23

Subject: Who is the Lord?

We are considering the challenge of Pharaoh to Moses from Exodus chapter 5, its consequences and its lessons for us today. The challenge was, "Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice?"

From Chapters 5 to 11 there are 9 plagues sent on Egypt because Pharaoh refused to let Israel go.

We might question, "Why does the word of the Lord demand obedience?"

In these verses, the background is that no one on earth could challenge Pharaoh's authority yet there is a God in heaven demanding his obedience. Pharaoh was set over Egypt the greatest power in the world but he had to learn there is a God in heaven who demands obedience. Why was this the case?

The name, "Lord" or "Jehovah", implies "the Eternal". It is explained in Revelation 1 "The one who is, was and is to come". He is eternal, time is always present to Him. He is the one that works all things to His purpose.

In Psalm 33:9, we are taken back to creation and reminded that "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast". At His word, everything stood in place. In Genesis 1, we learn of creation and we find the expression "God said" repeated. He only had to say a word to bring perfect order to creation.

Men may challenge the idea of creation, yet they recognise that the time will come when the universe will end. You may ask, "What about evolution?"

Scientists have conflicting opinions. Some would tell us that the world is going forward and evolving but others would recognise that the earth is winding down and coming to an end. If scientists did not have such theories to believe, they would have to believe in God. In every form of evolutionary change that has been observed, there is always some form of loss, never a progression. This contradicts the idea of evolution, but

God is in sovereign control in this world. His authority continues. Not only did He bring it into being, we learn that He upholds "all things by the word of his power" (Heb 1:3)

The first answer to the question, "Who is the Lord?" is that He is the One in absolute authority Who keeps all things in perfect order.

Something perfect was corrupted in Genesis 3. The serpent deceived Eve and man chose to follow. "By one man sin entered the world" (Rom 5:12). From that time, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23)

Why must I obey his voice? Every one of us must stand before our Maker. There is no escape. Everyone will have to give an account of ourselves (Rom 14:12).

God has appointed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness through Him that he raised from the dead.(Acts 17:31; Heb 9: 27)

On what basis will God judge the world?

Habakkuk asks the question of God, "Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity" (Hab 1:12,13)

Isaiah saw the glory of God and it caused him to bow down and realise he was undone (Isa 6:1-5).

We need to recognise that we stand as sinners condemned in his sight. Each one under sentence of sin, In Romans chapters 1-3, every class of man is included. The summary is in Rom 3:20 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin".

The question arises, how can we escape from the judgment? Exodus 12 illustrates the answer. For every person, there was an opportunity to escape. The Lord who dealt with Egypt is the one who will deal with the whole world. There are two conditions which people can be found in.

1 - Those who took no action (Heb 2v3)

For those who took no action there was judgment without escape. The scripture challenges us, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation" (Heb 2:3)

Notice it is not reject just neglect.

2 - Those who take action.

"When I see the blood" (Ex 12:13), this is a picture of judgment to come. Where the blood was found the Lord stood between the destroyer and the house. It takes us to Calvary's cross. The judgment of God will fall on the world but at Calvary the Lord suffered the judgment of God by standing between God and men to take the judgment we deserved. It fell on the only Man who lived on the world entirely for the Glory of God. God came into the world as a man - manifest in flesh - revealed himself to men in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Men said, "Away with Him, crucify Him". The Lord has made to meet upon him the iniquity of us all (Isa 53:6).

Who is the Lord?

The eternal - the holy and righteous God, yet a God of such mercy and love that before He condemns the sinner He would give his Son to save us.

There is a Saviour who died on the cross and rose again on the 3rd day. There is none outside His reach, there is nothing that can stop someone coming to Christ. The question of sin could not be dealt with by a word alone. He had to come to Calvary. His life had to be given His blood had to be shed. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin.

No man can look upon God and live - There is an assurance today that all who turn from sin and call upon the Saviour that judgment will not fall upon them. As the Saviour who died and rose again - He is able to save to the uttermost (Heb 7:25).

Are you trusting in your own works or efforts or is it in the assurance of Calvary where He stood between God and men and took the judgment.