

***"The Attack on the Heir and His Family Continues -
The Attack on the Nation Begins -
God Commands:"The Lord God Prevails Over the Matters of the Heart"***

Review:

Our focus in our last fellowship was with again with what I called a "vale of tears". And we saw that the tears of men are not all the same. We have read of many, many tears being shed but some words of encouragement are in order.

- ***God knows of every tear shed and he will not forget:***

Ps. 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

- ***Our tears may express our disappointments and our lack of faith, but nevertheless, our true worship of the Lord God must endure every trial:***

Ps. 42:1-3

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

- ***Hard times, days that seem to bring nothing but unbearable trials, are the lot of the saints:***

Ps. 80:1-5

1 O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up thy strength, and come and save us.

3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people?

5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.

- ***The Lord God Shall Accomplish His Eternal Plan - for Israel and for Us***

Ps. 126:1-6

1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

- ***A Tearless Future Awaits Us All Who Know Him***

Rev. 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (***see also Is. 25:8***)

But the shedding of tears is the condition of our humanity, whether our tears are shed as a result of our knowledge of God's profound working in our lives or due to our human condition alone as the outpouring of our hearts that are breaking. For those who have no hope, who are without God in the world, as the apostle has written, tears are a momentary solace. But for we who are saved, for we who have a heavenly and an eternal hope founded securely in his shed blood and glorious resurrection, tears may be so much more than tears of grief. They may be tears of joy unspeakable and full of glory.

We considered how Jacob was profoundly changed over the course of his life and especially when he wrestled with the angel of the Lord as recorded in Genesis 32. He was given a new name and a "halt" as a mark of his testimony. His new name, "Israel", means "God Commands". And that provides the theme of our study today. God commands. God commands even the human heart. The Lord God Prevails Over the Heart of Man!! Amen.

I. The Lord God Prevails Over the Heart of Man - The Testimony of Hagar & Ishmael

- ***[READ] Gen. 21:7-21***

7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age.

8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto

Abraham, mocking.

10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.

14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

16 And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept.

17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.

18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.

19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.

- ***So the Lord God here works even in this impossible of circumstances. He works, however, in ways far beyond our merely human comprehension.***
 - ***Sarah's heart leads to Hagar and Ishmael's expulsion***
 - ***Abraham sends them off with bread and water (and, I am sure, with hope of God's deliverance, since a promise had already been made regarding Ismael's future "human" glories).***
 - ***The young Ishmael's tears and the tears and cries of Hagar are***

heard -- and God provides water.

- *God fulfils his promise of earlier in chapter 17 that he would make a great nation of 12 tribes of Ishmael's seed. And he does!*
- *But for Abraham's seed much mercy and kindness is shown! Is this encouraging for us? It should be. The entirety of the word of God is given for our encouragement - Rom. 15:4.*

- *So the Lord God works through even the tears of unbelievers to accomplish his purposes and to uphold his promises. Indeed, the Lord God prevails even over Hagar and Ishmael. And, let us never forget, he always keeps his promises regarding the Seed of the Woman.*

- *Our Theme's Application: The Lord God Prevails Over the Heart of Man, Even with Hagar and Ishmael.*

II. The Lord God Prevails Over the Heart of Man - The Testimony of Esau

- **[READ] Gen. 33:1-4**
 - 1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids.
 - 2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.
 - 3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.
 - 4 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.

- *After departing from one another, most miraculously, of course, Jacob and his brother meet again after 20 years of separation. This time, however, they meet in peace. Again, Satan's plan of destruction was itself destroyed by the Lord God.*

- *Esau's tears and Jacob's tears here certainly do reflect a spring deeply found in the human heart, from the very center of their beings. However, as we have already emphasized in our fellowships here, not all tears spring from the same source. Satan also works in the hearts in conflict with the working of Almighty God - but God is*

the victor in his ways and in his time, always!

- *Esau's tears signify the work of the flesh while Jacob's spring from a heart breaking with appreciation of how God has kept his promises to preserve his life. But to see the rest of the story, we need to look into the New Testament, Hebrews chapter 12:*
- **Heb. 12:15-17**
15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;
16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.
17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.
- **Gen. 27:41** And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.”] *So Esau in his heart was inclined against Jacob and against the Lord God and his eternal plan of redemption. Heb. 11 establishes it. So be it.*
- **Our Theme's Application: The Lord God Prevails Over the Heart of Man, Even with Esau.**

III. The Lord God Prevails Over the Heart of Man - The Example of Moses

We now leave Genesis (the Book of Beginnings) and move ahead into the book of the Exodus.

- **[READ] Ex. 6:20** And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bare him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years.
- **[READ] Heb. 11:23**
23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

- **Who had the faith here? That is the key question. It was the parents of Moses, of course, Amram and Jochebed. But what they did next shows the extent of their faith. They put the baby in an ark and cast him into the river Nile.**

- **Ex. 2:1-10**

1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.

4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

- **And all follows from this simple yet profoundly meaningful event:**
“... and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.”
- **This is a most blessed account of how God worked in the hearts of more than a few to ultimately accomplish his purpose of deliverance for the children of Israel (whom Satan was still intent to destroy)!**
 - **He worked in Jacobed's and Amram's heart**

- *He worked in Miriam's heart*
- *He worked in the baby Moses's heart*
- *He worked in the daughter of pharaoh's heart*

- *Their heart's desires were in some cases merely human. But God overruled and his will was accomplished! And faith was also shown with its fruit as we see recorded in Heb. 11:23 "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment." Hebrews considers that act of faith as on a par with the others recorded in that chapter.*

- *All will now proceed from that act of faith. Let us read of that in Heb. 11 immediately following that great verse 23 as the scene shifts to Moses himself and to his testimony of faith:*

- *Heb. 11:24-28*
 - 24** *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, 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 pleasures of sin for a season;*
 - 26** *Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*
 - 27** *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*
 - 28** *Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.*

- *And all of this flows from a freely flowing tear from a babe in the bulrushes.*
- *Again, the Lord God has his way with the hearts of men. He accomplishes his purposes and always shall. Even the hearts of men are subject to him and his working.*
- *How encouraging this is to those who are suffering. Indeed.*

- *Our Theme's Application: The Lord God Prevails Over the Heart of Man, Even Moses and His Parents!!*

Conclusions / Application:

- ***God commands and it is accomplished!***
- ***We must stand in awe taking God and his work for what it truly is, the working of Almighty God, the creator and sustainer of all things.***
- ***May we always be encouraged as we consider the full magnitude of his working in our redemption.***
- ***To him be the glory now and forever! Amen and amen!***