**Bible/College Class Notes – *Studies in The Old Testament* – Lesson 71**

**The Christian Pilgrimage – Pictures of Salvation and Heaven.**

**This week** – We continue our lessons teaching us about how to live now, anticipating Heaven. **NOTES**

***“Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 106v1.***

**Revision – From Sin’s Slavery to God’s Heaven.**

**Slavery and Its’ Horrors - a Picture of our Slavery to Satan and Sin.**

God took the initiative - sending Moses to lead the Hebrew Nation out of their bondage to the Egyptians.

We are all sinners in God’s Holy sight. Slaves to sin.

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on Calvary to remove the guilt of sin. **To set us free from the slavery of sin.** Remember, a slave is at the beck and call of his master every moment of every day. Sin rules until we are set free.

**Moses’ Choice – He Left the Pleasures of Egypt to Serve The Lord.**

Moses willingly gave up being an Egyptian prince to rescue God’s People from slavery. He was prepared to suffer opposition from the world.

A true Christian willingly chooses the Lord’s service above anything else, whatever the cost.

**2**

**Resisting The Lord – Pharaoh Foolishly said ‘No’ 10 Times.**

Each ‘No’ caused Pharaoh’s heart to harden against Almighty God, and in the end, God hardened his heart so that he could not repent his sin or be saved.

How many times have we said ‘No’ to God’s mercy and offer of forgiveness? Surely, it is foolish to remain a slave to sin!

**Redeemed – God’s Angel of Death Passed Over the Believing Israelites**

‘Death Passed Over’ each house that had believed God - sacrificing a lamb, painting their door posts with its’ blood, and staying in that dreadful night.

God has declared that the Wages of Sin is Death -Eternal. A living experience of God’s Wrath – For ever – No let up.

‘Death will Pass Over’ each one who trusts in Christ’s sacrifice alone to save. **So, repent and believe in the Saviour.**

**Guidance – God’s Pillar of Cloud by Day and Fire by Night.**

God guides us by His inspired Word of Truth, The Bible - do we read it and obey it? The Truth will set us free.

**Protection – Destruction of Pharaoh at Red Sea, and From Serpents.**

The Israelites learnt that **only** God could save them from certain death.

**3**

The despot Pharaoh and his army was dealt a final blow at the Red Sea and they will face God’s final Judgement at the end of time.

We too must learn that God **alone** saves us from a deserved eternal death. **There is no other way.**

**Provision – God Provided All Their Physical Needs in the Desert.**

God knew every need of the 2 to 3M Hebrew People who would enter The Promised Land.

God knows our every need and will hear and provide for those who sincerely put Him first. Our needs are physical, mental and most importantly – Spiritual. **Christ answers all our needs.**

**The Golden Calf - Rejecting Almighty God for a useless man-made Idol.**

Moses’ delay in receiving the 10 Commandments from God gave the people an excuse to reject God and to make a ‘god’ that allowed their sinful acts.

Obviously an Idol is an inanimate thing – dead. **It has no power, no feeling.**

Beware, lest we too reject God’s holy standard - to sin and ruin our lives. To make our own idol, to trust in our own religion and views. It may even be based on the Bible but with additions or subtractions.

**4**

**The Day of Atonement - A Meeting Place with God.**

The Tabernacle is a ‘map’ that shows us the way to Heaven through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, His sacrifice, and our need for heartfelt repentance. Divided in 2 parts – The Holy Place and Holy of Holies. The High Priest entered The Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement with the blood of a sacrificed animal.  **Atonement – At One With God.**

When Christ died on the cross and said **‘it is finished’** the veil in the Temple was torn by God from top to bottom signifying that we now come through Jesus Christ into God’s Holy Presence through His once, for all time, sacrifice.

He died, rose again, ascended to Heaven, and now sits on the Throne of Grace to receive our prayers and praise.

**Jordan and Canaan – A Picture of Our Death and Entry Into Eternity.**

**‘Crossing Jordan’** is a Biblical picture of death – a **‘door’** that God ‘opens’ taking our souls from this life into the next. **We have no idea of when we will die. The timing is all in God’s Plan.**

The Promised Land is a lovely picture of God’s wonderful Eternal Heaven.

God promised Canaan to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **They all saw it as a picture of Heaven and looked forward to being there.** Are you certain that this is your destination? **Is Jesus Christ your Saviour and Lord? Is He preparing a place for you?**

**5**

**You need your sins forgiven as you cannot enter Heaven whilst you still live in sin.**

**The Lord Jesus said, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you” Matthew 6v33.***

**Important Thought for us Today:**

**Who is our Guide?**

The children of Israel suffered much unnecessary trouble because they refused to be guided by the Lord.

They did not trust in Him to set them on the right road and, in unbelief, followed their own wills, missing out on His promises.

The example of Moses, Joshua and Caleb shows He will bless those who prayerfully seek and follow His guidance based on His Word.

Life’s major decisions will bring either blessing or pain.

To marry someone who does not share the same Biblical truth as you, to do a job which takes you away from the Lord, to attend a church that is not faithful to Biblical teaching – all these will end in sadness, and disappointment.

The Lord does not promise life to be easy but if guided by Him and His principles His blessing will be known, and eventually we will enter Eternal Heaven to sin no more.