

Exodus 11

¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague *more* upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let *you* go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether. ² Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold. ³ And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses *was* very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people. ⁴ And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: ⁵ And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that *is* behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. ⁶ And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. ⁷ But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel. ⁸ And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger. ⁹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

About Midnight

OUTLINE

- (1) Preparation (v1-4)
- (2) Preservation (v5-10)

INTRODUCTION

Jesus gave the parable of the ten virgins to instruct His disciples living in the last days just prior to the rapture to be stay vigilant and be always ready and not be caught off-guard and unprepared and suffer great eternal loss!

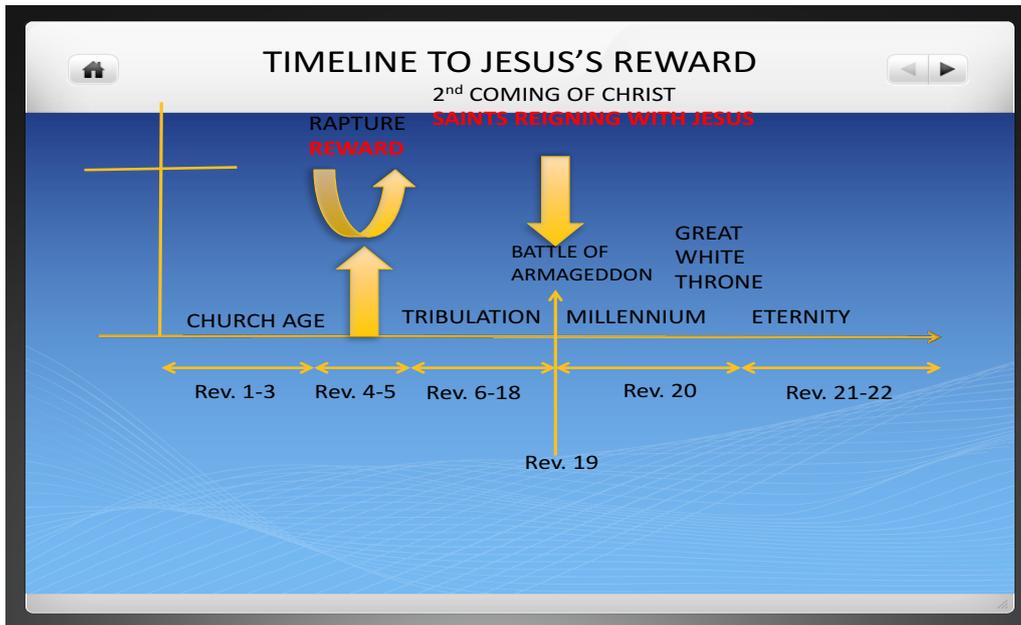
Matthew 25:1-13 *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. **And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.***

*And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. **And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.***

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Do you know what is the time in the prophetic clock for the ages? I submit to you that the Lord is returning soon and a time is coming when we shall work no more. We are in that

final phase in this last, last hour of human history. The church will be taken to glory and Great Tribulation will begin.



The most revealing warning that judgment is nigh is that the old days of Sodom is upon us today. Never before in human history has there been such world-wide proliferation LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans-gender) activities.

Today, we hear of the LGBT movement pushing its way into the Singapore society threatening to overturn the God-ordained family institution. The message seems to be inclusiveness, to accept their alternate lifestyles. God forbid! Christians need the moral courage to stand against such a tide because this is against the word of God.

Romans 1:26-28, 32 *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient ... 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

Jude 7 *Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

2 Peter 2:6 *And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrhah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*

The people of God are to separate themselves from the evils of Sodom like Abraham. His nephew Lot failed and suffered great loss for his lack of courage and conviction to flee from the sin of greed! His wife was turned into a pillar of salt. His daughters so influenced by the lifestyle of Sodom committed incest with him.

*Wednesday Bible Study – Call unto Me
Beginnings of the Hebrew Nation – The Exodus
2 August 2017*

Jesus says “And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.”

Jesus Christ in His first coming sought to call men to repentance that they may find salvation and escape the wrath of God’s eternal judgment in hell fire. In His Second Coming, He will come as Judge to all who would reject His salvific plea!

The last plague was to befall the Egyptians at about midnight where the first-born of every Egyptian and their cattle will suddenly die. A judgment of such severity that the LORD God of Israel has withheld till the last. God, out of His mercy, patience and longsuffering allow Pharaoh and all Egypt time that they might repent and acknowledge that the God of Israel is the only living and true Creator God of life. He is the Giver of life, He is also the Taker of life! Fear and tremble and bow unconditionally in full surrender before Him.

Two thoughts:

- (1) Preparation/Provision (v1-3)
- (2) Preservation (v4-10)

(1) Preparation (v1-3)

¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether. ² Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold. ³ And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people.

The preparation for the Exodus saw the Lord’s provision for their journey. In the wilderness, they shall be establishing worship. The tabernacle will be built. The Lord will supply the materials through the Egyptians. These “borrowed” stuff from the Egyptians are as it were their wages through the years of affliction under God.

God instructed Moses before the tenth plague, where they were given advance knowledge that Pharaoh will relent and finally let them leave Egypt, to ask their Egyptian neighbours for jewels of silver and jewels of God. It is interesting to observe that it was the LORD who instructed them to ask and also gave them favour in the sight of the Egyptians.

Proverbs 3:1-4 *My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*

Proverbs 3:5-7 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

Truly, the hearts of the Egyptians who were so much their taskmasters did open their hand of generosity to furnish the Israelites with what they needed to glorify the Name of God. At first sight, the Israelites may question the Lord, how is that possible? Why should the Egyptians give to them? They were mere slaves. It takes faith to walk with God. They saw the impossible!

What privilege it is to be God's children. He sees ahead for us and instructs us in the better way to fulfil His goodwill for our lives.

Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
 - *Refrain:*
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

God is going to make them freemen and land-owners. They will no longer be servants and slaves subjected to abuse and torture rather having the liberty to work hard and prosper tilling their own ground.

We are freed from the bondage of sin through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ and are on the pathway to our heavenly mansion that Jesus has gone ahead to construct for us.

John 14:1-4 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

Verse 3 gives us a sight of the sentiment in Egypt - ³*And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people.*

The stature of Moses in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and his people very great. They saw the power of God through the spoken words of this man. It must have struck fear in the hearts of the people. They may have been reluctant givers nevertheless, God melted their hearts to see the might of the Israelite God through Moses. We recall, darkness just fell upon Egypt without warning. It must have frightened them greatly. And so, Moses' appeal was taken seriously, the Egyptians may have thought if these material favours may buy them protection and save their lives, why not hearken to the Israelites' request! What good is gold and silver when there were no cattle and no crops.

In the battle between Pharaoh and our Creator God, these valuables were the spoils of war, given out of willing hands.

(2) Preservation (v4-10)

⁴*And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt:*⁵ *And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.*⁶ *And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more.*⁷ *But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.*⁸ *And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all*

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the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger. ⁹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

God will send the last plague about midnight. It will be a new day and a new beginning for the people of Israel. They will be allowed to leave Egypt.

Notice the contrast in Egypt and in Goshen that was described. Indeed, the difference is that one trusted God and the other spurned and mocked and will not submit to His authority.

The devastation will be so great in Egypt – ⁵ *And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. ⁶ And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more.*

The house of mourning is a sobering place of reality and awakening for the unprepared and unrepentant soul. It is a sad place of permanent physical separation with our loved ones. If the deceased is in the Lord, we shall see him or her again in heaven. Else, that separation will be an eternal one.

Solomon rightly advised, **Ecclesiastes 7:2-5** *It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.*

Solomon in the study of Ecclesiastes has explained in great detail that truly, all is vanity under the sun. This life without God will be a life of regret in the final analysis and he brings us to a funeral scene in a vigil service to help us to see the end of a man so that we may be wise to live this “in-between” life after birth and before we take our last breath.

At the house of mourning, we see the end of life, we see the end of a man’s life and we see that it is indeed our ultimate destination too.

Hebrews 9:27-28 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

It brings us to Christ! And it makes out of the judgment to come. We are that near and not there till we go that way. There is still time to repent.

May it be a sobering wake-up call, Solomon tells his reader, when one chooses to go to the house of mourning. When a choice arises, it is better to go to the house of mourning. We see God preserving the Israelite camp - ⁷ *But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.*

Wednesday Bible Study – Call unto Me
Beginnings of the Hebrew Nation – The Exodus
2 August 2017

Life with God is eternal protection, preservation and blessing.

We may echo the words of rejoicing written by the Apostle Paul outlining the permanency of our salvation in Christ - **Ephesians 1:3-7** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace... **Ephesians 1:9-10** *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him ...* **Ephesians 1:11-14** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

CONCLUSION

- (1) Preparation (v1-4)**
- (2) Preservation (v5-10)**