

## STAND STILL AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD!

*Exodus 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.*

The longer one has been in the world, the more difficult its to be separated for the Lord. This was the major challenge the children of Israel faced. The Bible records that Israel were slaves in Egypt for 430 years. “And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:41). There is something noteworthy about this number of years: 430. For some reason known only to God, 430 years is the number of permanent and irrevocable separation. There was a man named Eber in the Book of Genesis. This man’s name meant “the region beyond”. This man lived for 430 years, and one of his son’s names was Peleg which meant “division” for in his days the Lord *divided* the earth. “And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan” (Genesis 10:25).

What the above means is the following: God sets a time limit on his people’s mingling with the ungodly forces of this world. Pharaoh was fanatically determined to enslave Israel, but God was and is always more determined to set his people free and separate them from this world. Are you struggling with the forces of this world? Is the lure and temptations of this world overwhelming you, Christian? Take heart! God has a message for this world:

*Exodus 4:22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:*

*Exodus 4:23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.*

Now imagine the sights and sounds the children of Israel were accustomed to in the land of Egypt. They woke up to the shrill orders of the taskmasters; they were surrounded by idols depicting the countless gods and goddesses of the Egyptians; through physical and psychological abuse they were dehumanized and left unable to remember their identity as the children of promise and, when the day was over, they barely had enough energy to crawl into their mud huts and enjoy the few hours of oblivion and escape that sleep offers – only to wake up to the same accursed rhythm. Then came the year 430 in the calendar of slavery – the year of division and separation! Thank God he will not tolerate the enslavement of his people! Who here wants to live a holy life in sweet fellowship with the Lord Jesus? Who here wants

to observe the commandment, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation”? (I Peter 1:15). You may feel the forces of Satan and the world are inextricably welded together with your life, but God will cause a division, an earthquake in the days of Peleg. May this be the year of Peleg in our lives!

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When one has been a slave to sin for so long, there is an abiding suspicion of salvation. When God begins to separate from the world, he has to convince both Pharaoh and his people about his determination to separate us and the benefits of salvation. Four times God mentioned a land flowing with milk and honey. “And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites” (Exodus 3:8). Separation unto holiness is always accompanied by knowledge and faith in the promise of the benefits of salvation. Now note that even after 10 mighty plagues upon Egypt and Pharaoh, the children of Israel were not convinced of God’s ability to separate them once and for all from their former master. But let us remember the soul-comforting words of the writer of Hebrews, “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). The most dramatic and frightening time in the 430 years of the children of Israel was when they were squeezed between the forces of the Red Sea ahead and Pharaoh behind. The moment of the earthquake, or the permanent separation from the world, is often the most frightening.

***Isaiah 66:9** Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.*

This message today is for someone who perhaps has been brought to the edge of the Red Sea. God wants to separate you once and for all from the sin that has cleaved to you like a leech and tormented you. Note the mercy of the Lord in that he did not permit the children of Israel to have eye contact with Pharaoh their oppressor. “And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night” (Exodus 14:19,20). The

Lord Jesus will stand between your sinful past and your glorious future so the two will not even see each other. Hallelujah! The slave master will be unable to find us because the Lord the Lord will cause a cloud of darkness to envelope him. “ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler” (Psalm 91:4). Does your past torment you? Come and seek refuge under the wings of the Almighty!

The Lord Jesus has been planning and guiding our deliverance from sin from the foundation of the earth. “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (I Peter 1:20). Now, when he has brought us to the edge of the Red Sea, we ought not to panic, but stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. When the earthquake struck in the days of Peleg, it must have initially been terrible. Trees and vegetation were ripped apart, the earth convulsed with landslides and tsunamis, but once this was over, we had beautiful islands, canyons and mountains. Division and separation from the world can be very painful and turbulent, but only then will we understand and see the beauty of holiness. “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (I Chronicles 16:29). Once we have left this Egypt of sin, all we have to do is stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. It was divine intervention that freed Israel from Egypt and it took divine intervention for Israel to leave Egypt and enter the Promised Land. Note the wisdom of God: he deliberately chose the route of the Red Sea so that 2 million Israelites would be unable to return to Egypt. There weren't enough boats to transport such a multitude. May the Lord permanently close the route back to our sinful past! This message is also for the saint of God who is struggling with sin that appears to keep bringing you back to the edge of the Red Sea. “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief” (Proverbs 24:16). Stand up again and see the salvation of the Lord!