

**INTRODUCTION: Exodus 13**

- Q: HOW MANY OF YOU ARE MESSIANIC BELIEVERS?
- Let me ask you another question
- Q: HOW MANY OF YOU BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST IS CAME IN FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY TO SAVE THE WORLD?
- The term Christ is Greek for Messiah
- A Messianic Believer is simply someone who believes Jesus is the promised Messiah who came to bring salvation to the world
- Congratulations... you are all Messianic Believers
- It doesn't mean we start acting like Jewish people, wearing yamakas and going to church on Saturday... I am a Gentile, not a Jew

***But it does point out a very important fact***

- There are laws of hermeneutics or rules to interpret the scriptures
- In order to properly understand the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew scriptures, you need to know the authors, the language, the culture and the times the scriptures were written in
- For instance... Hebrew is a pictorial language... every letter paints a picture and pictures are rich with meaning
- Every letter of the Hebrew alphabet has a numerical value... and that has meaning
- So there are several layers of meaning in every verse of the Bible
- When you combine the events of the Bible with these layers of meanings it's only then that you can rightly divide the word of truth and understand who God is as He reveals Himself in scripture
- Something you've heard me say often is God is a God of revelation and He reveals Himself through His words and His actions in real time
- SO as we go through the scriptures we are getting an accurate picture of God and we're discovering that the teachings in the New Testament actually come from the Hebrew scriptures
- BECAUSE God is the same yesterday, today and forever
- I would invite you to come to our Thursday study where we teach verse by verse from Genesis to Revelation and we take time to get into these layers of meanings... I believe it will change your life
- All of this is available at [calvarysanclemente.org](http://calvarysanclemente.org) as well

***We are continuing our series titled So Great A Salvation***

- Today we are going to talk about the Church

- Now many people believe the Church is a New Testament concept that was born in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost
- But I want to suggest to you that the Church is not a New Testament concept but a Biblical concept found in the Book of Exodus
- We see this by how God refers to Israel

***The first thing God does when He saves Israel out of bondage to Egypt is He creates a special people***

Exodus 13:1–10 (NKJV)

**13** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and beast; it is Mine.” <sup>3</sup>And Moses said to the people: “Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this *place*. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

- The Lord says to Moses... consecrate to Me all the firstborn
- As we looked at previously, the firstborn represents the whole
- This consecration represents the consecration of the entire nation
- NOW... The word consecrate is “kaddes” and it means to “set apart” or to make “holy”

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup>but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct,  
<sup>16</sup>because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

- Now in order to understand this correctly, you need to see this in light of the fact that man was created, set apart for fellowship with God
- Thus when God says be holy, for I am holy this is not a command to become pure or perfect or sinless or else!
- This is an invitation to relationship... I am set apart for you, I want you to be set apart for me
- Remember... God is a God of revelation and we must always ask ourselves what is God revealing about Himself?
- What is God revealing? God has committed Himself completely to you and He wants you and I to be completely committed to Him
- He doesn't want anything coming between us... He doesn't want separation, He wants exclusivity... that's what it means to be holy

- I am set aside for God alone

***In vs. 2 God refers to the “children of Israel” (bene Yisrael)***

- The word “bene” is a family term and suggests that those in the family are descendants of a common ancestor

***Paul writing to the Ephesians said...***

Ephesians 4:4–6 (NKJV)

*4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

- When you are born again, you are born into One spiritual family under One God and Father of all
- You’re not born again into the Baptist family, the Presbyterian family or even the Calvary Chapel family
- We are born again into the family of God, united by One Spirit, serving One LORD
- This Oneness that we share with believers all over the world is to be protected
- Paul told the Ephesians to be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)

***Solomon writes that God hates division and divisiveness***

Proverbs 6:16–19 (NKJV)

*16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.*

- Now why does God hate division? Because it’s separation and Jesus died on the cross to end separation
- Thus those who are truly born again will unify not divide
- As I’ve said before... God adds, God subtracts, God multiplies but God never divides... that’s Core Math for Christians

***But David tells us there is a blessing in unity***

Psalm 133:1–3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity!<sup>2</sup> *It is* like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.<sup>3</sup> *It is* like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

***In Exodus 13:3 Moses referred to the people as “citizens”***

- A citizen is a person who is recognized as being a legal member of a sovereign state or nation
- This entitles them to rights, privileges and protection by the sovereign power within it’s territorial borders

***Paul referred to believers as citizens of heaven...***

Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

- As citizens of heaven we are entitled to all the rights and privileges of being members of the Kingdom of God

***The greatest right and privilege being that of knowing Jesus***

Philippians 3:8–10 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

***In Exodus 12:3 Israel is referred to as the congregation of Israel***

- In Hebrew it’s “adat yisrael”
- The root of “Adat” is “Eda” which is translated “witness”

***Jesus said...***

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Once you experience salvation, Jesus empowers you and you are a witness of God's saving power
- It is this knowledge of God that transforms us into witnesses
- **INTERESTING TO NOTE:** In the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures, the word "congregation" is translated "synagogue"
- Paul would have quoted from the Septuagint when he was writing the New Testament

***In Exodus 12:6 Israel is referred to as the assembly***

- In Hebrew it's "kehal" which conveys the idea of assembling for religious purposes... there is a purpose for gathering together
- In Exodus 12 the purpose is to celebrate Passover...
- They gather to sacrifice the Passover Lamb and every time you see sacrifice you need to think worship
- They gather to remember when God delivered them out of Egypt
- That is the purpose for worship... to remember and celebrate God's mighty power and when we do we receive revelation about who God is

***But I want to reveal something to you concerning the Church***

- In the Septuagint the word "assembly" is translated "ekklesia" which is the word translated "church" in the New Testament
- That means the first place we see the Church mentioned is not in the Book of Acts... it's in the Book of Exodus

***Stephen, before He was murdered... said this***

Acts 7:38–39 (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> "This is he who was in the congregation (ekklesia) in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and *with* our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, <sup>39</sup> whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,

***Who is Stephen talking about? Israel, the assembly in Exodus 13***

- Stephen says... God was in the midst of the assembly, the congregation
- How? The cloud by day and the first by night (Presence of God)
- The Church is the assembly that gathers together to worship the LORD and the LORD is in our midst... there is purpose and presence

**Jesus said**

Matthew 18:20 (NKJV)

Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them (Presence)

**Paul said...**

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (Purpose – edification)

**There is one more word used to describe Israel... it's the word army**

Exodus 12:51 (NKJV)

<sup>51</sup> And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

- Like all armies, the Church is under orders, we are well equipped for war, we have weapons of warfare, we have a commander... Jesus

**Paul said to the Corinthian Church**

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

**To Timothy he wrote...**

2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

**You and I are in a spiritual battle**

- The battle ground is in the mind
- Paul mentions strongholds (Gr. for fortified place)
- We are going to get into dealing with strongholds when we get into Joshua, where Joshua takes the land
- He mentions arguments (Gr. for rules of logic)

- Those logical conclusions you arrive to that deny the revelation of God

I recently watched a video of Derek Webb who was a founding member of the Christian dove award winning group Caedmon's Call. He comes from a reformed background. He committed adultery and his marriage ended in divorce... rather than change directions... he logically concluded because of his reformed theology that he was no longer chosen for heaven, he must be chosen for hell. God is sovereign, in control of all things and God could have stopped him but He didn't so he must be a vessel fashioned for judgment. Thus through reformed theology he has logically concluded his faith is not real and now denies Jesus.

- Paul also mentions every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (literally everything that competes against the knowledge of God)
- The enemy doesn't have to get you to deny Jesus
- He just has to get you so busy that you don't have time for Jesus
- There are so many things that compete for your time and attention
- Things that keep you from knowing God through His Word, coming the church, coming to Bible study... that's all spiritual warfare and it's real
- How do we fight against it? By bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ... through obedience, obeying God's Word
- And as we obey... evil is defeated

### ***So we see the church revealed in the book of Exodus***

- It's where God's purpose is fulfilled – to worship and serve God
- It's a family... united by our heavenly Father
- It's a community of witnesses... testifying of the saving power of God
- It's a community of worshippers... the body of Christ in the world
- It's a community of citizens of heaven... under the law of the Spirit of Life
- It's an army... under the command of Jesus Himself
- It's a special people, not a building, not a place, who are called out of Egypt to worship and serve the living God
- **NOTE:** you can't join this church, you have to be born into it