THE MARCH AT MIDNIGHT

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**TEXT: Exodus 12:37-51; Romans 8**

**INTRODUCTION**

We now come to Israel finally leaving Egypt

God is about to fulfill His Promise, as He always does

**Genesis 15:13, 14 – *“And He said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;” “And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance”***

This promise was given some 650 yrs. earlier

God is about to give His people a fresh start

The March at Midnight has begun

Egypt was surprised in the midst of their false security

None were so high that God's hand did not reach them and none so low that they were overlooked

You cannot escape God's judgment if you are Not willing to obey Him

The whole nation of Egypt was steeped in a deceitful slumber only to awaken to a nightmare of truth

God kept His Word ... He always does!

Sin had slain their dearest ones, Sin does that

Their sorrow was hopeless

Their grief could not bring back their dead

The same holds true for those without Christ

When death puts its icy fingers around someone’s soul,

When their last breath says, "Good-bye" for eternity,

When their heart stops to beat, it will be too late to turn to Christ

At that point they can be sorry for their sin, scream to be saved, screech for help, but it will all be to no avail

Their cries will fall on deaf ears

They will be for eternity in the flames of Hell if they have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ

Some people have yet to learn that they cannot travel in the wrong direction and reach the right destination

In Egypt, God used His own hand to smite the firstborn

Every soul that would not voluntarily consecrate themselves to the Lord was under His condemnation

This still holds true for today

[**John 3:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A18) **– “*He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God”***

Those who put the blood on their doorposts were protected and saved

They now have a brand-new start

When we were born again, we too had a new beginning.

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

Not to say that everything will be rosy for the Christian

We will face new trials and obstacles, even old problems will surface again

**Ill.** During the hectic field campaign in Europe, General Dwight Eisenhower is said to have asked one of his intelligence officers for a brief assessment of the enemy situation. The young officer quickly replied, *"Sir, picture a donut. We're the hole!"*

There will be times that you feel surrounded by trials

We need to realize, however, that God uses our trials to strengthen us and bring future blessings

Despite Israel Great Deliverance, Satan would not give up easily

He may not have been able to keep God's people in Egypt

But he had other plans

Let’s stand to read **vs. 37-51** and then pray

And think on this thought

**“The March at Midnight”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “OUTCAST OF THE EXODUS” – vs. 37-39 …**

Though not specifically noted, Israel evidently moved out in the middle of the night

The Bible tells us they ***“journeyed from Rameses to Succoth”,***

There is a lot of debate over where Succoth is today

They traveled on foot

Also, is noted that there were about 600,000 men, beside woman and children

In factoring in the latter, there apparently were as many as 2 ½ million people

In addition to the throng of people, their flocks and herds

traveled with them

It must have been an immense train, a sizable crowd, don’t you think?

**A. The ‘Meant’ Multitude – v. 37**

***“And the children of Israel journeyed …”***

God was now doing the work that He has Promised

He is Delivering Israel from their Bondage

For many it was something they had longed for

Finally brought out from under the Hard Bondage

You know, the day I got saved was the Day I was Delivered from the Hard Bondage of Sin I was under

Sin is such a Cruel Taskmaster

Just like Israel was Delivered from the Hand of their Cruel Taskmasters …

So, when someone Trusts Christ for Salvation they are delivered from the Cruel Taskmaster of Sin

Although the exact phrase *spiritual bondage* does not appear in the Bible,

Scripture does speak of unbelievers’ being in bondage to sin

**Acts 8:23 –** ***“For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity”***

**Romans 6:6 – *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin”***

**II Peter 2:19 – *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage”***

**John 8:34 – *“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin”***

Evil has a way of taking hold in a person’s life, and [bad habits](https://www.gotquestions.org/habitual-sin.html) are hard to break

For an unsaved person, sin forms a chain

**Proverbs 5:22 – *“His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins”***

A chain that only the Saviour can break

**John 8:32 – *“But ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”***

But the Bible does tell us that it’s possible for a Believer to give the devil a foothold

**Ephesians 4:27 – *“Neither give place to the devil”***

You give him an inch, he’ll take a mile

We do this by harboring sin in our hearts

However, we should not think of spiritual bondage as Christians being bound by demons

There is a difference between a person who lives according to the flesh and one who lives according to the Spirit

**Romans 8:5-14 …**

**B. The ‘Mixed’ Multitude – v. 38**

***“And a mixed multitude went up also with them;”***

Some of these folks were leaving without being redeemed

They were obviously not firstborns, but they did not put blood on their door posts either

They were the tares among the wheat

**1.** Who were these people?

There are several ideas ...

-- They were native Egyptians

Anxious to escape the tyranny of Pharaoh and devastation of Egypt

-- They were slaves or fugitives of other races oppressed by Pharaoh

-- They were Egyptians connected by marriage to the Hebrews as Joseph was married to an Egyptian

If Satan can't keep you in Egypt, (World) if he can't keep you in the bondage of sin,

Then he will do what he can to hinder your walk with God

He is a roaring lion and a subtle serpent

**I Peter 5:8 – *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”***

**II Corinthians 11:3 – *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”***

Pharaoh was the tactic of a roaring lion

Now Satan uses the tactic of a subtle serpent by using the ***“mixed multitude”*** to hinder God's people

He could not keep them in Egypt, so he sent Egypt with them

The seeds of Compromise, Complaining, Carnality, and Corruption will be sown by them

The mixed multitude did not count upon the trials of the desert

And it wasn’t long before they wanted to go back

They grumbled and griped (They affected the Jews)

**Numbers 11:4 – *“And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?”***

**2.** These folks are a picture of carnal, worldly believers or lost sinners

The words ***“mixt multitude”*** is a Hebrew term which means *riff raff or rabble, a mob scraped together*

These people were a bad influence on God's people

Down the road they will be sick of God's provision of manna and will crave flesh

They will ***“fall a lusting”*** the Bible says

Craving will lead to gorging on quail which will lead to plague and death

Churches today are filled with carnal Christians and the unsaved who choke and gag on the manna of God's Word,

Craving instead, the fleshly things this world has to offer

Such as immorality, alcohol, drugs, gambling, and pornography

Their cry is, *“Don't preach against our sin!”*

When a church becomes carnal, it chokes and becomes weak and sick

Satan uses the tactic of tares in the wheat all throughout Scripture

-- God called Abraham alone

Terah and Lot came along and hindered the journey

**Isaiah 51:2 – *“Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him”***

-- The Gibeonites made a covenant with Joshua (**9**) who did not seek God's direction before making this agreement

-- The remnant of Jews that returned from the Babylonian captivity where meet by a mixed multitude of heathens now in their land

They separated from them

**Nehemiah 5:17 – *“Moreover there were at my table an hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, beside those that came unto us from among the heathen that are about us”***

**Nehemiah 13:3–*“Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude”***

-- Balaam's counsel to defeat Israel was through intermarriage

-- Judas Iscariot was mixed in with the twelve disciples

The lesson is, *“Be careful who your friends are”*

Don't put yourself in a position that will jeopardize

Your Christian position

**I Corinthians 15:33 – *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners”***

Resist the temptations of a carnal crowd

**II Corinthians 6:17 – *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”***

**Humor:** A guy got a job painting a yellow line down the highway. After three days, the foreman complained: *“The first day you did great. You painted that yellow line three miles. The second day wasn't bad; you did two miles. Today, however, you only painted one mile of line, so I'm going to have to fire you.”* On his way out of the foreman's office, the guy looked back and said, *“It's not my fault. Each day I just got farther from the paint can.”*

Someone put it this way concerning our relationship with God:

*“If we are not as close to the Lord as we used to be, who moved?”*

Beloved, be alert to drifting away from the Lord

Be aware of what you are doing in your life and of your relationship with Christ

**THE “OUTCAST OF THE EXODUS”**

**II. THEIR “OCCUPANCY IN EGYPT” – vs. 40, 41 …**

**Humor:** A man was taking a taxi when he realized he had left his wallet at home. Suddenly he had an idea. About a block away from his destination, he said to the driver, *“Stop at this hardware store and wait for me. I need to buy a flashlight so I can look for the $100 bill that I dropped back here.”* When the man came out, the taxi was gone, and so was his problem

The trials of God's people have been severe, but they have a joyful end at last

In Egypt, they have been in bondage, suffered, been brutally mistreated but have now been delivered by the Lord

This trial is ending, yet there will be others down the road

In these verses we see appropriately, now that the Exodus had begun, Moses taking a moment to reflect on the total Egyptian experience which lasted 430 years

Letting us know, again, that God always honors His Promises

**THE “OUTCAST OF THE EXODUS”**

**THEIR “OCCUPANCY IN EGYPT”**

**III. THE “OBEDIENCE OF ISRAEL” – vs. 42-51**

Here we see Moses returning to his emphasis of the Passover

**A. The ‘Observation’ – v. 42 …**

***“this is that night of the LORD…”***

As the Lord watched over Israel, so Israel was to look unto the LORD by Observing the Passover Feast every year

It was very important for Israel to remember this occasion

If they didn’t, it would cause them to depart from the LORD

When Israel did decline spiritually,

Scripture points out that it was accompanied by Forgetfulness of the important occasions in their history

The Psalmist, notes this in several places

**Psalm 106:13 – *“They soon forgat His works; they waited not for His counsel:”***

[**Psalm 106:21, 22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+106%3A21-22) **- “*... They forgat God their Saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;” “Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea”***

How soon we forget

Here are four examples from the Bible of how we Forget God …

-- By forgetting God's work of salvation

**Deuteronomy 6:12 – *“Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage”***

**II Peter 1:9 – *“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins”***

-- By believing lies instead of the Word of God

**Jeremiah 13:25 – *“This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from Me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten Me, and trusted in falsehood”***

**Romans 1:25 –*“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen”***

-- By going after other gods

**Hosea 2:13 – *“And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat Me, saith the LORD”***

-- By being Satisfied with the Temporal

**Hosea 13:6 – *“According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten Me”***

**Deuteronomy 8:1-14 …**

**B. The ‘Ordinance’ – vs. 43-49 …**

The words ***“no stranger”*** refer to a foreigner who wished to remain a foreigner and stay uncircumcised

No uncircumcised servant, slave, or foreigner passing through the land was to partake of the feast

The feast was to be eaten at home and not taken out of the house

No bones were to be broken in the lamb

Everyone was to keep the Passover which was a symbol of the unity of Israel

These verses tell us that God wants His directions followed

**C. ‘Out’ of Egypt – v. 50, 51**

God’s people leave Egypt Obediently **– v. 50**

God's people leave Egypt Peaceably **– v. 51**

They boldly leave Egypt as the Egyptians are burying their dead

**Numbers 33:3, 4** tells us ***– “And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the Passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians” “For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments”***

The Lord won the victory for His people

In fact, not one person was sick or too weak to travel

This was a great miracle

**Psalm 105:37** tells us **– *“He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes”***

**Ill**. There is an old story about a court jester who was once given a scepter by the King he served. *"Keep this,* said the King, *“until you find a greater fool than yourself."* The jester put away the scepter and kept it for many years. One day the King lay dying. Calling the jester to his side, he said, *"I am going on a long journey."* The jester asked, *"Where to?"* The King shrugged his shoulders. *"For how long?"* asked the jester. *"Forever,"* replied the King weakly. *"What provisions have you made for your journey?"* asked the jester. *"None,"* answered the King. *"Then,"* said the jester, *"take this,"* and he handed the King his scepter. *"For you are a greater fool than I."*

Beloved, let’s not be foolish by going through life not obeying God

Follow His directions revealed in His Word

Most of all, be sure you are trusting Jesus Christ alone

Failure to do this would be foolish!

**CONCLUSION**

**THE “OUTCAST OF THE EXODUS”**

**THEIR “OCCUPANCY IN EGYPT”**

**THE “OBEDIENCE OF ISRAEL”**