

The World... Our Mission Field

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

In many ways, there are many similarities between Christians living in the world today and the times of the Israelites living in Egypt.

The Lord instructed the Israelites through Moses saying “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and the sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe the ceremony. And when your children ask you, what does this ceremony mean to you? Then you will tell them, it is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians. Then the people bowed down and worshipped” (Exodus 12:21-27, NIV).

The Jews still celebrate the Passover to commemorate how God miraculously delivered them from bondage under the Egyptians. Likewise, Christians observe the Lord’s Supper to commemorate what Christ did for us when He died on the cross. In 1 Corinthians 5:7, Paul likened Christ to the Passover lamb: “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (NIV) The blood of the young, unblemished lamb which protects the Israelites from the sword was a shadow of the blood of Christ which brought redemption to mankind. “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19, NIV).

We may not be Jews who lived in Egypt, but as God’s redeemed people we live in the world that is hostile to God and to those who serve Him.

The allegory I want to draw is as follows:

The Israelites are like Christians, the world or the Egyptians are the unbelievers and Egypt, the world system. Satan is the god of this world. The Bible says, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ...” (II Cor 4:4, NIV). The Bible also says, “We know that we are the children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one” (1 John 5:19).

The world of the unbelievers are the persecutors of God’s people because it hates God. Jesus said: “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also” (John 15:18-20, NIV).

The world alienates itself from God and as such comes under His judgment. How then can unbelievers or the world be delivered? God in His graciousness has provided a way of escape.

OUR WORLD CAN BE DELIVERED

In Exodus 12:23, God told the Israelites that when He brings the plague of death of the firstborn upon the land of Egypt, He would pass over the households which have blood applied to the doorposts. Indeed the destructive plague did not come upon them. God had made it possible for them to escape death. The blood of the lamb served as a sign to the Lord to spare judgment. When He said, “I will pass over you,” He was not talking about the sword passing over them and thus spare them of judgment but rather His very own presence will, like a blanket, cover and envelop each household. God Himself became their protection from judgment.

When God judges the world, those who take heed of what He has said will be delivered. Jesus, the Passover lamb has provided a way of escape for those who choose to hear His voice. He said, “I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6, NIV). The blood that He shed for us on the cross guarantees our deliverance from judgment. Salvation will come upon those who choose to put their faith in Jesus. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NIV). This promise is for us and our household.

One day when John the Baptist saw Jesus pass by him, he said to his disciples, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!” (John 1:29, NIV). The blood of Jesus far outweighs any lamb. God has provided deliverance for the world through Jesus. We can live in the power of Jesus by believing in Him. The Israelites were protected from judgment by applying the blood of the lamb on their doorposts. How can we apply the blood of Jesus on ours?

The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NIV). He will cleanse and forgive us from ALL our sins when we acknowledge Him as our Lord and Savior. Confession is like taking the brush, dipping it into the blood of Jesus and applying it on the doorpost of our life. The blood of Jesus is able to free us from the chains of enslavement to sin and secure for us the power and strength to live new lives in Him. Therefore, we should not withhold such great blessing from others. We should not partake of the lamb by ourselves only. It needs to be shared with all.

The Book of Acts gives us an account of how the jailer and his household came to know the Lord through the ministry of Paul and Silas: “The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family” (Acts 16:34, NIV).

THE LAMB MUST BE SHARED WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS

The Lord, in Exodus 12:4 told Moses to convey this to the Israelites: “If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with the nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are.” (NIV) In Exodus 12:38, we are told that when the Israelites left Egypt, “Many other people went up with them, as well large droves and livestock, both flocks and herds.” (NIV) These “other people” who left together with the Israelites were the Egyptians with whom they had shared the lamb with them.

Likewise, the love and the richness of Christ need to be shared with all so that everyone may have the privilege to receive the forgiveness and deliverance which comes with it. The lamb is sufficient for the whole world.

The gospel invitation is to all. “And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Acts 2:21, NIV). In the Great Commission given to us by the Lord, He said, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”(Matthew 28:19, NIV). “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe : In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and they will drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on the sick people, and they will get well” (Mark 16:16-18, NIV).

Share the lamb with someone. Grab every opportunity to do so. However, God does not leave us to do this alone because He has promised us His divine enablement: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV).

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