

PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 301

Kingdom Nation

Session Eight

“Feasts Of The Kingdom Nation”

I. Review

A. The Greatest Epic Of All Time: Redemption

1. We've been considering the epic story of how God made man, man fell, and how out of a fallen race, God sovereignly elected to save *some*.

2. This “some” are the redeemed, who stand as one great congregation before the throne of the Lamb at the end of history. (Matthew 25:31-34)

3. This great congregation finds its origin in the “seed of the woman”, which is Christ. (Genesis 3:15)

4. God acquired a people to express His will and purposes; in the Old Testament, the story centered around Israel. In the New Testament, the story centers around the Church. In either case, all share one common heritage...those within Israel and within the Church with true faith are the redeemed people of God.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Ex 19:5-6 KJV

2 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10

**Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.
1 Peter 2:1-10 KJV**

5. The connecting link between Israel and the Church is God's will to redeem a "Kingdom Nation", a people-group who would express the will of God "on earth as it is in heaven".

a. The operative word in the Old Testament is "obedience" and "keeping God's covenant"

b. The operative word in the New Testament is "believing"

c. If we accept the fallacy of Dispensationalism, that God saves men differently in the Old Testament than He does in the New Testament, we will pit "obedience" and "covenant keeping" against faith. This tragic error accommodates the spirit of antinomianism, and keeps God's people defeated, because "dominion" is only possible (and sustainable) by obedience to God's law! (Romans 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17 all confirm that saving faith contains the element of obedience!)

B. The Panorama Of Redemption

1. The greatest "short story" of how God saves His Kingdom-Nation is the epic narrative of God redeeming Israel out of Egyptian Bondage in Exodus-Deuteronomy, the last 4 books of the Pentateuch, the Law of Moses.

2. The Apostle Paul assures us that a careful study of all that happened to Israel would be a fruitful instruction for New Testament believers. (1 Corinthians 10:1-12)

3. The "prophetic view" of this section provides us with a panorama of redemption as represented in the "Feasts" instituted by God to be observed by His people.

II. The Feasts Of The Kingdom Nation

"Now all these things happened to them as examples (types) for us...."

The Apostle Paul to the Church at Corinth, 1 Cor. 10:11

16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover), at the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.

Deut 16:16-17 NKJV

***There are 3 "major" feasts of the Lord, as mentioned here. Just be aware that two of the Feasts have 3 parts.**

The Feast of Passover consists of the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Tabernacles consists of the Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement and The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles. Even though we will not go into a detailed study of all seven feasts, focusing on the

3 major feasts instead, this note is inserted to avoid possible confusion as you encounter the different terminology used regarding the Feasts.

A. Typing The Feasts

1. The best way to understand the Feasts as they relate to the panorama of salvation is to create 3 “headings” and consider the virtually endless applications that can be applied in the type.

For example,

PASSOVER

PENTECOST

TABERNACLES

Occurs in EGYPT

Occurs in the WILDERNESS

Occurs in the PROMISED LAND

A type of the World

A picture of preparation/maturation

Possessing Our Possession

Purchased by the blood

Prepared by the leading of the Spirit

To possess the land

2. The first thing we can see here is the idea of PURPOSE, intent and PROGRESSION.
8 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
Exodus 3:8 KJV

In the *first* month

In the *third* month

In the *seventh* month

30-fold

60-fold

100-fold growth

God saves us OUT

To take us THROUGH

To bring us IN*

- A Bible map of what the world looked like in those days is helpful. In coming OUT of Egypt and going INTO Canaan, the Israelites were moving East to West. The land IN BETWEEN was desert, or “wilderness”. The type is “first the natural, then the spiritual”. The lesson is that those who are saved OUT of the world cannot go DIRECTLY IN TO the land. There is a “wilderness” dimension of the life of faith. We must go THROUGH it....we CANNOT go AROUND it!

3. The wilderness concept is modeled by Jesus. After 30 years of obedient waiting for the commission of the Father, Jesus is baptized of John and God speaks from heaven that this is His “beloved Son”. Then we read,

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil.

Luke 4:1-2 KJV

Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.

Mark 1:12-13 NKJV

4. The 3 part progression of redemption modeled was also modeled in the design of the Tabernacle of Moses, which consisted of 3 parts:

Outer Court

Holy Place

Holy of Holies*

*A detailed study of the furniture and equipment found in each section of the tabernacle, (Exodus 25-42), would be a richly rewarding typological study for the student.

5. The Apostle John describes the 3 mortal enemies that we must overcome if we are to love God properly, and they are found here in the “types”. (Cf. 1 John 2:15-16)

Overcome the *World*
(Lust of the World)

Overcome the *Flesh*
(Lust of the flesh)

Overcome the *Devil*
(Pride of Life)

6. The length of the journey was on **10 days**.

a. The number “10” in scripture, is the number of ordinal perfection, a number that represents trial and testing. (E.W. Bullinger, “*Number In Scripture*”, Kregel Publishing)

- Noah was the 10th generation from Adam
- The 10 Commandments represent the whole Law of God, testing hearts as to obedience or disobedience
- There are 10 clauses in the Lord’s Prayer
- The “tithe” is the 1st tenth of income, testing our obedience regarding finances
- There were 10 Plagues visited upon Egypt
- In Daniel 1:12, the Hebrew children asked to be tested 10 days by a change of diet
- There are 10 Plagues in the Book of Revelation that test mankind
- There were 10 rebellions by Israel in the Wilderness
- There were 10 “spies” sent to check out the land
- There were 10 “virgins” in Jesus’ parable regarding the faithfulness of those waiting for the Bridegroom

- After the resurrection, Jesus taught them about the Kingdom of God for 40 days, then told them to “tarry at Jerusalem” until they received power from on high; 10 days later, “when the day of Pentecost (50th day) had fully come”...the Spirit fell!
- The Church of Smyrna, in Revelation 2:10, was promised 10 days of tribulation

b. The “wilderness” is not meant to be a permanent dwelling place, but a place of preparation and maturation, a season of testing the people’s hearts, whether they would obey the Lord or not.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deuteronomy 8:2 KJV

c. Jesus was tested in the wilderness 40 days, (another # that represents trial and testing, 10 X 4, with 4 being the number of universality); Israel was in the Wilderness 40 years, indicating the length of the stay in the Wilderness can be shortened!

7. Using these “types”, we can locate ourselves spiritually: In Egypt, in the Wilderness, or in “the Land”, conquering and cultivating our promised possession, driving out our enemies.

8. If this is true, it might be fair to say that most of God’s people are in the “wilderness”. And this is where we will focus our teaching in the next cycle of classes.

B. Obedience: Our Passport To The Promised Land

1. The primary event to understand about the Wilderness is what happened 50 days after the Passover Feast delivered them from Egypt.

2. Fifty days after leaving Egypt, God gathers Israel at Mount Sinai, (also called Mount Horeb), and nationalizes them on the Day of Pentecost by giving them His Law!

3. Up until now, the Hebrew people were comprised of the various (natural) descendents of Abraham, a congregation consisting of 12 nomadic tribes. But at Sinai, God unites them together by giving them a common law.*

****Any definition of a “nation” must include a commonality of Law!***

4. If the Church fails to fully comprehend the incredible significance of God’s Law as our “Passport” to the Promised Land, our extended stay in the wilderness is guaranteed.

5. An honest, open mined reading of this section of scripture, (Exodus through Deuteronomy), makes it obvious that obedience to the law, (also termed “keeping the

covenant”), was the key to whether or not Israel would get out of the wilderness and possess the land or not.

3 And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 'Now then, *if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Ex 19:3-6 NASB

6. We suggest that the explanation for any failure the New Testament church might be experiencing lies just here...we have failed to “take dominion” because we have not obeyed the voice of God regarding keeping his Law.

7. Due to the strong antinomian spirit in the modern Church, we must pause here to correct several common misconceptions Christians hold about how the Law of God, (the 10 Commandments), and how it applies to God’s redeemed people *today*.

C. Anticipating Objections And Correcting Misconceptions

1. Objection: But New Testament Christians are not “under the law”, we are “under grace”. Paul said so. (Romans 6:14-15; Galatians 3:21-26; Galatians 5:18, etc.)

Answer

These scriptures, and others, seem to indicate that Christians saved by grace through faith, have nothing further to do with the Law. However, a careful reading of the context of all these passages will reveal that the subject under discussion was HOW God saves His people. The Apostles had to labor fiercely to deliver people from the notion that keeping commandments could not save them or KEEP them saved! Indeed, salvation in Christ set them free from such legalism! In each case, the subject is JUSTIFICATION, or how we are made right with God. But the issue in the wilderness was NOT being saved or redeemed! They were ALREADY saved, redeemed by the blood...THEN God gave them the Law as a guide as to how to live! Being saved out of Egypt does NOT eliminate the binding authority of the Moral Law of God, (the Decalogue). We must, in the words of Bishop J.C. Ryle, understand how to “distinguish between things that differ”. The issue of Justification is how to be saved. The issue in Sanctification of those who are saved is obedience, faith expressed in how we live, how we grow in Christ-likeness!

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Romans 10:4 KJV

Nothing we are saying here in any way detracts from the foundational concept that Christians are saved by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8-10) The Law never saved anybody. Nor was it designed to do so. Righteousness comes by grace through faith. But the Law is our tool of dominion.

2. Misconception: Jesus came to get rid of the Law and its relationship to New Testament believers.

Answer

When Jesus established the revelation of His Kingdom and how it would look, He followed the pattern of God giving the Law on the Mount in Exodus 19. The “Sermon On The Mount” is the New Testament version of the Old Testament giving of the Law! Christ did not pronounce disconnection to the Law for New Testament believers. Quite the contrary!

17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. 18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. 19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-20 NASB

Then, Jesus continues to teach them the New Testament version of the Old Testament Law not by doing away with the commandments, but by actually *strengthening* and *expanding* their application to Believers! Drawing from the “2nd Table” of the Law of Moses, He says:

21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Matt 5:21-23 NASB

Expanding the commandment against murder to include hatred!

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; 28 but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matt 5:27-29 NASB

Expanding the commandment against adultery to include lust!

33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.' 34 "But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 "Nor

shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil.

Matt 5:33-37 NASB

Expanding the commandment against bearing false witness to include everything we say!

3. Misconception: Look, Jesus said that if we “love God” and “our neighbor as ourself”, we fulfill all the commandments, right? So all I have to do is “walk in love”. Why do I need the Law?

Answer

You are correct in what Jesus said in the “Great Commandment” passage found in Matthew 22:35-40 and Mark 12:28-31. But how do you define “love”? What does it look like? Is it a subjective expression of what you think love is on a case by case basis? If so, how does it differ from the errors of “situational ethics”, where the situation dictates what you say and how you act? Sorry. Jesus left no ambiguity in how He defined “love”.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15 KJV

In the same way that the Law of God points to love as the summation, so love points us back to the Commandments for an understanding of what love looks like! You can't have one without the other.

Summation

Pitting the “law” against “grace” has proven to be a successful, master strategy of the “god of this world” to keep God’s people in the wilderness of wandering and rebellion. We need to say that the very giving of the Law is an act of grace on God’s part toward us, and has been from the beginning. How would Adam have known there was a tree that would kill him unless God graciously revealed it in the first commandment ever given?

(We will continue this line of thought in another class)

III. Application

A. The Feasts Of The Kingdom Nation

1. If the church “seems to come short” of the fulness of what God intended, we are no different than a generation of Israelites that died in the wilderness.

2. If “all things that happened to them” are “examples” for us, how can we fail to see that an almost universal departure from the importance of the Law of God is keeping the modern day expression of God’s “Kingdom Nation” out of the Promised Land God has called us to “have dominion” over?

3. In our next study, we’ll look closer at these things so we can acquire our “passport” into the Land.