

NO FAITH BETWEEN

Sunday Morning: April 14, 2002

Text: Hebrews 11:29-30 "By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. 30. **By faith** the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days."

Between verse 29 and verse 30 is the time that the nation of Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years and there is not one reference to an act of faith. You find faith when they passed through the Red Sea and you find faith when the walls of Jericho fell.

There are probably several reasons for that. While they were in the wilderness Moses was their leader and the law came by Moses. From Galatians 3:12 "And the law is not of faith." we can clearly see that the *law is not of faith*. We see that law and faith do not go together, but we do know that one must be just to live by faith. Moses not only gave them the moral law but he gave them the ceremonial law as well.

In looking at what happened to the nation of Israel I see some types or illustrations that we can relate to in this age. We can see that Egypt is a type of the world and its values and the pressures of its cultures. The wilderness is a type or picture of the flesh. The nation of Israel had to deal with an enemy called the flesh. When the nation of Israel moved into Canaan, both the world and flesh should have been dealt with because it was then that they began to fight their enemies in mortal combat. This is a type or picture of the devil. So we can classify our enemies into three basic categories; the world, the flesh, and the devil or Satan and his host.

THE ENEMY

Ephesians 2:2-3 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the **course of this world**, according to **the prince of the power of the air** (the devil), the spirit that now worketh in the children of **disobedience**: 3. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in **the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh** and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Here is Ephesians 2 we have our enemies listed. These enemies often work together against us and the Devil uses the world and the flesh in his strategies against us. Satan offered to the Lord authority over the nations if he would bow down and worship him. If Satan was not active in the course of this world he could not have offered it to the Lord. Satan is the prince of the power of the air referred to in Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [heavenly] *places*." Our ultimate enemy is Satan and his host.

PAUL FEARED THE FLESH

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27. But I keep **under my body**, and bring it into **subjection**: **lest** that by any means, when I have preached to others, **I myself should be a castaway**."

Paul knew the power of the flesh and that it could cause him to be a castaway or disapproved. Notice that Paul was bringing his body into subjection. He desired if necessary to radically control the appetites of his body. Paul was going to use any means at his disposal to bring his body into subjection even if it meant well placed blows to his body. All of the appetites of the body were given to us by God and they are to be used in a way that will honor God. If we do not control the desires of the flesh we will be castaway or disapproved. To be a castaway does not mean that we will lose our salvation, but to be disqualified from ruling and reigning with Christ in His coming kingdom.

DEAD TO THE WORLD

1 Corinthians 10:1-11 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were **under** the **cloud**, and all **passed through** the **sea**; 2. And were all **baptized** unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1 Corinthians 10:1 is a continuation of 1 Corinthians 9:27. The thought of being a castaway is carried into chapter 10. Being a castaway is brought into view because many perished in the wilderness because of the sins of the flesh.

Here in the first two verses we see that Israel was baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. Baptism is a picture or type of burying the dead.

DEAD AND BURIED

Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are **buried** with him **by baptism** into death: that like as Christ was **raised** up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life.**"

Because Israel had been given victory over Egypt by the power of God and by the act of baptism they were dead to the world. The nation of Israel was suppose to be dead to the power and influence of Egypt. In fact God destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red Sea and they were indeed dead.

FLESH TEST

1 Corinthians 10:3-4 "And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4. And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

In verse three we see the beginning of the testing of the nation of Israel's flesh. The flesh loves variety, but God gave them the same spiritual meat and the same spiritual drink. God was going to wean them from the appetite of the land of Egypt.

THE TEST AND TRIAL

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 "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. 3. And he **humbled** thee, and suffered thee to **hunger**, and fed thee with **manna**, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might **make thee know** that man doth **not live** by bread only, **but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.**"

Here in Deuteronomy 8 we see what God was doing to and for His people. God was working on behalf of His people and they thought he was working against them. Moses was talking to those who had survived the 40 years in the wilderness. He wanted them to remember what God had done for them. The reason that they needed to remember this is that there would be trying times ahead for them in the land of Canaan. Keep in mind that 40 is the number of testing. Remember it rained 40 days and 40 nights upon the earth at the beginning of the flood. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness without food or water. Moses was on the mountain for 40 days and nights. The spies were in the land for 40 days. Again, 40 years was a time of testing the nation of Israel.

It says that God led them. This test was on purpose. Pride is one of the first things that needs to be dealt with when it comes to the flesh. To overcome pride one must be humbled. Do not pray that God would make you humble. I want to humble myself and not have to have God humble me because he can be rough.

God wanted to prove or to test them to see if their confidence was in Him or in themselves, the pride of the flesh. God lead them to know what was in their hearts. It is out of the heart that come the issues of life. God knew what was in their heart, but he want them to know what was in their hearts. We need to know what is in our heart. When we go through trials and testings in our lives how do we perform? Do we fail because there is a weakness in our lives or do we find strength and hope in the Word of God.

The next thought has to do with obedience. When it comes to obedience do we rely on the feeling of the flesh or our commitment to pleasing God? When it comes to the 10 commandments we are dealing with things that have to do with the flesh. Thou shalt not covet, steal, lie, murder and thou shalt honor the Lord thy God with all of thine heart, etc.

The word *humbled* is used a second time in verse 3. Pride is a major enemy when it comes to putting the flesh to death. The next level of proof is that of hunger. To hunger is to do without. When you have plenty, your pride begins to rise in self satisfaction. Not only did they hunger, but He fed them with food that they did not particularly like, manna. The word manna means *what is it.*" They had been use to leaks and garlic and now it is *What'sit.* It did not taste like anything they were use to.

Sometimes God has to make us hungry enough to eat what he provides. We need to learn to live where God wants us to live and be eating things that please him. We do need bread and not only the Word of the Lord and the Lord knows that. We just need to trust that he will give us a good balanced diet of both bread and the Word of God. If we allow the test and trial to do what they are designed to do, we will learn to be satisfied with what He provides. When God says what you call "what'sit" I call it "that'sit" and that is all there will be.

As we have studied the nation of Israel after they came out of Egypt, we have learned what the consequences of disobedience will produce.

TO DO YOU GOOD

Deuteronomy 8:15-16 "Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were **fiery serpents**, and **scorpions**, and **drought**, where there was no water; who **brought thee forth water** out of the rock of flint; 16. Who **fed thee in the wilderness** with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, **to do thee good at thy latter end;**"

Many of the children of Israel thought that the fiery serpents, scorpions, and drought were "To do them in" and all along it was God's purpose "To do them good at thy latter end."

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah tells that God's thoughts are thoughts of peace with an expected end."

God is more interested in how you finish than how you begin.

I can remember a story told by Bill Rice, brother of John R. Rice. He told about his experience on a dude ranch. They were going out on a horse ride in the morning and they were choosing the horses that they would ride that day. Bill observed a spirited horse that was raring to go. Bill said, "I think I will ride that one." He turned to one of the ranch hands and asked him the name of the horse and he was told it was named Morning Glory. He found out why they named that horse Morning Glory. She started out very spirited and she wilted by noon. There are a lot of people that start out all fired up when they get saved and when the heat of trials and testing come their way, they wilt and fall away. God does not want us to do that. He wants us to pace ourselves through life and finish strong.

TEST FAILED

1 Corinthians 10:5 "But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness."

The children of Israel did not respond well to the circumstances that the Lord brought to bear in their lives. Their behavior did not please God and they were overthrown and became a castaway in the wilderness.

IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK

Acts 7:39 "To whom our fathers would **not obey**, but **thrust him** from them, and **in their hearts turned back** again into **Egypt**,"

They rebelled against the commandments of the Lord because they refused to obey the commandments they said they would obey. They were so stiff-necked that they did not want to be around God, therefore they thrust God from them.

They were not thinking about the land flowing with milk and honey. They were not anticipating the blessing of God that was before them. They were thinking about Egypt. It is out of the heart that come the issues of life, they wished they were still in Egypt. They had forgotten the bondage and the hard labor.

Where are our hearts? Are we still longing for the good old days? I am not against thinking about the good old days when I would get in trouble for chewing gum and throwing paper balls in class and running in the halls. The good old days have some fond memories. What we need to forget are the good old ways that we lived before we received the Lord Jesus as our Saviour.

Our thoughts should be on the hope that is set before us and not on the things in the past. Philippians 3:13-14 "Brethren, . . . forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." this should be our focus today.

MURMURED

Numbers 14:2 "And all the **children of Israel murmured** against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, **Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt!** or would God we had died in this wilderness!"

When they thrust the Lord from them and started thinking about Egypt what did that cause them to do? Murmur. When you become dissatisfied with what the Lord is doing and providing for you, you will begin to murmur just like the children of Israel.

They said to Moses and Aaron that it would have been better to die in the land of Egypt out of the Lord's will than to die in the wilderness in the will of the Lord. They were talking about giving up on the land flowing with milk and honey and just dying in the wilderness. To murmur is to repeat over and over again your feelings about something or someone to the point you become obsessed with your feelings to the point of despair.

YOU HAVE WHAT YOU WANTED

Numbers 14:28-31 "Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, **as ye have spoken in mine ears**, so will I do to you: 29. Your **carcasses shall fall** in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have **murmured against me**, 30. **Doubtless ye shall not come into the land**, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. 31. But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which **ye have despised**."

Numbers 14:28 is a verse I have memorized because I do not want to begin to murmur in the Lord's hearing things that I will regret. In Numbers 14:2 the children of Israel were not praying to the Lord that they could go back to Egypt to die, they were just saying it would have been better than what we have now. We need to know that God does listen to these things and will give us the things that we often complain about.

Because I know that God is listening, I talk about being a good and faithful servant. I talk about His coming kingdom and glory. I talk about hearing "well done" at the end of my race. I talk about the anticipation of the hope of glory. If I continue to talk about the blessed hope of age-lasting life, I believe this verse will apply to me. I believe the passage in Malachi 3:16-18 "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." I want to return with the Lord and reign with Him in His coming kingdom.

The Lord said basically that dying has been in your hearts, on your minds, and lips, therefore your carcasses shall fall in the wilderness.

Caleb and Joshua were the only two that were over twenty when they came out of Egypt that did not murmur against Moses, Aaron, and the Lord. They had a different spirit Numbers 14:24 "But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land where into he went; and his seed shall possess it." I believe they both had the same spirit of hope for a better inheritance.

Moses and Aaron did not enter the land. Eleazar, the son of Aaron, entered into the land because he was less than twenty years old and replaced Aaron as high priest.

I believe the reference to the little ones in verse 31 is a type of the little children that are seeking to enter into the kingdom in Matthew 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

EXAMPLES OF THE FLESH

1 Corinthians 10:6-10 "Now **these things were our examples**, to the intent we should not **lust** after evil things, as they also lusted. 7. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to **eat** and **drink**, and rose up to **play**. 8. Neither let us commit **fornication**, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. 9. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were **destroyed** of **serpents**. 10. Neither **murmur** ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the **destroyer**."

This sounds like those who were lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God in 2 Timothy 3:4-5 "Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Because they chose to live in a way that was not pleasing to God they were judged. God used poisonous serpents to cause many to perish in the wilderness.

THEY PERISHED

Numbers 21:4-9 "And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much **discouraged because of the way**. 5. And the people **spake against** God, and against Moses, Wherefore have

ye brought us up out of Egypt **to die** in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and **our soul loatheth this light bread**. 6. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and **much people** of Israel **died**. 7. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, **We have sinned**, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he **take away the serpents** from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, **when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.**"

They became discouraged in the way that the Lord was leading them in verse four. We need to learn that we can become discouraged but we do not have to become defeated. Discouragement does not have to be a permanent thing. Everyone becomes discouraged. If we didn't the test would not be real. In discouragement, we learn that we can encourage ourselves by the Word of God. We can encourage those who have become discouraged by sharing the Word of God that has helped us to overcome tests.

The children of Israel began to murmur against God because of what he was providing them. They loathed the manna that God had been giving them.

Manna is a type of the Word of God. I believe that we are living in a day when people are loathing the Word of God. They do not want to hear the Word of God taught. They want to be entertained. They want to hear one interesting story, after another. I am not opposed to interesting stories like those that make the truth of the Word of God come alive.

What did it mean to live? If you were alive, you had the potential of what? You had the potential of entering into the land flowing with milk and honey. When God's people were struck by the serpents they died until Moses put a brass serpent on a pole. A brass serpent indicated that the serpent had been judged. I see the power of the resurrection is the serpent on a pole. The people had to look up to see the judged serpent. Looking at the serpent meant that they could live and enter into the promised land. Keep in mind that you can be bitten more than once by a serpent so this is not a picture of being saved. This is a picture of saved people being spared death and the loss of their inheritance in the land.

SHOULD NOT PERISH

John 3:14-16 "And as **Moses lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15. That whosoever **believeth** [present active participle] in him should **not perish**, but have eternal life (land flowing with milk and honey). 16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth [present active participle] in him should not **perish**, but have everlasting life (land flowing with milk and honey)."

This passage is a parallel passage of scripture to Numbers 21. Just as Moses lifted up the brass serpent in the wilderness, the Lord Jesus was lifted up to the right hand of God the Father so that we would not have to perish.

What does it mean to perish? It does not mean that you are going to hell or the lake of fire. Many think this passage teaches that if you perish you will spend eternity in the lake of fire. This passage is not dealing with lost people but saved people and their inheritance. In Numbers 21 we are told that those who perished did not enter into their inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey. Moses perished in the wilderness and I know that he is not in the lake of fire.

Moses was with the Lord on the mount of transfiguration along with Peter, James, and John.

The word *believeth* is a present active participle and the significance of the present tense of believe is that they were faithful. What were they faithful in doing? They were faithful looking unto the Lord that was lifted up as the brass serpent so that they would not perish but have eternal life (better translated age-lasting life). Age-lasting life is the New Testament way of referring to a better inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey.

These that were believing were those who were satisfied with what the Lord provided. They loved that light bread. When they were thirsty, they knew the Lord knew it and would quench that thirst when he was ready. These are the one who will reign with Christ in His kingdom those who perish will be denied the privilege reigning with Christ.

In the first part of verse 16 it says that God loved the world and that he gave His only begotten son. I believe he gave His only begotten son to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Jesus death on the cross provided salvation for every man.

The second part of this verse has the present active participle *believe* which is a reference to the faithful that desired to know the power of the resurrection of Christ. They are the ones who keep looking and believing in the hope of a better resurrection. They are the ones that will not perish, or lose that better inheritance, but may have age-lasting life. Notice it says that they may have eternal, or age-lasting life. If you quit looking up to Christ your high priest, you will perish.

TYPES

1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for **ensamples**: and they are written for our **admonition**, upon whom the ends of the **world** [ages] are come."

These things that happen to the nation of Israel were written that we should not allow the lust of the flesh to take control of our lives so that we depart from the living God. We need to have the same fear that Paul had when he said he did everything possible to keep his body in subjection. Paul feared being a castaway or disqualified from entering into royal inheritance in the coming kingdom of our Lord.

KNOW HIS WAYS

Hebrews 3:7-11 "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will **hear his voice**, 8. **Harden not your hearts**, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9. When your fathers **tempted** me, **proved** me, and **saw** my works forty years. 10. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway **err** in their **heart**; and **they have not known my ways**. 11. So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)"

The word *rest* in verse eleven is the land flowing with milk and honey. Those who were twenty and older were denied entrance into the rest of God which is a type of the coming kingdom.

The reason they were denied entrance into their inheritance was because they did not know the ways of the Lord. Not knowing the ways of the Lord can cause any of us to go astray in our hearts. That is the reason why it is important to study the Word of God and to learn his way.

By learning God's ways you find out there are blessings. If you choose to go your own way there are consequences.

The admonition is for today and not tomorrow. To day is the day you want to listen to His voice. He has something important to say and we need to hear it. We need to hear that we need a soft heart to learn His ways and do His will.

WALK IN THAT SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

We have been looking at the consequences of walking in the flesh like being a castaway. Here we are encouraged to *Walk in the spirit*. The word *spirit* does not have the definite article before it therefore I do not believe it is a reference to the Holy Spirit. The word *holy* does not occur in the book of Galatians. It seems to me that to *Walk in spirit* is to walk in the spirit of His son.

THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON

Galatians 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth **the Spirit of his Son** into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

I am persuaded that the *Spirit of his Son* is not the Holy Spirit. *The spirit of his Son* is an attitude that Jesus Christ demonstrated in the Garden of Gethsemane. If we have the spirit of His Son we will cry in our hearts Abba or Father. We find out what Abba, Father means in Mark 14:36.

THE FATHER'S WILL

Mark 14:36 "And he said, Abba, Father, all things *are* possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: **nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.**"

Abba, Father is an expression of confidence in our God to do anything that needs to be done. To say Abba, Father is also an expression of submission to the Father's will. We may not like something that is happening in our lives and we can express that, but with that request must come the phrase "Not what I will, but what thou wilt." To say Abba, Father from the heart is to acknowledge that we are not in bondage to fear. Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Israel could have told the Lord that they did not particularly like the scorpions or the fiery serpents, or that a change in the menu would be nice, but not my will but thine be done. To say Abba, Father is to submit to the will of God for us. If we are submitting to the will of God, the flesh will not gain the upper hand and beat us. If our flesh is in charge then God is not in charge.

FLESH OPPOSES THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON

Galatians 5:17-20 "For **the flesh lusteth against the Spirit**, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. **18.** But **if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.** **19.** Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **20.** Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,"

The flesh wants to assert its authority over the spirit of submitting to the will of the Father. The spirit of His son wants to be in charge of the appetites of the flesh and we know that they oppose each other. If we are being led by the spirit of Christ, then the law is not a factor. Submitting to the will of the Father will not allow us to break the law which would put us under the law.

The key to all of this in Galatians five is found in verse twenty one.

SHALL NOT INHERIT

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God** (land flowing with milk and honey)."

If you allow the flesh to be in control of your life you will not inherit the kingdom of God. What does the kingdom of God picture? It is the Rest of God that the children of Israel did not enter into. The rest is the picture or type of the land flowing with milk and honey. Hebrews 3:11 "So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)" Hebrews 4:11 "Let us **labour** [give

diligence] therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief [disobedience]."

We need to bring our bodies under subjection. We need to control our appetite for the things of the flesh. May God help us to control our appetites that would cause us to fail to enter into the kingdom of heaven, the anti-type of the land flowing with milk and honey.

If we are still struggling with the sins of the flesh and the power of the world in our lives we are not going to be focused on our real enemy Satan.

I used to visit my grandmother who lived on a farm in central Texas. While visiting there, we would catch the bus and go into town to see a movie and then go to the five and dime store to look at all the toys. I remember my grandmother, Mama White, buying me a ball to play with. While playing with that ball on the front porch it got away from me and bounced into the yard. I started out into the yard bare foot to get that ball. After a step or two I would encounter grass spurs that stuck to the bottom of my feet. The pain of those stickers in my feet made me forget the ball. Trying to get the stickers out of my feet I sat down on the ground and you know what happen then? I had more distractions and they were not on my feet.

We need to get our eyes on the coming kingdom and not let the inconveniences of life's trials interfere with our objective of entering into the heavenly inheritance of Christ and His coming kingdom.