

the bondage of sin in the world and enter a new life of freedom and joy in Christ (John 8:34, 36).

"God is Enough"

(Neh. 9:9-12)

Introduction

God is completely aware of the problems and needs of His people. He saw Hagar in her desperate need, and God met her need (Gen. 16:1-16). In response to God's care for her, Hagar said, "Thou God seest me" (Gen. 16:13). God also saw the need of His people Israel when they were in bondage in Egypt, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt . . . , and am come down to deliver them" (Acts 7:34). Just as God recognized and responded to the need of Israel in Egyptian bondage, so God knows with perfect knowledge (omniscience) our personal needs, and through His perfect power (omnipotence) He is able to meet each need.

Outline and Comments

1. God recognizes the needs of His people (v. 9).
It is easy for the needy Christian who is burdened with problems to feel that God has forgotten him or that God doesn't really care about his troubles. How tempted we are to get bogged down in our own feelings and to disregard the facts of God's Word. God does see our need and hear our cry for help (v. 9 cf. Ex. 2:23-25; 3:7-10).
2. God responds to the needs of His people (vv. 10-12).
 - a. Miracles in Egypt (v. 10).
God showed "signs and wonders upon Pharaoh" (v. 10 cf. Ps. 135:9; Acts 7:36) to accomplish five main purposes:
 - (1) That the Egyptians might come to know that Israel's God is the only true Lord (Ex. 7:5).
 - (2) That God might show the superiority of His power in comparison to the Egyptian magicians (Satanic power) (Ex. 8:18).
 - (3) That God might show His special favor to Israel (Ex. 8:22; 11:7).
 - (4) That God might reveal His power and name throughout the earth (Ex. 9:16).

(5) That God might display judgment against Egypt's gods (Num. 33:4).

"They (the Egyptians) dealt proudly against them (Israelites)" cf. I Pet. 5:5.

"So didst thou get thee a name" cf. Ex. 5:2 with Ex. 9:16. Through the miracles in Egypt, God was revealing to the Egyptians and His own people who He really was ("name") and what He was able to do ("power" Ex. 9:16). Through Israel's deliverance out of Egypt, God did get a reputation ("name") for Himself throughout the earth (cf. Ps. 106:7-10, esp. v. 8). Rahab was one of "the outsiders" who got the message (Josh. 2:9-11) and responded to the message with saving faith (Heb. 11:31).

b. Deliverance at the Red Sea (v. 11).

God "heard their (Israel's) cry by the Red sea" (v. 9) when they were hemmed in by Pharaoh's army on one side and the Red sea on the other side. God's message through Moses was for the children of Israel to "stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (Ex. 14:13). There are many parallels between Israel's great salvation out of Egyptian bondage, and the believer's great spiritual salvation from sin during the age of grace.

(1) Based on sacrifice and shedding of blood (Ex. 12 cf. John 1:29; Eph. 1:7).

(2) Provided by grace -- it was undeserved (Eph. 2:8-9). The Israelites were helpless and hopeless, but God's grace allowed them to walk on "dry land" to safety with no added effort on their part.

(3) Wrought with great power (cf. Rom. 1:16). "Thou didst divide the sea before them" (v. 11).

(4) Experienced by faith (Eph. 2:8-9). The Israelites had to exercise faith to step between the walls of water.

"Their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps." cf. Rom. 12:19. God used what looked like Israel's death trap (the Red Sea) to save Israel and to

destroy the Egyptians. Likewise the cross of Christ brings judgment to God's enemies (John 12:31) but salvation to believers (I Cor. 1:18).

c. Guidance in the wilderness (v. 12).

Redemption out of Egyptian bondage wasn't the end of God's miraculous provision for Israel; it was just the beginning. One of the greatest miraculous provisions was supernatural guidance by a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night, "to give them light in the way wherein they should go." A cloud is easy to see in the day, and fire is easy to see at night. God is willing to give His people clear leading for their lives (cf. Ps. 32:8). Our responsibility is to be willing to wholeheartedly follow His leading. God will guide the believer (Ps. 32:8; Prov. 3:5-6) through His Word (Ps. 119:105, 130), through His Spirit (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18), through circumstances (Rom. 8:28), and through the counsel of other spiritually mature believers (Prov. 11:14).

Challenge to Believers

Every believer has come to realize that "God is Enough" for the salvation of his soul (cf. Jonah 2:9). However, it is possible that a believer may trust the Lord for the eternal salvation of his soul, and then fail to trust the Lord for his daily earthly needs (cf. Rom. 8:32). Could this be the case with you and me? Let's firmly believe that "God is enough" for any daily problem or need. Those who trust Him find that the promise is true!

Invitation to Salvation

Like the Israelites caught between Egypt's armies and the Red Sea were helpless and hopeless, so is the person spiritually helpless and hopeless who has not experienced God's salvation by grace through faith in Christ (Eph. 2:1-9). By receiving Christ as your personal Saviour you will discover that you are delivered from