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The Exodus pt. 4

We've been dealing, these past three weeks, with the Exodus. Today will be our fourth week on this subject. Personally, I could spend a lot more time focusing in on reality of what we've been talking about for the past couple weeks – that is, the reality of relationship vs. imaginations.

That's really what we spent all of last week, and part of the previous week talking about. And it has been devastating to see how much of my so-called relationship with God was a creation of my own unbelief. Was my own Ishmael – a separate son other than the one known of God. It was, in fact, a golden calf.

Its not an imagination that I had a relationship with God. The imaginations are in the nature, character, and person of that relationship. The nature, character, and person of that relationship is Jesus, and only to the extent that He is revealed by His Spirit do you know the truth of that relationship.

You might say, Jason, don't be so hard on yourself. Friends, believe me, I'm not feeling sorry for myself about this. I just know that there is no point disagreeing with God on this. I'm not getting depressed over it. Frankly, I'd rather face it now before I am faced with it later.

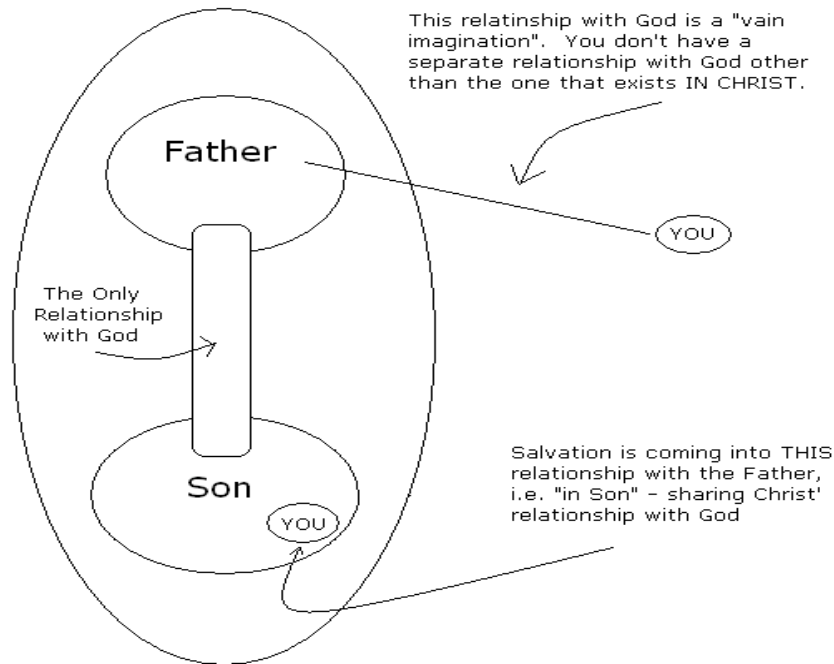
Its like Jesus says – if the Lord builds his house on the Rock, that house will stand. But if you build your house on the sand – the storm will show it to be both a faulty foundation, and, sooner or later, a destroyed house. I'm not being hard on myself. I just would rather face reality before the storm.

And so what we have tried to establish, is the reality that anything and everything that is not according to the reality of the established, finished, relationship that you have with God in Christ, is a creation of your own imagination. It is a vain imagination. It has become, in fact, a stronghold of your mind.

Remember our diagram last week.

Golden Calf

This relationship with God is a "vain imagination". You don't have a separate relationship with God other than the one that exists IN CHRIST.



What we call salvation, God calls “in My Son”. How do you know God? By having the person of this relationship unveiled. How are you known of God? In Christ. Where is the love of God for you? In Christ. Where are you accepted? You are accepted in the beloved. Where did he purpose to have a people before the foundation of the world? In His Son. What is the nature and character and reality of your relationship with the Father? It is Christ.

You simply do not have your own relationship with God. You have Christ’s relationship with God. And therefore any relationship that exists **in our mind** OTHER THAN the real relationship that was established before the foundation of the world – this relationship is not reality. It is an imagination.

I know that you can believe that imagination with all of your heart. I know that thinking about that imagination can bring warm fuzzies to your heart. I know that hearing a slow song in E minor about it can move you to tears. I know that it might have been the reason you became a missionary, or even the reason you initially joined a church. That doesn’t change the fact that it is not the reality of the relationship as it exists in Christ.

I know that your conception of this relationship has driven you to do so many things. Me too! I know that your imaginations of this relationship can fill you with a kind of happiness. I know it has been a source of motivation, or zeal, or fear, or anger, or condemnation. I know that imaginations are just that powerful. I know, in fact, that your imagination of the nature and character of this relationship has perhaps driven you to the end of the world and back searching for “more of God”. Brothers and sisters, me too.

But that just goes to show you how much we need to comprehend what happened when we walked in that blood covered door. Because no sooner did these Israelites lose sight of Moses (when he went up the mountain) than they had fashioned their God according to their own desires, their own will, their own sentiment, their own concepts, and called it Jehovah – “the God who has brought us out of Egypt.”

Can you see how relevant this is? I know I never made a graven image out of gold. I’m sure you didn’t either. But I made one far more real out of the substance of my unbelief, the substance of my carnal mind, the substance of my own heart, - here we go – the substance of MY interpretation of the Bible. And then I said “this is the God that brought me out of Hell. This is the God that brought me out of addiction. This is the God that died on a cross. And don’t think that I didn’t serve that God with all the heart and zeal I could muster.

And to this Jesus could have said, as He said to the Pharisees “Jason, are you not in error because you do not understand the Scriptures and also the power of God?”

And if you follow the trail of how it all started, where it all came from – it all leads back to this door. It all leads back to my failure to see and to know and to ask like a child, what happened at this door. Who went into this door. Who came out of this door. Who is the resurrection and the life. Who now lives for God.

If you’ll read Exodus 12 vs. 22 you’ll see God saying to the Israelites “And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. **And then none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning**”

They don’t come out in the darkness. They come out in the light. They come out as the light of the Lord. They come out walking in the light as he is in the light. They come out in Him, in the morning, in the dawning of the new day. They come out in and by his resurrection. But they do not come out themselves. They come out in the newness of HIS life, or they never really left Egypt. They come out in the power of His resurrection, or they are still dead in Egypt.

Otherwise, wherever you go, there you will be. Now that sounds dumb – but unless you leave yourself behind at this door, you’re going to find yourself everywhere you go. And your whole life will be an attempt to serve yourself, adjust yourself, correct yourself, or escape from yourself. And it will be an exercise in futility because wherever you go, there you will be.

I was talking to somebody this week who was telling me that sometimes they just wanted to run away – to move somewhere else – to get away from everything in their life that was death, everything that seemed to drag them down. And I told them, because I’ve had to face this myself, that “YOU ARE the death that you are trying to escape. And wherever you go, you’ll be there”.

The only place that you can go to escape your own deadness is through this door in the true knowledge of salvation. The only place that you can ever leave yourself behind is when you come out in the morning in the newness of His life. The resurrection is the only place that you'll find life, and not bring with you everything that you are by nature.

But if you walk through this door without comprehending who walked out and who was left behind – then it's the wilderness for you. And the wilderness becomes the place where you wander around creating golden calves, not understanding God, grumbling against what you don't understand, never sharing his view of you, and eventually dying without ever having manifested what you became at the door.

And as we have said, that is really what Israel was meant to be. That is true of Old Covenant Israel, and New Covenant Israel. **Israel is that body through which God becomes manifest in the earth.** Jesus, the only begotten Son, was therefore the embodiment of all that Israel was meant to be. The true manifestation of God in the earth. Thus God said "Israel is my Son, even my firstborn".

Old Covenant Israel was to be the manifestation of that Son, through type and shadow, in the natural earth. In the Land of Canaan. New Covenant Israel, or as Paul says "the Israel of God" is to be the manifestation of that Son in nature, and character, and life. In spiritual reality.

And so you'll see that, once this first blind and rebellious Israel had died, God raised up another Israel who would walk in His covenant. Who would cross over the Jordan and begin to fill up that land with the kingdom of God.

And here is the kingdom of God as seen in type and shadow. What is that kingdom? What is this kingdom that is most clearly demonstrated in the reign of Solomon? It is a natural land that is conquered by Israel, and becomes, through the taking of every city and stronghold, the expression of his rule, his covenant, his Son. It is a natural land that is taken over and transformed into the appearing of this Son in the earth. It is a natural land that is taken captive, subdued, conquered, in order that, through this land there could be seen a marvelous manifestation of the eternal Son.

This is the old covenant kingdom of God. This is the kingdom where everyone can see Jesus Christ through type and shadow. Now **we** are the kingdom where everyone should be able to see Jesus Christ through literal spiritual life. But **they** were the kingdom that every tribe and tongue – passing through this land, the meeting place of 3 continents – would see something of Christ in their sacrifices, in their priesthood, in their moral law, in their ceremonies, in their riches, in their wisdom, in their health, in their conquests, etc.

That kingdom was never ever intended to be an earthly kingdom where the world would see how much God favored the Jewish bloodline. The kingdom was always a heavenly reality, manifested through a specific people in the earth, to show how much God favored His Son! This is my beloved Son. This is some of what he looks like. This is a picture of his heavenly rule. His heavenly wisdom. His heavenly riches.

And this is a picture what he will turn us into if we will come to be His conquered Land. If we will come to be His kingdom.

But it was NEVER about the flesh. It was never about nationality. That particular nationality was chosen, for a time, to become the earthly manifestation of a heavenly Son. And they didn't do a very good job of it either. Neither would any group or nationality of earthlings, for that matter. But this nationality was chosen by God because of promises made to their fathers that they might become the earthly manifestation of a heavenly Son. A Son who would be made unto us salvation. A Son who would come and put away all of the earthly types and shadows. A Son who would come and, in fact, put away the flesh itself. My Lord! A Son that would then be manifested Himself in spiritual substance in those who would become His kingdom on earth.

Do you see what I'm talking about? And that is why Paul will tell you so many times that now in Christ there is no such thing as a Jew or a Gentile. There are no longer distinctions in the flesh. You can look as hard as you want in Christ and you'll never find a Jew, or a Gentile, or a male or a female. You'll find one new man. And he's the life of that man. It is a complete and total miscomprehension of salvation, of Christ, and of this kingdom, to continue in this day to teach that nationality has anything to do with anything in Christ.

I don't say that to pick fights. I say that only to keep you from missing your salvation.

But this Son is no longer manifesting his kingdom through type and shadow, through a particular earthly people in an earthly land with earthly sacrifices and earthly tabernacles and earthly EVERYTHING. This Son is now manifesting his kingdom where He has set up his throne. And brothers and sisters, that's in you.

And that is why Jesus takes this word "kingdom" – a word that every single Jew that was listening to him was extremely familiar with – and tells them that it will be taken away from those who have not born the fruit of it, and will be given to those who will truly bear its fruit.

And that is why Jesus then gathers up all that the kingdom was in the earth, all that it was in type and shadow and tells us that it is within us. It doesn't have outward increase. It is not coming with outward signs to be observed. It is coming where the king will live. That is where it comes. That is where the increase of His government will know no end.

The land that was meant to manifest the kingdom becomes a people who have become a kingdom of priests. The land that was meant to show the earth the reign and rule of the King now becomes a people who are becoming the conquered territory of the King.

Do you see it? Christ brings all of that into you. And Paul and the apostles understand this.

The uncircumcised of that land being driven out by David the king turns into the uncircumcision of your heart – where flesh has not been put away. Where you stand as an enemy in His place. David conquering the uncircumcised Goliath is now Christ in you removing the body of death from His land.

The strongholds of the land – the places that were harder for David to capture – become the strongholds of the mind needing to be torn down. The strongholds of unbelief, lies, vain imaginations that have risen up against the knowledge of the true King.

Come on now...I'm not making these verses up! The weapons and armor with which the mighty men of David took that land become now the helmet of salvation (knowing your salvation), the sword of the spirit which is the word of God, the shield of faith, the girding of your waist with truth, etc.

Paul is just gathering up all of these types and shadows of this earthly kingdom and bringing it all into you – the land that is now becoming the manifestation of this Son.

David was a conqueror in that specific place, in that land, but 2 Cor 2:14 says you have become “more than a conqueror” – as you “become the fragrance of the knowledge of Him in every place”

2 Corinthians 10:4 says that our weapons are not natural like theirs. We're not talking about swords and spears here. We're talking about weapons that pull down strongholds of the mind – not strongholds of cities. We're tearing down high things (like the high places in the land that so few kings ever dealt with) that raise up against the knowledge of God. Now we're coming unto a clear view of our salvation.

We're not taking Philistines captive. We're taking our own uncircumcised thoughts captive. Our own carnal, golden calf thoughts, captive in obedience to the Christ. We're not doing that through will-power. We're not doing it by might or by power, but by His Spirit revealing the Truth. His Spirit revealing Christ.

And now the disobedience isn't the Canaanites in the land. Now the disobedience is in you and I. The enemy is in His land. Our uncircumcised hearts are like an enemy that must be put under His feet. And when we are obedient unto death, then we destroy, then we punish all disobedience in the land. You see, that's 2 Corinthians 10:6. Let me just read verses 4 – 6.

2Co 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare *are* not fleshly, but powerful to God to the demolition of strongholds,

2Co 10:5 the demolishing of arguments and every high thing lifting up *itself* against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ,

2Co 10:6 and having readiness to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is fulfilled.

But, this kingdom increases in us only as we grow in the knowledge of the Lord. Grow in the truth. Grow in the reality of what happened at the door. This kingdom is not established by you living for Jesus. This kingdom is not set up by your discipline. This kingdom is established by the King of Kings conquering the darkness of your unbelieving soul through the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. This government of this kingdom is ever increasing, but only as you know and walk in the covenant of this King – Not I, but Christ.

And that is the wisdom of Solomon. And that is the heart of David. And that is the eternal purpose of God.

Here it is again. I'll say it one more time. Lets look at the pattern. Lets look at the testimony. The eternal purpose of God is to take a people into this blood covered door, and finish and establish a relationship. That relationship can be defined as "Israel is My Son, even My Firstborn". That Son, that Firstborn, comes out of the door in the morning, and is meant (even as Joshua and Caleb were willing to do) to manifest this relationship, this reality, in the land.

And so it is with you. The moment you were saved, you were brought through the only door that there is. Into the one who said "I am the door". And then, in Him, you came out into the newness of life. Comprehending that life, comprehending who came out the door, you are to become a manifestation of his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.