

When God promises - 9/20/20

**Welcome friends, often when God gives us promises...
Sometimes things seem to go the opposite way for a while. But its a test.
A vivid example of this is found in the early chapters of Exodus.**

**Remember how the Israelites were in terrible bondage in Egypt.
Moses had been in the wilderness for 40 years. Then God appeared to him.
At the burning bush, God commissioned Moses.
The Lord said, I've seen the affliction of my people in Egypt.
I have come down to set them free. I'm sending you to Pharaoh,
to deliver them. And to bring them in to the promised land.**

**In Exodus 4:27-31: Aaron joins Moses, Moses explains everything to Aaron.
“And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses... And
Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the
signs which he had commanded him. And Moses and Aaron went and
gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: And Aaron spake
all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in
the sight of the people. And the people believed: and when they heard that
the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon
their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.”**

**So Moses and Aaron gathered all the elders of Israel together. And
Explained to the elders, God is about to liberate all of us from bondage.
So first, all the leaders were united, There was unity among them.
Then the leaders told all the people of Israel, God is ready to move.
And all of Israel believed, and excited that deliverance was coming.**

**In Exodus 5:2, Moses goes to Pharaoh, - God said set my people free.
And Pharaoh mocked, who is the lord? “And Pharaoh said, Who is the
LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the
LORD, neither will I let Israel go.” Exodus 5:2**

So, instead of setting people free, Pharaoh increased all the burdens of Israel. He Made things much worse.

He forced the Israelite slaves to provide their own material to make bricks, and were they not able to obtain that material.

So, the taskmasters who were set over the Israelites, were all beaten. Everything was horribly worse.

The point I am making

God was speaking, I have come to set my people free. Israel was excited. Then everything got worse, the bondage got worse, and more persecution. All the Israelites, we're terribly upset and complained bitterly to Moses.

My point: when God promises something, it may not happen immediately. Sometimes God has to rearrange situations, before he moves.

Those in charge of the slaves, bitterly complained to Moses and Aaron:

5:20-21“they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh: And said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made us to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

Then Moses was terribly frustrated and he cried out to the Lord:

“...and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither have you delivered your people at all.” Exodus 5:22-23, KJV.

God reaffirms his promise

In chapter 6, replies: (quoting from Exodus 6:5-8) “I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

6:5-8: “Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.”

Israel’s Reply

6:9 - “And Moses spake this unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not to Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.” Exodus 6:9

Their soul was dominating over their spirit. Their feelings, emotions, pain, ... was disregarding everything God was saying.

And because it wasn't happening immediately. There was a short delay.

Then God began to execute judgments on Egypt, through Moses.

Then Pharaoh began to soften. In Exodus 8:25-27: parts

“And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go, sacrifice to your God in the land. And Moses said, It is not fit to do so; ... We will go three days’ journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us. And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.” Exodus 8:25-28, KJV.

After a few more judgments, Pharaohs power was broken.

And he let the people go free.

But again here's the point:

It may have taken several months before Pharaoh let the people go.

God gave a promise, I'm going to set you free.

It didn't happen right away, it took a few months, and many readjustments.

God does not explain many details

This is so important to understand.

When God said I'm going to set you free, he didn't explain exactly HOW.

He did not explain a lot of details.

First, he had to execute many judgments upon Egypt.

Also, he was going to draw them to the Red Sea, and judge their armies.

Once again, my main point is this: when God gives us promises,

They may not happen next week or next month.

And everything may seem to be going the opposite direction.

God has promised revival in our times. Joel's outpouring is getting close.

Many prophets are saying that revival is coming.

Yet, conditions are getting worse and worse in the world.

So let's remember this account in Exodus.

God said to the Israelites, I'm going to release you from bondage.

Then the bondage got greater for a while. The people were demoralized.

Even Moses and Aaron questioned: Lord, what is happening here?

God reaffirmed His promise, I'm going to set you free.

Within a few months, they were out of Egypt, and across the Red Sea.

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God wants to totally rebuild / restore his Church

Christ is coming for a glorious bride without spot or blemish.

The church is not at all in that condition today.

Today's church is filled with carnality, worldliness, and immorality.

God is preparing us for a great moving of his Holy Spirit.

**God wants to totally Restore and rebuild his church.
God says his church is like a temple. God dwells among his people.
We are the temple of the living God.
Let's look at the restoration period In the Time of Ezra.**

**In Ezra, chapter 3 and 4, they were starting to rebuild the temple.
The First Temple, Solomon's temple, was very majestic.
It had been totally destroyed during the Babylonian invasion.
Now they were starting to rebuild the temple. And
Let's read Ezra 3:10, 11.**

“And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.”

Foundations speak of basic elementary truths

**There is a spiritual truth to be seen here in these verses in Ezra.
Foundations are the first principles of Christianity.
Being born again, accepting Jesus as your Savior, water baptism.
Being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
These are just the first fundamental truth of Christianity.
These are the foundations.**

**But think, in the natural, of the foundation of a building.
If you build nothing on the foundation, it has little meaning.
Salvation, accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior, is our foundation.
This is where most of the Church is today. Just the salvation message.
No growing, no maturing, much worldliness and carnality remaining.**

But Satan is very upset if you go beyond the foundation.
The devil greatly opposes the Temple being built, beyond the foundation.
So then in Ezra chapter 4, there was great opposition from the devil.

Ezra 4:4, 5, “Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.”

God Wants a finished temple

A completed Temple has God glory and power.
This is what God wants in our days. A glorious temple, without spot.
There's a truth I want to look at, in 1 Kings 6:7: (Solomon's temple)

“And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.”

There was not any sound of a hammer in the building of the temple.
In other words, it speaks of quiet work done in the heart.
God is doing a mighty work, in a quiet work in our temple.

I'm talking now about a personal quiet work done in individuals.
As we allow God to work in our hearts, he's building upon our foundation.
Then God wants to use us to Help many other people.

God wants a completed temple, a glorious church without spot.
Presently things are a mess in the church, there is only a foundation.
The Corinthian church had a foundation, but yet very carnal.
But God is preparing us for a fabulous revival.

When the temple of Solomon was completed, the glory of God filled it.
Let's turn to 2 Chronicles 5:1:

“Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: 5:7 “And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place,;”

2 Chron. 5:12 tells us there were 120 priests, signifying the end of all flesh. 5:13-14 “It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;” 2 Chronicles 5:13, KJV.

So the priests could not even stand up for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

**The key for the glory of the Lord coming - was unity.
One voice, one sound, one purpose,
Cleansed of self, wrong motives, opinions,
to only serve the Lord, to praise and honor the Lord.**

In conclusion

**God is promising great revival, yet things seem to be getting worse.
But God is doing a deep personal work in our hearts.
The Quiet hammer and axe is at work in each individual stone.
A foundation has been laid throughout the church world.
But God wants to go far beyond the foundation.
He wants to thoroughly build his church. His glory to come.
They was unity along the 120 priests, they all had one voice.**

Lord prepare us for what you are about to do. Amen!