

## The Egypt of Your Past

In his book, *Sunrise: Addresses from A City Pulpit*, George Morrison says – “It took one night to take Israel out of Egypt, but forty years to take Egypt out of Israel.” In today’s Templates of Truth, we consider what God has delivered us from and what He is still trying to deliver us out of.

Moses wrote – *With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt from the house of slavery* (Exodus 13:14). They were finally free from their bondage and suffering. No longer did they have to subject themselves to the abusive hands of their oppressors. Rather than being victims, they were now victors! We can see our own salvation experience in a similar way. We were once under the curse and condemnation of sin, but when we placed our belief and faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior & Lord, He delivered us from the bondage and power of sin. We are now free to walk in newness of life.

If we would do that consistently, our lives would be much more joyous and fulfilling. But like the Israelites, we often want to return to slavery. When life for them became challenging, *they became frightened* (Exodus 14:10). When they became frightened, they resorted to grumbling & complaining, and revealing their tendency to want to return to their former life – *“Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt?...it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”* (Exodus 14:11-12). It is easy to assume that once we have surrendered our life to God, all our problems will disappear. I wish I could assure you of that, but it simply is not true. Life still has its issues to deal with, and more often than we like, those issues can be overwhelming and life-altering. When those times come, Satan whispers, “What’s the use; there’s no need to try. There’s no end to sorrows; there’s no hope.” The former pleasures of sin offer relief from the pain and suffering of life’s current circumstances. So, in those bleak, weak moments, we return to Egypt. We go back to the thoughts and behaviors that once gripped our lives in bondage and slavery to sin.

The Apostle Peter admonished us not to forget *(our) purification from (our) former sins* (II Peter 1:9), and *not (to) be conformed to the former lusts which were (ours) in (our) ignorance* (I Peter 1:14). Jesus died on the cross, making it possible for you and me to have a personal relationship with God, and enabling God to do a work of cleansing and purification in our life. That purification has one goal in mind – *being transformed into (the image of the Lord Jesus)* II Corinthians 3:18). In theological terms, we call that process “sanctification.” It takes God just a single moment to forgive our sins and save us unto eternal salvation, but it takes a lifetime for Him to transform us into the likeness of His Son. We can help or hinder the process, depending on our willingness to move forward with God, or back up and return to the Egypt of our lives.

The Egypt of your past offers no hope or solution to the problems of your present. Returning to the pleasures of your former bondage will only complicate the pains of your present difficulty. Moses gave the children of Israel the solution. It still applies to us today – *Do not fear! Stand by*

*and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today...the Lord will fight for you while you keep silent* (Exodus 14:13-14). The command is to remain consistent in our faith and obedience. God may not deliver us from our problems, but He will deliver us through them. He will do a much better job dealing with our present than we will do delving into our past. Just like the Israelites looking fearfully at Pharaoh and the approaching Egyptian army, our current challenge may seem overwhelming and hopeless. But, God says – *I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army* (Exodus 14:17). That simply means that when God gets through with the whole situation, He will be glorified in the final analysis and we will be all the more better for having trusted Him.

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide in Christ. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in the Lord Jesus.

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