

Repentance and the Second Exodus

I'd like to bring out a little picture today that I've been thinking about for several years now. Many times we speculate about things because I think we all really want to know more...

...understand the picture better of what God is doing or going to do. What He wants of us...

This is just trying to piece together some scriptures that, to me at least, are part of a continuing warning to the church of God, and a potential path some will apparently take.

Brethren, here we are at the period of the year when we celebrate Christ's return and a new age for humanity. Passover begins this process and we understand that examining ourselves is a part of preparing for this journey. Passover was the start of our journey to salvation... the start of our examination, and to eliminate sin from our lives,

but in order to get to this Feast of Tabernacles fulfillment, there is more yet that needs to be done.

Christ's sacrifice was the hardest part of God's plan that required His death... Yeshua... Jesus the Christ, our Messiah gave His life to save us from death, and NOW, today, is giving us His life to lead us out of a sin nature and ultimately bring us to the fulfillment of these days, and beyond.

U. Bread, came a day later... and as we understand, is just an extension of the examination period... reminding us that we are to be putting sin out of our lives... the next hardest thing in the plan...putting sin out... resisting, enduring, overcoming, fighting, growing... you know the process well.

Throughout the bible, old and new testament, God has this theme... "stop sinning, quit it,

overcome it, put it away”. We know that because Israel continually refused to obey God’s commands, they eventually went into slavery for over 400 years, and then God began to act to save them, yet again.

We know the story well... God finally decided it was time to bring them out of slavery... out of a society that embraced all sorts of evil as its daily fair. You know all that led up to their peaceful exodus, and finally getting to the Red sea, but by then, Pharaoh changes his mind and sends an army after them to bring them back. All familiar stuff...

God parts the sea, they go through. The army follows them... the Israelites get across, and God brings the water down on the army and destroys them all, protecting and saving the Israelites.

Now, with that refresher in mind, I’d like us to jump to the New Testament, and our lives

today, and into the future just before Christ's return to usher in the Kingdom.

The New Testament has a lot of similar warnings as the old Testament did... about not sinning, and about obeying God, believing Him and acting on His every word. I want to focus on some very specific warnings by Christ Himself to the Church. This isn't addressing the tares that are scattered throughout the COG as we are told... this is addressing the COG members,... those who are called and who are part of the church body.

We are very familiar with these particular stories which, I believe, are warnings about what can happen to God's people over time, so bear with me as I bring up the key points I want to present today.

1. Let's take a look at Matt 25...: the parable about the 10 Virgins... Mt. 25 v.1

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, **they ALL slumbered and slept.**

(Even the 5 wise slumbered or slept in this parable...)

6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And **while they went to buy,** the bridegroom came, and those who were ready

went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, **(presumably AFTER they “bought” more oil...)**

saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Now, I'm not going to pretend I understand exactly what this portrays regarding the foolish virgins, but it does say they are ALL involved with the kingdom, “the Kingdom of Heaven shall be likened to...” and “those who were ready” at that time, benefitted in some way. I don't know what that means for those who “went to buy” more oil but were not let in the door after words. That would make for a good discussion, however, the point is that there was a group that was NOT ready... not prepared as

they should have been.

2. Move into the book of Revelation 2.

This is not addressing the concept of there being church eras, or it being simply church congregations 2000 years ago... the point is what is being stated TO those churches.

Remember that when Christ is speaking to each of the “Churches”, He goes on to say to EVERY one of these churches...

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” - PLURAL, so it seems to me that each independent message regarding each church is meant for ALL the COG to hear and consider.

Rev 2... Church at Ephesus... Christ speaking to them...

:4 “... Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have **left your first love**. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent. :6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

So we have church members who were short something... they “fell” from some place they used to be... and yet they had some strengths as well, as Christ noted, but Christ goes on to mention that “to him who overcomes...” would eat from the tree of life.

3. Rev 3... :14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write... 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because

you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — 18 I counsel you to “**buy from Me gold**” (isn't this very much like the advice to the 5 foolish virgins to buy oil?)...

Continuing... “Buy from me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

Here we have yet another description of a problem with some of God's people in their walk with God... people who believe they are doing well... VERY well in fact, spiritually, but they are not at all. That, to me, is pretty scary, because I realize that I, or any of us, could potentially be deceived like that, but again,

Christ points to repentance, so that we may arrive at the millennial age to come.

OK... Let's begin to tie some of this together...

4. Rev 12... Now, there is debate within the COG on the topic of what we've always called, "The Place of Safety." I've heard both sides expressed in the Church... "no such place" and that God will protect us wherever we are, and, by others that "there actually IS such a place"

Of course, God can protect us wherever we are. No problem. But, hasn't He always used various processes and people in accomplishing things? Moses, and all God used him for is an example.

God could have simply done it all my Himself, but He usually doesn't do things that way.

I, for one, believe there is such a place of

protection, based on revelation 12 and a few other scriptures we will get to, and how these things seem, (to me), to be coming together into a picture, so it is that premise I am going to use to bring all this together. If I'm wrong about such a place, that doesn't change the points of scriptures or their warnings, but the duality seems to be more than just coincidence to me...

We know these scriptures very well...

Rev 12:13 “Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might **fly** into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the

earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Prophetic points we've always accepted...

- “Woman” - which we've always understood to be the church.
- “fly” into the wilderness... not “flee”...as being in a great, rush to escape something...
- “into her place” - suggests previous preparation for such a place... whether by God, others, or perhaps by members of His church???
- “flood”, by many, has been interpreted as being an “army” of some sort.

This group is protected from Satan's influence... 3 and a half years... during the time of the tribulation.

Now... I can't help but see a direct parallel in this scenario, with what we began with, and the miracle at the Red sea and how God protected Israel...

- Like Pharaoh's time, these people are allowed to leave as a group... they leave apparently orderly and peacefully, they aren't "fleeing", to this wilderness place.

- Like Pharaoh's time, it seems there is a change of mind by the "authorities" to do something about what may be regarded as these "troublesome people and their weird beliefs" that could later threaten the system, and they send a 'flood' (army) after them... I'm thinking not to bring them back, either...

- Like Pharaoh's time, God protects them by using, once again, the Earth, to swallow the army just as the red sea swallowed the Egyptian army.

This angers Satan (and his puppets... humanity and someone's military is harnessed), and Satan goes back after God's people who seemingly either chose NOT to go to this place of protection, or were spiritually asleep and missed the cues, and yet who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus.

However, even THAT praise from Christ wasn't enough, it seems to me, to have brought them to being part of this possible "second" exodus of the church out of an evil society and away from the evil to come.

Is there more evidence that some of God's people will be tried that might support the previous scriptures about some NOT being ready at this end time?

Dan 11:35 "And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it

is still for the appointed time.”

“Fall” comes from the Hebrew word OT:3782 kashal (kaw-shal'); which means “to totter or waver (through weakness of the legs, especially the ankle); by implication, to falter, stumble, faint or fall. - bereave, cast down, be decayed, (cause to) fail, (cause, make to) fall, feeble, be (the) ruin (-ed, of), (be) overthrown, (cause to) stumble, utterly, be weak.”

Dan 12:9 “And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.”

Both of the above scriptures surely tell us that there are “some” that will be in need of being purified and made white because of weakness and not being where Christ wants them to be.

Are there more scriptures which might suggest such a place of safety for many in the COG?

Luke 21... This is the parallel scriptures to Mt 24 and Mk 13 where Christ is presenting the disciples with end time events which are not going to be very pleasant...

Lk 21:36 "Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Christ is clearly suggesting that "escaping all those things that will come to pass" is a possibility by being "counted worthy." Does that bring us back to the previous weaknesses Christ warned about???

Notice also that Christ stated to watch, and "pray always" that we can escape, ----- this isn't telling us to pray that we will escape, but that

through that praying “always,” about everything, we may be part of being counted worthy.

Rev 3: Philadelphia church...

:10 “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

This is yet another pretty clear indication that God plans to protect elements of His church from end time events.

Zeph 2:3 “Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD's anger.”

1 Thess 5:3-11

3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety,"

destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

This is another warning to be watching so “that day” does not overtake us unexpectedly, so we can be sure God has a way out for those watching and preparing in every way possible for the times ahead.

OK... Let’s wrap this up...

1. We have the warning about the foolish virgins...
2. We have the warning about losing our first love...
3. We have the warning about blindly believing we are doing very well about our spiritual lives, and yet could be deceived about it.

God isn’t wasting His time in bringing up these various potential weaknesses to our attention. These scriptures are fairly plain as to the warning, so, it would seem to me, that “someone” will be in these categories... and that we **MUST** take stock of these warnings so it

isn't us.

I really prefer it not be me, or you, or anyone for that matter, but it appears that some will be in these positions. I personally believe that all these warnings... these “groups,” are likely actually one group ... the remnant that the world turns against in the tribulation, and who seem to wake up when these things suddenly begin to occur perhaps because of the two witnesses’ mission of warning, and this remnant has to “buy” (or go through some actions or trials) to achieve the spiritual power they need to make it to the end.

This remnant of God’s people have a role to play, albeit, one that I don’t necessarily want to be part of unless I have one of those spiritual attitudes. If that is the case, then I’m grateful that God is allowing this path to complete my training.

Being **foolish** in how we are “buying” oil and gold while the sun shines, as they say, is like **losing one’s first love**, and certainly can also be equated to being **lukewarm**, can it not?

I’m not trying to depress anyone, or be pessimistic with all this. “I’m” taking these warnings and applying them to me... something I need to be aware of and that I am not immune to being in one of those categories. I believe it is repeated over and over again because it will be an issue for some of us.

If ALL of the virgins slept... that involves ALL of the COG in some way but God tells us there is a way to be protected.

I do take heart with those encouragements from Christ, and a couple scriptures that we can depend on...

The church members in the previous categories

can't see their secret faults and apparently aren't seeking them out...

Ps 19... David knew things can be hiding in us and we need to want righteousness fervently...

:12 “Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.” (How many of those do we have?)

Ps 139:23 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Phil 3... :12 “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are

ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; **and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.**”

That is a **promise** to us if we are desiring to be like God, but how badly do we WANT righteousness? Are we asking, seeking, knocking???

Those are my constant prayers to God, for all of us... that He will reveal what we lack, but we must be continually asking Him for this “revealing”.

I realize it’s no fun to ask for a spanking or correction...

Last scripture... John 16... :33 Christ speaking...

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; **but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**”

(Conclusion) Title **Repentance and the Second Exodus**

Brethren, we should be examining ourselves throughout the year... repenting as we come to see our sins, overcoming them and drawing closer to our God and His son.

This Feast portrays the 1000 year reign of Christ and our ruling with Him, but we aren't there yet.

The warnings we've seen today are real. A second exodus seems to be a distinct possibility for many in God's church. Miracles from God that will surely point out to the world that we are God's people.

Whether it does or doesn't happen that way, we

want to be ready to be part of the kingdom and not be found wanting when the time comes.

We are involved with the greatest project in the universe, so let's march forward, mindful of our potential for weakness, but remembering that our savior, Jesus Christ, is at the lead, and loves us, and through whom we are MORE than conquerors!!!!!!

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