

THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED

Exodus 12:1-8; Revelation 3:14-22

Introduction: Israel had been brought miraculously out of slavery from Egypt by the mighty hand of God and had were being given instructions on how God wanted certain things to be.

- God had called Moses up Mt. Sinai where he was to receive more instructions and also God's Ten Commandments, which God would cut into two stone tablets. Joshua had gone part way up the mountain with Moses. Aaron, who had been appointed by God to be Israel's High Priest was left in charge until Moses returned.
- Moses did not come back the next day nor the next, not even the next week now the people at first waited with great anticipation as to what God was going to send to them by Moses, but as the time passed, they began to grow impatient and were thinking that perhaps Moses would never come back and that something had happened to him.

1. Moses was gone a long time. (So, Jesus has been also gone a long time). (Exodus 24:12-14)

- The people had waited and waited, days went by, then weeks, and finally 40 days and nights went by.
- Where was Moses? Was he not coming back?
- The same question is asked today about Jesus. "Where is Jesus?" Why is He taking so long?"
 - Its' been over 2,000 years since He went away. (2 Peter 3:4)
- As Israel was then at the foot of Mt. Sinai, getting impatient, so are a lot of Christians today.
 - There were scoffers who said Moses wasn't coming back, it's been too long, something's happened to him.
- Things have not changed today for there are Christians who are not living as if Jesus was coming back. How different their lives and behavior would be if they believed Jesus was coming back in their own lifetime.

2. Aaron, their High Priest, did what the restless people wanted. (Exodus 32:2-4)

- As High Priest, Aaron was assigned to help lead the people to obey and worship God.
- The people, tired of waiting for Moses, wanted a change, so Aaron did what the people wanted and he built them a golden calf to worship.
- Things haven't changed today for there are pastors who have done what Aaron did, listen to the people instead of staying firm with his/their assigned position of helping the people worship God.
 - Today, it's treat everybody the same, don't hurt any feelings, etc.
 - However, the Bible teaches separation, have nothing to do with the wicked and worldly.
 - God's Word is variable, however a person understands it, it's alright.
 - "Christian" theologians have come up with new words and new ideas that change the true Biblical meaning of scripture.
 - It is said today by many that all beliefs are true, it makes no difference, for God will accept everyone, as long as that person is sincere.
 - Yet God has said that Jesus is the ONLY way... "*...I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me...*" said Jesus, Himself.
 - Salvation is changeable, it's just not the same as it was a generation ago, it changes with the times is what seems to be the thought today.
 - Churches have the idea to being the "unchurched" into the Church and in time, perhaps they will change.

- Church numbers (growth) is important and do whatever it takes to get the numbers into the Church. Numbers are more important than what the Bible says.
- Today's Church has been led astray by its spiritual leaders who don't want to hurt anybody's feelings and who want to "run" the Church the way they want to, leaving everybody, even God out.

3. Joshua said to Moses that the people's "worship music" sounded like "war" to him. (Exodus 32:17-18)

- What Joshua heard was not Godly sounds, not Godly praise, but loud, empty, shallow meaningless noise.
- Things have not changed today. Strange sounds are coming from many of God's Churches.
- A foreign missionary and his family came home (America) back in the 60's for a year of furlough and his teenaged children bought several records of popular music to take back with them when they returned to their foreign country of service. When they got back and played some of the music to their native friends, their friends started screaming and ran from the house. When asked what was wrong, they replied that what they heard was the same sounds the village witch doctor had the warriors play when he was summoning up evil spirits.
- Worldly music/sounds has no place in God's House, for it is not the sounds of Godly worship.

4. The people had taken their clothes off in their idol worship and were naked. (Exodus 32:35)

- In false worship they removed all their proper clothing and were completely bare, naked.
- Things have not changed today. Oh, people don't come naked to worship services, yet Church members are spiritually blind, naked and poor in the things of the Lord.
- Nobody comes to Church services dressed in their very best, yet they will wear their best to funerals, weddings, formal affairs, etc. but not to worship almighty God.
 - People come to Church services dressed like they are going to a mall or a ball game, dressed without God in their mind.
- The world sees no difference in the Christian's way of dress than its own - nose rings, tattoos, etc.

5. Aaron called for a day of celebration of the golden calf, but called it a day for the Lord. (Exodus 32:4-5)

- It was not the gods of Egypt who delivered Israel yet it was they whom Aaron and the people were praising.
- Aaron, the High Priest of God, made a golden calf and then offered a sacrifice to it and called it God.
- Things have not changed. Today's Churches are neither hot or cold for God, yet they still say that they are God's Children. (*Revelation 3:15*)
- God's people today are living and worshipping like the world but doing so in the name of God, just like Aaron and Israel did that day at the foot of Mt. Sinai with the golden calf.
- Today's belief is that any "religion" can get to God.

6. God was angry and plagued the people for their behavior. (Exodus 32:9-10:35)

- If not for Moses intervening on Israel's behalf, God would have destroyed Israel at that moment.
 - Jesus has done the same thing for us.
- God is full of grace (*John 3:16*) but He is also holy, just and the final judge.
- God is greatly displeased with His people who are living worldly lives. (*Revelation 3:16*)
 - Take a good look at what's happening in our very own country.
- People claim God's name, claim to be His Children, but live like the lost world.

7. God moved His Tabernacle outside the camp. (Exodus 33:7)

- The Tabernacle (where God's presence was) was moved from the center of the camp, where it was supposed to be, there in the midst of His people
- God, started out dwelling among His people (Tabernacle), but moved out because of their worldliness.
- Things have not changed. Today, Jesus is outside the hearts of His very own people and is knocking to get their attention and to be let back in. (*Revelation 3:20*)
 - Inside God's Church/House is doctrinal perversion and worldly activities.
- Moses gave the cry: "*...Who is on the Lord's side, come to me...*"
 - Israel started out to serve God, we, Christians, also started out to serve God, but who is actually still serving God?

CONCLUSION:

1. Looking back through Biblical history at people and God, their ups and downs, their faithfulness and unfaithfulness, then looking at today, things have not changed.
2. God's leaders need to be God's leaders and do what God wants, not what they want or what their congregations want.
3. Churches need to get back to where God is in their midst and He is the center of all things.
4. So went Israel, so goes today's Church.