

### **135 " .... that ye shall know ...."**

Within the Book of Exodus we are told a great deal about Almighty God - His character, His ways and His wishes, and His dealings with His covenant people the children of Israel.

We read of the increasing oppression of the Israelites in Egypt; of God's raising-up and appointment of Moses; of the judgements on Pharaoh and his people; of the Exodus itself; of the establishing of the covenant, with the law, the tabernacle and the priesthood; and, throughout those years in the wilderness, of the tendency among the people towards murmurings, rebelliousness and times of idolatry.

No wonder Exodus is such a vital portion of God's Word for us! One particular theme which runs right through the Book does not grab the headlines, but is probably at the very core of all that is going on. It is the simple theme of "knowing".

On a dozen or more occasions we come across phrases such as (using the Authorised Version here to preserve the distinction between "thou" and "ye") - "and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 6.7, 16.6, 16.12, referring to the Israelites) / "And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord ..." (7.5, 14.18) / "In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord .... (7.17, the Pharaoh) / "that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the Lord our God" (8.10, Pharaoh again) / "to the end that thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth" (8.22, to Moses) / "that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you" (31.13, to the Israelites).

So we get the message: the Lord God insists that He, as the one, true, living Creator God, is to be known and acknowledged by all within His creation - by His friends and His foes, by peoples and individuals. All are to know that He, and He alone, is the Lord God.

Now much has happened since those days of the Exodus. Crucially, the Lord God has fulfilled His Eden Promise, in coming to this earth in His Son Jesus Christ. He now has a people of the New Covenant, the covenant based not on His law but on His grace; based not on the repeated shedding of lambs' blood, but on the one-off shedding of the Lamb of God's blood; and not entered into by

physical birth into a particular people, but by spiritual birth into the Body of Christ, the Church.

And that spiritual birth, wrought by the Holy Spirit, is based on what exactly? Why, on none other than our KNOWING, by faith, conviction and resolve, that Jesus Christ is Lord; which completes the circle and brings us right back to the "knowing of God" in Exodus.

One day God will indeed ensure that all His creation knows that He is the Lord. He has decreed that - "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow .... and every knee should confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2.10). That is going to happen. The tragedy is that for so many, their knowing the Lordship of God will only happen when the door of salvation has shut, and their knowing has come too late (eg., Matthew 7.13-14, 21 / 25.1-13).

How vital then that we realise that the "thou" and the "ye" of those references in Exodus are now to us the "I" and "we" of today. How we need to make known the Gospel of salvation while the door is still open (Matthew 7.7-8 / John 6.37 / Romans 10.9 / etc). And how good it is, in our prayers alone or together, to acknowledge to the Lord God our Father, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that He IS the Lord God; and not just MY or OUR Lord God, but THE Lord God. That is what He wants to hear - and is entitled to hear.

And when He does hear it, even from puny but loved and redeemed children like us, we can think of His says-it-all, burning-bush response from Exodus 3.14, "I AM THAT I AM".

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