

Who Is On The Lord's Side Exodus 32 Verse 25-35

Ex 32:25 "And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)"

Naked means *to loosen, to expose, dismiss, go back, make naked, set at nought, perish, uncover*. The definition of naked reveals to us several things: Israel had loosed themselves from everything pertaining to God. They had dismissed God from their thoughts and influencing their lives. They have gone back to their inherited sin nature. In their drunkenness, from the sin of idolatry, they have exposed themselves in the pleasures of the flesh, and they have uncovered their bodies in shamelessness.

"for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies" Shame means *scornful whispering*. By making this idol, Aaron had provided a way for their enemies, who would see and hear of this abominable act in the sight of God, would be enabled to say; this people, who we thought were something special when they left Egypt, are no different than we are. They aren't serving **"The Lord,"** but they are just like us; they are serving themselves. We can overcome these people with ease, as they are no longer defended by **"The Lord"** which brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand, from whom they have turned away.

Now apply this to our own lives today as Christians. Do you see and understand? why God said **Ex 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** Failure to wholly serve God, is the be made **"naked unto our shame among our enemies?"** Who are our enemies? Satan and everyone who is not saved by the grace of God, and sometimes those who are saved. When we are unfaithful to God; our enemies see us as no different than they are. Unfaithfulness to God and Christ is preaching heresy to our observers, within, and without the camp.

Look at the world around us and see both men and women are going around practically naked, and they, without shame, openly indulge in all manner of sinfulness against God. This is a byproduct of forsaking God and his commandments. It is a tool Satan uses, to pull us away from God through fleshly lust and covetousness.

26 "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. 29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. 30 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin."

Moses sets himself apart from Israel and asks: **"Who is on the Lord's side?"** We are told that Levi, the tribe of the priesthood, gathers to stand with Moses. This is a picture of saved people, who take the cross of discipleship to Christ and separate themselves from a life of sin and sinfulness, by serving God instead of self.

Moses commanded Levi to take up their swords and without partiality, slay those involved in this great sin of idolatry. Moses is telling the people to consecrate themselves to God, by removing those involved in the idolatry. This is what we are directed to do in **Lu 14:26-27; 26 "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."**

The next day, Moses declares the greatness of the sin of Israel to the remainder, who are alive. Moses tells them he will once again go to God, as an intercessor, to try to make atonement for their sin. Herein, we see the picture of Jesus Christ, our intercessor on the throne of God, making intercessions for us.

31 "And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made."

Moses goes back, up into the mount to God, and confesses that Israel has committed a grievous sin in making idols to replace God. Moses offers himself as a sacrifice for the sin of Israel. How does Moses do this? Moses, as a mediator, says to God: earlier you made me an offer of slaying this stiffnecked people and making of me a great nation. Moses says, I reject this offer, and if Israel must die, then slay me with them. God accepts Moses's offering of self-sacrifice. However, God tells Moses, "**Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.**" God tells Moses, "**in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.**" God sends a plague upon them for their sin of idolatry.

We know, and understand, that we all have a sin nature, and we all have at some time practiced sinning. Therefore, we are all under the penalty of death, which should remove our names from the book of life. However, God says to Moses, you have not committed sin, and I will not take your name from my book. These words give us the picture of Christ Jesus, who shed his holy blood, gave his life on the cross, and declared us righteous and sinless thereby. Therefore, our names are still included in the Book of Life. As those of Israel, who were not slain for idolatry, were saved by the intercession of Moses on their behalf. Thus, all of God's chosen people are saved by the intercession of Christ, to God the Father.

God tells Moses to lead this people to the land of promise, and I will send an Angel before you. This is the same Angel that God promised in **Ex 23:23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.**" This is a picture of what happens in our lives in the new birth. What do you mean? The new birth is brought about by the Holy Spirit being sent to reside in you, which Holy Spirit drives out the evil influences in your life. From that time forward, the Holy Spirit should be the leading light of your pilgrim journey on earth. This is a picture of Jesus telling us in, **Joh 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;"** This is a prophetic picture of your life today as a Child of God.

Remember how often I have told you that there is always a consequence for sin? We shall see this brought to fruition in the lives of these Israelites who committed this idolatrous act. God will send a plague and many shall die. It is because of sin in our lives that we are plagued with sickness, death, and other plagues.

Moses will lead them to the shore of the Promised Land, and they shall refuse to enter in. God shall punish them by causing them to wander in the wilderness until every one of these Israelites die, except for Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful witnesses.

Apply this to ourselves today. If God leads us to see the entrance to the Promised Land, the Church of Christ, and we refuse to enter in; we don't have to guess what the result will be. We shall have to wander in the wilderness until we die, having not entered the rest that God had prepared for us. Does this mean we are eternally damned? Not if we are of the number for whom Christ died and interceded for. What we will miss is the joy of the rest, that is provided to the church, which rest is to believe that you have been given the promise of entering the eternal kingdom of heaven.

I am prone to forget that in the Old Testament, beginning with Adam until the present; God has revealed much more about himself, and his will and purpose, than we are told in scripture. Example, who would ever have thought that Moses knew that God had written a book, which contained the names of God's people. We believe this book is the same Book of Life which we read of in **Php 4:3** and in several books in Revelation. Another example is: Job and King David both confessed the resurrection of the dead in Christ.

Did you notice that God rightly charged Israel, and Aaron, in the making of the idol, of which Aaron lied to Moses, claiming he just threw the gold in the fire and out came the golden calf? This teaches us; our sins cannot be hidden from God. The conversation, between God and Moses, will continue in chapter 33.

May God help us to understand the seriousness of idolatry. May God, through the indwelling Holy Spirit power, enable us to avoid turning from the Lord: We pray in the name of our once crucified, but now risen and exalted, Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen!