

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MANKIND

RLJ-1570

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PART 5: OBEDIENCE OR REBELLION

The Exodus from Egypt was the second greatest intervention in the history of mankind since the Flood but it was also the first great tragedy for the people of Israel. Three million escaped from Egypt but half of them were killed by the Lord in the wilderness as a result of their rebellion. Just 2 adults of 1.5 million leaving Egypt made it into the Promised Land.

UNBELIEF LEADS TO REBELLION

Unbelief is like a flu virus which spreads from person to person and it is very infectious. It hinders the Lord from working and this is why the Devil has made unbelief one of his choice weapons. **Hebrews 11:6**

Satan fired his first shot in the Garden of Eden against Eve. **Genesis 3:1-5**

Moses was infected with the unbelief and was not excited that God was going to liberate the children of Israel. **Exodus 3:11-13; 4:1**

It was God's wrath that removed his unbelief. **verses 10-18**

Moses had faith in the anger of the Lord and self-preservation drove him to obey!

NO OPPOSITION – EASY FAITH

God spoke to Aaron to meet Moses in the wilderness. Once Aaron heard what God had said and done, he was filled with faith and they met with Israelite elders. They all believed since there was no opposition. **Exodus 4:27-31**

When Pharaoh pushed back and made life worse for the children of Israel, they lost all faith in God and turned on Moses and Aaron. **Exodus 5:1-21**

Moses was infected by their unbelief. **verses 22-23**

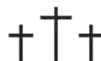
The Israelites were slaves and concerned about surviving from day to day. They repeatedly told Moses during the times of the plagues to leave them alone. After seeing all the plagues destroy Egypt, they began their journey to the Promised Land and were stopped by the Red Sea. Instead of expecting a miracle, they once again turned against Moses. **Exodus 14:5-12**

Experiencing the miracle of walking through the Red Sea did not build faith in the people, and as soon as they ran short of food, they turned again on Moses. **Exodus 16:1-3**

The miracles of quail and daily manna did nothing for the faith of the people. They again turned on Moses when they ran out of water. **Exodus 17:1-7**

UNBELIEF LEADS TO IDOLATRY

God does not tolerate idolatry. The people hated Moses and relied upon him at the same time for leadership. They had no personal relationship with God and when Aaron



was confronted by an angry mob, he lost all faith in God and became their leader in idol worship. **Exodus 32:1-8**

God would have killed them if Moses had not interceded. **Exodus 32:9-14**

The first judgment fell and 3,000 men lost their lives. **verses 26-28**

GOD DOES NOT TOLERATE ENVY

It must have been a well-known fact that Moses did not get along with Zipporah. The Bible does not tell us if Zipporah was still alive when Moses married a black woman from Ethiopia. Aaron and Miriam were so upset that they questioned Moses' leadership ability. God knew He had to stop this attack or Moses would lose all credibility with the people. **Numbers 12:1-15**

THE ULTIMATE REBELLION

Refusing to enter the Promised Land was a sin which God would not tolerate. The Lord was ready to wipe out and begin a new nation with Moses. God pardoned everyone under the age of 20 when Moses interceded but the Lord sentenced the rest of them to wander around in the wilderness for the next 40 years until they all died. The ten tribal leaders were killed right away by the Lord. **Numbers 14:1-38**

The people learned nothing from this event. They did not want to walk for 40 years in the wilderness and decided to enter the Promised Land in their own power. This brought more death to them. **verses 39-45**

GOD DOES NOT TOLERATE INSURRECTION

With the ten tribal leaders killed, other men moved up and took their positions. There was a simmering hate toward Moses and it did not take long to boil over when Korah from the tribe of Levi plotted to overthrow Moses. He was joined by Dathan and Abiram, and together they persuaded 250 princes to join the rebellion. This was a serious threat to the leadership of Moses, Aaron and Joshua, and had it succeeded, most likely the children of Israel would have returned into Egypt.

God had to supernaturally intervene and killed Korah and his followers. **Numbers 16:34**

The remainder of the people were convinced that the suppression of the rebellion was not from the Lord and God had to step in again and kill an additional 14,700 men. **verses 41-50**

BEWARE OF AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF

God demands obedience from His people. You and I cannot be obedient if we have the spiritual disease of unbelief. Unbelief brings forth rebellion which in turn brings forth death. Therefore, hear the voice of the Lord, line up with His word and stop murmuring. **Hebrews 3:7-19**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?