

Sunday, April 9, 2017—I Corinthians 10:1-6—Israel: Our Example

I Corinthians 10:1

- **Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;**
- *Moreover*—“beyond what has been said; further; besides; also; likewise,” according to Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language. In other words, Paul is adding to the thought expressed at the end of the Chapter 9.
- *Brethren*—the reference here is to the saved saints in Corinth. Recall from our earlier studies that the “brethren” who comprised the church at Corinth were a mix of both Jews and Gentiles.
 - Acts 18:4-8
 - I Corinthians 12:1-2
- *I would not that ye should be ignorant*—in addition to what Paul said at the end of Chapter 9 there are some things that he does not want the “brethren” at Corinth to be ignorant about. The use of the word “ye” in this phrase is plural and answers to I Cor. 9:24 and 25. As the Corinthians “run” so as to obtain the prize, there are some things that Paul does not want them to be ignorant about.
- *Our fathers*—as you read the next few verses it is clear that Paul does not want the “brethren” to be ignorant of some things that happened to Israel in time past. Paul refers to these things from the Old Testament as “examples” for the church at Corinth and by extension the entire body of Christ.
 - I Corinthians 10:6, 11
- *Were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea*—Paul is referring here to the historical events of the Exodus of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage.
 - Exodus 13:21-22—the entire nation was under the cloud.
 - Exodus 14:21-22—all of Israel passed through the sea under the leadership of Moses.
- Paul doesn’t want the Corinthians to be ignorant of the supernatural leading that God provided for Israel when he led them out of Egypt.
 - Hebrews 8:9

I Corinthians 10:2

- **And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;**
- By taking part in the events identified in verse 1, verse 2 says the children of Israel “were all baptized unto Moses.” The verb “baptized” in verse 2 is the passive tense and the middle voice which means that all those who partook in the supernatural events of the cloud and sea identified themselves with the leadership of Moses.
- Regarding Israel’s baptism unto Moses Pastor C.R. Stam stated the following in his commentary on I Corinthians:
 - “Actually, it was Israel’s “baptism unto Moses,” their identified with him, that took them safely through the Red Sea. Moses was God’s man. As Israel encamped in a trap, as it were, with the Red Sea before them, desert on one side and mountains on the other—and Pharaoh’s angry, determined armies behind, Moses said: “Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord” (Ex. 14:13), and a little later, “Go forward” (Ver. 15). . .

The children of Israel surely identified themselves with Moses that night, and under the most severe test, for they could have surrendered to Pharaoh and his armies. But rather, they stood fast and were “all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.” Imagine well upwards of 2,000,000 people following Moses through the Red Sea, its walls of water kept from falling only by the power of God.” (Stam, 167-168)

 - Hebrews 11:29—Israel acted by faith as was baptized unto Moses as a result.
 - In other words, the nation at large identify itself with the administration, economy, and leadership of Moses.
 - Exodus 19:1-2, 8—the plan and purpose of God, the leadership of Moses ultimately led to Sinai.

I Corinthians 10:3

- **And did all eat the same spiritual meat;**
- I take the “spiritual meat” spoken of in this verse to be a reference to the manna that God supernaturally provided for the children of Israel as they journeyed from the Red Sea to Sinai.
 - Exodus 16:4, 31, 35

I Corinthians 10:4

- **And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.**
- I take the “spiritual drink” spoken of in verse 4 to be a reference to the supernatural provision that was made for Israel when Moses hit the rock and water flowed.
 - Exodus 17:5-7
 - Numbers 20:7-13—the second-time Moses doesn’t follow the instructions and not allowed to led Israel into the promised land as a result of his disobedience.
- I Corinthians 10:4—Paul says that the spiritual Rock that they drank from was Christ. Given Paul’s statement, it seems reasonable to assume the rock, a source of water, foreshowed Christ.
 - Matthew 16:18—Jesus Christ was the rock upon which the Jewish kingdom church would be built.
 - Ephesians 2:20—Paul calls the Lord Jesus Christ the “chief corner stone.”
 - John 4:10-13—Jesus, speaking of himself offers the woman at the well “living water.”
- I Corinthians 10:4—Paul seems to be looking at God the Son’s actives with respect to Israel during the Exodus as their supernatural provider and sustainer.

I Corinthians 10:5

- **But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.**
- *But with many of them God was not well pleased*—this a figure of speak known as the comparative form. It basically means that God was displeased with the majority of them. Note also the contrast “but” as the beginning of verse 5. Despite all the supernatural provision summarized in verses 1 through 4 God was not “well pleased” with Israel. In fact, the majority of them were “overthrown” in the wilderness.
 - Exodus 14:29
 - Numbers 14:27, 30, 32-33

I Corinthians 10:6

- **Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.**
- All these things that happened to Israel in time past are to serve as “examples” to us as members of the body of Christ living in the dispensation of grace.
 - Romans 15:4—we need to learn from Israel’s example.
- I Corinthians 10:6—how are the things mentioned in verses 1 through 5 to serve as our examples? To the intent that we should not lust after evil things as Israel did.
 - “When it is said that these were examples or types, foreshadowings for us, then it is evident that not only these five mentioned, but tall all the history of Israel was typical for us. It is fully true that the mystery of the Body as such had no types for itself and about itself, but is is nevertheless a fact that we are privileged to view the whole of Israel’s history as a foreshadowing of future events.” (Bultema, 81)
- Israel possessed all this supernatural provision and was still overthrown in the wilderness. They had supernatural protection and provision and it still wasn’t enough for them. They were enticed and lusted after those things that they did not have.
- What did Israel fail to do? They failed to keep their bodies under subjection. The majority of them failed to finish the course and where denied the prize of the promised land.
 - “Miracles do not forego slipping, and privilege do not prevent becoming a castaway.” (Bultema, 81)
- Remember why Paul is bringing all this stuff up from Israel’s history. He does not want the Corinthians to be ignorant of these things as they seek to run the race so as to obtain the prize. If Israel who experienced all the supernatural protection and provision could be sidetracked how much more possible is it for you and I who have not seen/experienced what Israel experienced.
- We need to find our sufficiency in the Lord Jesus Christ. The majority of the body of Christ is runner headlong after Israel program and is none the better for it. Even with all the signs and wonders Israel still lusted after evil things. Don’t get caught up in judging God’s favor based upon your outward circumstances.