

We Have Need of Endurance Part 1

1.) Hebrews 10:32 *But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

Verse 36 of our passage in Hebrews states our need for endurance, in order to receive the promise. We are all in a race, a race of the faith. A race that began once we heard the Word of the Kingdom and made the choice to go on the journey to the heavenly land. A race that lasts for the entire duration of our kingdom seeking life, and will end either by our physical death or the resurrection/rapture of the Church, when we will then stand before our Lord to be judged according to our works. And if we have done the will of God and not our own during our time here on this earth, we will receive the promise. But in order to receive the promise *then*, we have need of endurance *now*, in this present time. It is necessary.

The Greek word for endurance is *hypomonē* and is defined as patient continuance (waiting), steadfastness, constancy, to remain, to abide.

So then, patient continuance (waiting), steadfastness, constancy, remaining and abiding is needed for us now if we are to inherit the promises of God in the future. We are to presently hold fast to and remain absolutely assured of the truth that our laboring does not go unnoticed by the Lord, as well as being assured of the certainty of the

payment we will receive because of our work, the reward of the inheritance: Hebrews 6:11 *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope **until the end**, 12 that you do not become sluggish (lazy), but imitate those who through faith and patience (**endurance**) inherit the promises.*

Colossians 3:23 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 **knowing that from the Lord (at the JSOC) you will receive the reward of the inheritance;** for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*

Unless you are a marathon runner, from our human perspective, patience would seem like the last thing we would want to exhibit in a race. Once entering a race we make it our aim to finish and reach its goal the fastest way possible. But the race we are in is not a literal one, but a spiritual one, and we must view, define and understand how we are to run this race according to the Word of God. We must not lean on our own understanding, doing what seems right in our own eyes, thereby resulting in disapproval: 2 Timothy 2:3 *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, **he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.** 6 The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. 7 Consider what I say, **and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.***

Hebrews 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises (in their lifetime), but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

Hebrews chapter 11 gives us multiple examples of individuals not inherently different from us, who give testimony - who are witnesses to the fact that this race of the faith can be run and can be successfully won. Individuals who battled and faced the same three great enemies that we face every day with the world, the flesh and the devil. They endured the trials and testings that **must** be the experience of all who are in pursuit

of the heavenly land. And it is only through having faith to the saving of their souls that they endured and overcame them and were not overcome: 1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation (testing) has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to **endure** it.*

Hebrews 12:1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with **endurance (patience)** the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who **endured** such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

Above all we are to consider the example of Jesus, the Originator and Perfecter of our faith. The One who has gone before us and the One we are to follow after who has shown us the Way to the right hand of the Father, which is the place and position of power and authority for rulership in the age to come. We are to bring to our remembrance and set our minds upon His example as we patiently run our race, especially during times of weariness and discouragement. We should recall the sufferings and patient endurance of Christ during His time on this earth, and the opposition He faced from the unbelief of the nation of Israel that ultimately led to His crucifixion and bloodshed at Calvary. And we are to submit to the process of allowing the Lord to renew our minds to view our present sufferings as of little moment in comparison to the glory and exaltation that will be ours, just as Christ did: Philippians 2:5 **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,** 6 *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore (because of having done this) God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at*

the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience (endurance) have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing...v.12 Blessed is the man who (patiently) endures temptation/testing; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord **has promised** to those who love Him.*

Patient endurance is a result of the various trials that come our way to test our faith. Our belief in what God has said with respect to the salvation of our souls and the promised inheritance that is reserved for us in the heavens **must** be tested. Apart from the testing of our faith, patient endurance cannot be produced. And if patient endurance is not produced through the trial and testing of our faith, faith cannot be brought to completion and there will be no approval at the JSOC to receive a crown to rule and reign in the age to come.

But before continuing on the subject of patient endurance and testing, I would like to hopefully open up our understanding a little more from the scriptures as to the WHAT and WHY of being tested. Enduring through testing is for a purpose, and faith - knowing and believing what God has said regarding His plans and purposes for mankind in the Seventh Day - must always come first and be prominent in our thinking.

Deliverance

2.) Exodus 3:1-10 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." 4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this

place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." 6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. 7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

The Lord had appeared to Moses for He had seen and heard the oppression of His people in Egypt. And He had come down to deliver them from their bondage under Pharaoh to bring them up **from** that land **to** another land. The land that He had promised to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. What God had said, He would do. God's plan to deliver His people was first made to Moses, then from Moses to the people: Exodus 6:1 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."* 2 *And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them. 4 I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. 5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. 6 **Therefore say to the children of Israel:** I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage*

(inheritance): *I am the LORD.*" 9 So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.

The purpose for their deliverance was later reiterated again from God to Moses, but this time presented to the elders of the people. And once this purpose was made known from the elders to the people, there was a verbal confession by all the people to do what God had spoken. Moses would then bring back the words of the people to the Lord: Exodus 19:3 *And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant (the condition), then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."* 7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

What we need to see here is that the children of Israel heard on more than one occasion the reason for their deliverance from bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt and understood that IF they obeyed and kept His covenant, the land that God had promised to them as an inheritance would be theirs.

Bread to Test/God Will Provide

3.) During the interim from Egypt to the land, following the Passover and after passing through the Red Sea, God had provided bread from heaven to sustain them physically on their wilderness journey to the land of their inheritance. And not only this, but more specifically the bread from heaven was provided to sustain them spiritually, for they now had spiritual life. This same bread was also provided **to test them**, to see whether they would walk in God's law or not, providing them the

opportunity beyond their verbal confession to prove by their actions that they had believed what God had said. Entrance into the land of their inheritance to rule at the head of the Gentile nations of that time was not automatic, but conditional on faithful obedience to commandments of God: Exodus 16:4 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, **that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.** 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."...v.11 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"13 So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. 14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 So when the children of Israel saw it (the bread from heaven that God had provided), they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was...v.31 and the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.*

It is interesting to see here what God called bread from heaven, the children of Israel called manna, meaning "what is it?" And we also see in what THEY called it, that the bread from heaven that was given to test them did just that. By calling the bread manna, the house of Israel began to display a negative attitude, an attitude of unbelief towards the commandments of God. They had deceived themselves by separating and failing to see what God was doing in the natural versus in the spiritual:

1 Corinthians 10:3 *all ate the same **spiritual** food, 4 and all drank the same **spiritual** drink. For they drank of that **spiritual** Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

As mentioned before, the bread from heaven was provided not just for physical sustenance. To gather a certain quota and eat the bread daily was given to them as a **commandment**. And in order for them to enter

into the land to rule at the head of the nations, thus fulfilling the purpose for their deliverance, they were to OBEY His voice, keep His covenant, and walk in His laws (in His commandments)...Exodus 16:15 *And Moses said to them (after they said, "what is it?"), "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. 16 This is the thing which the LORD has **commanded**: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'"*

Each person individually was commanded to gather bread daily for himself, and then for those in his tent or his house. But on the sixth day God would provide twice as much for them to gather, for on the seventh day (the Sabbath), no work was to be done, and anyone who did try to gather bread would find none. Despite this, some of the people still attempted it, disobeying the commandment of the Lord: Exodus 16:27 *Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. 28 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? 29 See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." 30 So the people rested on the seventh day.*

We all know the attitude they continued to display throughout their wilderness journey, grumbling and complaining against the bread that was provided for them. Constantly looking back to and desiring the food they ate in Egypt: Numbers 11:4 *Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"*

Numbers 21:4 *Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this*

worthless/insubstantial bread." 6 *So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

His Name

But their grumbling and complaining was specific, and it is very important that we do not overlook this, so we do not repeat the same mistake: Psalms 138:2 *I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, **for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.***

God places His Word and His name above all things, for God *is* His Word and He is above all things. And in refusing to obey the commandments of God, the children of Israel were in effect rejecting God Himself and what He was offering to them. To speak against what God had spoken, to complain against the bread from heaven that had been provided for Israel were one and the same thing: Exodus 16:8 *Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints **which you make against Him.** And what are we? **Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD.**"*

This attitude of despising His name and His Word continued on throughout their generations: Malachi 1:6 *"A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' 7 "You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, The table of the LORD is contemptible (despised)...v.12 "But you profane it, In that you say, The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.' 13 You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.*

And this attitude persisted even up until the Christ who is the Word made flesh - the true Bread from heaven - appeared to the nation during His first advent: John 6:32 *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say*

to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst....v.41 The Jews then **complained** about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." 42 And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" (what is it?) 43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has life for the age. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for the age; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" 53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has age-lasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live for the age."

4.) 1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted...v.11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for

our admonition (instruction/exhortation), upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

As with the first generation of Israel to come out of Egypt, throughout their generations and up until the Lord's first advent, God our Father has provided for us bread from heaven His Word, to sustain and strengthen us spiritually during our time of sojourning in the land of our birth to the heavenly land where our inheritance will be realized. We know and understand that we have been delivered FROM the bondage of the systems and practices of this world that lie under the sway of the wicked one TO another land: Colossians 1:13 *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

Our old man has been crucified, buried through baptism and having been raised to walk in newness of life, the waters completely closed behind us, the Lord is leading us by His Spirit to receive our adoption at the JSOC, thereby placing us as firstborn sons and joint heirs with Christ to rule with Him from the Kingdom of the Heavens: Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of **bondage** again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

As it was for the Jewish people, so it is for Christians today. The free gift of spiritual life that we have received by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ - our Passover Lamb - is just that, a free gift. It can never be taken away. But to receive a position to rule with Christ from the heavenly land, one must be counted worthy/proven qualified, and is conditional on faithful obedience to the Word of God as it has always been for a redeemed people. The Word of God - specifically the Word of the Kingdom - has been given to test us and our attitude resulting in actions towards the Word of the Kingdom will result in only one of two outcomes: faithful obedience or disobedience. And this will lead to its final conclusion at the JSOC where we will experience either blessing

from God or rejection with respect to the age to come: Hebrews 6:7 *For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; 8 but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.*

Isaiah 55:10 *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And **bread to the eater**, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

James 1:16 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

More next time if the Lord is willing.