

TABERNACLE OF MOSES "Plundering the Egyptian"

Exod 3:18-22

- 18 "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.'
- 19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.
- 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.
- 21 "And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.
- 22 Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will **plunder**¹ the Egyptians." (NIV)

Brown-Driver-Briggs' definition-

5337 **natsal**¹- to snatch away, to deliver, to rescue, to save, to strip, to plunder

a) (Niphal)

1) to tear oneself away, to deliver oneself

2) to be torn out or away, to be delivered

b) (Piel)

1) to strip off, to spoil

2) to deliver

c) (Hiphil)

1) to take away, to snatch away

2) to rescue, to recover

3) to deliver (from enemies or troubles or death)

4) to deliver from sin and guilt

d) (Hophal) to be plucked out

e) (Hithpael) to strip oneself

During Moses' first encounter with God, the Lord laid out his plan for plundering the Egyptians. The word for plunder is most often translated "deliver" in the KJV, the idea being of rescuing something from its unlawful holder.

1 Sam 30:1-8 (KJV)

- 1 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;
- 2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.
- 3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.
- 4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.
- 5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of

Nabal the Carmelite.

6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail **recover all**¹.

David's loved ones and property had been stolen. The Lord answered his inquiry by letting him know that he would rescue, recover all that he had lost. How was this to be accomplished?

1 Sam 30:16-19

16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

18 And David **recovered**¹ all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David **rescued**¹ his two wives.

19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all. (KJV)

David went to war to recover what the Amalekite had stolen. The situation in the Exodus is not much different.

Exod 11:1-3

1 Now the LORD had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.

2 Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold."

3 (The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.) (NIV)

What made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the Hebrew people and Moses? The Lord did. How? By means of the plagues. The same miracles that Pharaoh hardened his heart against, the Egyptian people respected and realized that they were dealing with the Mighty One of Israel. They were willing to do anything to get these people out of their midst and thus stop the cycle of plagues.

Exod 12:35-36

35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing.

36 The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they **plundered**¹ the Egyptians. (NIV)

As God had promised, they did not leave empty-handed. The day they left Egypt, they were in the Lord's army.

Exod 12:41

And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years-- on that very same day-- it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. (NKJ)

Favorably disposed or not, the plundering of the Egyptians was done by the army of the Lord. It was a military operation and God had a purpose for the plunder. But to what purpose was it put to at first?

Exod 32:1-6

- 1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."
- 2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."
- 3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.
- 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."
- 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."
- 6 So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry. (NIV)

Their first use of the richness that God had delivered into their hand was to indulge themselves in idolatry and sexual immorality.

1 Cor 10:5-8

- 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.
- 6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.
- 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."
- 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did-- and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. (NIV)

1 Cor 6:14-20

- 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.
- 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!
- 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."
- 17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

- 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.
- 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;
- 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (NIV)

Rom 6:11-13

- 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.
- 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. (NIV)

With the plunder of the Egyptians, they made an offering to sin. This was not God's purpose for delivering the richness to them. Even while they were beginning to contemplate this evil, God was imparting to Moses His purpose in providing the plunder to them.

Exod 25:1-9

- 1 The LORD said to Moses,
- 2 "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give.
- 3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze;
- 4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair;
- 5 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood;
- 6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;
- 7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.
- 8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.
- 9 Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. (NIV)

God's purpose in the plunder was to build the sanctuary. This shows the merciful heart of God. He delivers his people from slavery, he gives them great wealth, and then he allows them the option of giving a free-will gift to build a habitation for him.

Exod 35:4-10

- 4 Moses said to the whole Israelite community, "This is what the LORD has commanded:
- 5 From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze;
- 6 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair;
- 7 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood;
- 8 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;
- 9 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.
- 10 "All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded:

Note that it took materials and skill to accomplish the work. Offering up the materials wasn't enough. Skilled men and women were required to build and manufacture that which was needed

for the sanctuary.

Exod 35:20-35

- 20 Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence,
- 21 and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments.
- 22 All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.
- 23 Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or hides of sea cows brought them.
- 24 Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the LORD, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it.
- 25 Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun-- blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen.
- 26 And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair.
- 27 The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.
- 28 They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense.
- 29 All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.
- 30 Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,
- 31 and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts--
- 32 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze,
- 33 to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship.
- 34 And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others.
- 35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers-- all of them master craftsmen and designers. (NIV)

It required knowledge and the grace to transfer that knowledge and skill to others. The church is no different.

2 Tim 2:1-2

- 1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (NIV)

Exod 36:3-7

- 3 They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.
- 4 So all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work

5 and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done."

6 Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more,

7 because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work. (NIV)

1 Cor 3:10-17

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. (NIV)

Paul is writing about church building. The five-fold ministry has authority to build up, not tear down. It is for equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. We need to use the plunder of the Egyptian (saved men and women) in a wise building project, erecting the temple of God on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:19-23

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness";

20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

21 So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours,

22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future-- all are yours,

23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. (NIV)

It cannot be done in the wisdom of men, it must be done with the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 4:1-2

1 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. (NIV)