

What More?

By

Barbara Samuel

The Lord continues to open my eyes to the greatness of our Salvation because of the greatness of our Savior and I thank God for that. But I have also been confronted forcefully by the sad fact that we as Believers are so often very ungrateful and unappreciative of The Lord and all that He has done for us. And although some of this could be blamed on our ignorance of His Eternal Plan and The Finished Work of The Cross (**Hosea 4:6** – “*My people are destroyed (come to nothing) for lack of knowledge ...*”), The Lord has shown me that at the root of this is a condition of the heart. Rather than acknowledging and considering the greatness of our God and The Work of Christ, most of the time we are considering **ourselves**. Rather than looking to The I AM and learning the power and greatness of Him, we are focusing on who WE are and what WE want. And because this is our mindset, very few of us are coming to experience the fulness of this great Salvation and manifesting The Life we now have.

We see this so vividly with the children of Israel in the wilderness. They had just been delivered out from Egypt (the realm of bondage and death), the armies of the enemy were destroyed, and the way of returning back was closed up: not by anything they had done, but by the Mighty Hand of God. And He promised to be with them and take them to a New Place where He would reign. But very quickly they showed that they were ungrateful and unappreciative not only of what He had done, (they soon wanted to go back to Egypt!), but

they did not honor and appreciate **Him** - The I AM who was their God, and they were His People. Please consider this. They were nothing, but now because of what God had done: He had brought them out unto Himself, and now they would be The People of God! They were Jehovah's Special Treasure, His Possession!

And although I suppose they were happy not to be slaves to Pharaoh anymore, they did not have thankful hearts, but murmured about the conditions they now faced. Why? Because they considered themselves and not God.

- **Exodus 15:24**, *"And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?"*
- **Exodus 17:1**, *"And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the Lord? 3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?"*
- **Deuteronomy 1:27**, *"And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the Lord hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us."*

- **Psalm 106:24**, *“Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word: **25** But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord.”*

Notice they **murmured** against Moses, a type of Christ their Deliverer, and against God. And even when God provided for them in the wilderness: water from the rock and bread from heaven daily, they murmured against His Provision! **Numbers 21:5**, *“And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.”* Oh my! HE was their Provision, but they did not think on Him and His goodness. They only thought of themselves and what they wanted. **Numbers 11:4**, *“And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? **5** We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: **6** But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.”* And with this condition of an ungrateful heart they deceived themselves into believing that things were better for them in Egypt! And in their hearts they wanted to return: rejecting Jehovah and what He had done, and what He promised to do for them. And we see this same spirit operating in the Jews of Jesus’ day murmuring and rejecting Him! **John 6:41**, *“The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.”*

But God continued to remind them of who He was and what He had done for them throughout their journeys, and this ends in a strong warning to them in **Deuteronomy 8:2**, *“And*

thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. **3** And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live. **4** Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years... **11** Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: **12** Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; **13** And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; **14** Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; **15** Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; **16** Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; **17** And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. **18** But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. **19** And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. **20** As the nations which the Lord

destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God."

And I really pray that we see that God was dealing with their **hearts**. And it wasn't so much that He didn't want them to forget His actions: He didn't want them to forget **HIM**. He wanted them to give Him the praise and attention that He was due. And when we fail to consider HIM and appreciate HIM continually, then we exalt ourselves and consider ourselves to be great. **Deuteronomy 8:17**, "*And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.*" And the same admonition: Not to forget the Lord – The I AM and all that He has done for us is my heart for us today. Now I know we read and memorize Psalm 103, but let us prayerfully and seriously consider this. **Psalm 103: 2**, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:* **3** *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;* **4** *Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;* **5** *Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.* **6** *The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.* **7** *He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.* **8** *The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."*

I think we can see the heart of so many in Old Covenant Israel and how they rejected the Rule of Jehovah and were disobedient in not obeying His Laws and Commandments. But I want us to understand God's Heart towards His People and how He was grieved because of their selfishness and ungratefulness to Him. They turned away from worshiping Him as He desired, making themselves other idols and

leaving The Place (Jerusalem and the Temple) He provided for them. But God raised up Prophets who continued to remind the people who their God was and continued calling them back to Him.

There is a depth of God's Mercy here that is truly amazing and He continued to show them His Forbearance and Love, but He also spoke to them of the judgment He would bring as a consequence of refusing Him. This is so importantly set forth through the prophet Isaiah. I want us to hear God's Heart: His Love and Compassion for His People. He has made them His People and did everything for them, but they rebelled against Him. **Isaiah 1:1**, *"The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. 3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. 4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward."*

This is all very personal to God, and this is beautifully stated in **Isaiah 5:1**, *"Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O*

inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes.” Look at the great care HE had taken of His vineyard: selecting the fruitful hill, fencing it, preparing the soil and planting it with the choicest vine. Notice this is all what HE did. He protected His vineyard with a tower so it could bring forth the increase of the Vine that He planted. He even built the winepress in anticipation of the fulness of the grape that would come forth. This is all speaking of LIFE: the increase and fulness of the Vine that He planted. His vineyard (His People, their hearts) and His Work in His vineyard was in expectation of what He desires, and the fulness of what He had done.

But in the case of Israel (historically at this time, but sadly this can be said of many today), the fruit that came forth was NOT the choice grape that He had planted but a substitute. It was something different: wild, not with the same flavor or substance. It is possible the wild grapes “looked the same” on the outside, but they are not the same. They have a different nature, and only the Husbandman, the Lord Himself knows the difference!

And I really pray we will consider this. The increase the Lord is looking for is not more of us: not something that “looks like Jesus”, not an abundance of an earthly substance and growth. The Lord rightly so is looking for an increase of His Vine – His Seed: what He has planted, and He will not accept anything but that! He is looking for the fulness of Christ to come forth in us – in His People, and nothing else will satisfy Him. And there is a serious question that He

posed to Israel then, and even more so to us today in light of The Finished Work of The Cross in **Verse 4**, “**WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE MORE TO MY VINEYARD, THAT I HAVE NOT DONE IN IT?**” What more does God have to do? And the answer is **nothing**! He has planned everything, and provided everything so that He can receive His fruit from His vineyard; that His People would bring forth all that He desired of them. And I want us to see this is all what HE has done.

We can only truly understand this when we see what this was speaking of: the Greatness of Christ and what He accomplished at The Cross. And when He spoke His last words from The Cross, “*It is finished.*” (**John 19:30**) God had done **EVERYTHING** He could have done: not only to perform, but to secure our Salvation and give us New Life – Eternal Life with Him. We must consider there is **nothing more** He can do other than what He has done by Christ and His Cross.

But now Isaiah speaks God’s Mind in bringing judgment upon Israel because they were continuing to reject Him. And we must take this very seriously. **Isaiah 5:5** “*And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.*” And we must see that this is what God will do to His People because

they have not brought forth His Life and satisfied His expectation for them.

But please understand that God did not bring this judgment upon them lightly. Over many years and with His Great Love He continued to show them who He was, and called them to walk in the fulness of the relationship He had brought them into. But it was their hearts that did not yield to Him and His work in them: they did not consider Him and were not concerned with satisfying His Heart. Even though He had done everything for them, they refused to acknowledge the greatness of what He had done and be content with that. They did not appreciate with grateful hearts that what He had done for them they could not do for themselves. And they were in the Earth to be the presencing of their Jehovah God and to glorify Him in the earth. But because of their selfish and disobedient hearts they were bringing a reproach against Him, and eventually God had to bring very serious judgment upon them.

Ezekiel 36:17, “*Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. 18 Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: 19 And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. 20 And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land. 21 But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among*

the heathen, whither they went. 22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. 23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes."

Even though we are reading this in the Old Covenant and many of the Old Covenant Prophets had a similar message to God's People then, we must understand that this is still God's Heart for us as Believers today. And because of The Finished Work of Christ, it even becomes more serious.

- **Hebrews 2: 1**, *"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;"*
- **Hebrews 10: 28**, *"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"*

Under the Old Covenant they were confronted with the types and shadows: the promises and not the fulfillment of God's expectation, although they still had to be obedient to them. But for us today, because of Christ: because of His coming and fulfilling all of God's Eternal Plan by The Cross, by His Death, Burial and Resurrection, the fulness of God's Provision is what we are confronted with. And to me, this makes it even more serious!

And so the question remains for us: what more could God have done than what He has already done by His Son and The Cross? I have been challenged in my prayer life: am I asking God to do things or give me things without fully appreciating and understanding what He has already done? Am I content with that: with His Provision? And even more seriously, have I rejected what He has done, and am I asking God to do something different: something that will satisfy me, my desires, my heart – rather than satisfying His? Are we striving against His Work: what He has already done? Or are we embracing Him and His Provision of His Son for us at The Cross, and allowing Him to complete that Work in us? Are we recognizing that we are HIS Workmanship, and HE has an expectation for us that will satisfy His Heart – the fulness of The Life of His Son being manifested through His Church, His People here in the earth? Are we submitting ourselves to Him so that His Heart will be satisfied?

So let us just briefly consider some Scriptures that show us beautifully what God has done – **In Christ**.

- **Colossians 1:12**, “ *Giving thanks unto the Father, which*

*hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: **13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: **14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”*

- **Ephesians 1: 3**, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: **4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: **5** Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. **7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; **8** Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; **9** Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: **10** That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: **11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: **12** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”*
- **2 Peter 1: 3**, *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,*

through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

The Scriptures go on and on speaking of Christ as our Great Provision: and that by The Finished Work of The Cross He has done everything God planned in order to give us this Great Salvation, this New Life in Union with Him – now while we are upon the earth. And God’s intention even as we read in **Isaiah 5** is that we would bring forth an increase of this Seed: an increase of **Christ**. This is the expectation He had for His vineyard: for those who have been Born Again by that Seed: the Incorruptible Seed which is Christ. This is what God has made us to be: all His provisions for us are towards this, and this is how He now continues to work. **1 Peter 2: 9**, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”*

What is required of us – so that we can bring forth the increase of Christ that God requires and expects? We must remain in THE VINE. **John 15:1**, *“ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman... 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do*

nothing... 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit: so shall ye be my disciples.”

May the Lord deal with our hearts as only He can!
Amen.

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A Gathering Unto Christ in Spirit and Truth
5025 Solitude
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820
Bbs1mermaid@gmail.com