

"Elohim Heard, Elohim Remembered, Elohim Saw and Elohim Knew"

²³*During those many days it happened that the king of Egypt died, and the children of Israel groaned because of the work and they cried out. Their outcry because of the work went up to Elohim. Elohim heard (*VaYishma*) their groaning,*
²⁴*and Elohim remembered (*VaYiskor*) His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵Elohim saw (*VaYareh*) the Children of Israel; and Elohim knew (*VaYeda*)."* (Ex. 2:23-25, ESV)

What a week! The assault on America and the unabated hatred against President Trump continues unchecked. No one is taking about the Antifa and BLM infiltration of the peaceful demonstration and no one is asking how these people were allowed in the Capitol in the first place. Instead, the democrats and the media insist on blaming Trump for what happened when neither President Trump nor believers have anything to do with Antifa and BLM. The potential leftist takeover of America is evident which includes the complete disregard of the life of the unborn, the assault on marriage, the redefinition of gender, the removal of anything patriotic, and their already stated goal of removing the ‘greatest enemy of their vision of America as a socialist and immoral nation, the believing community’ which they call the religious right. That means us! I still do not understand, even remotely, how anyone that calls on the Name of the Lord can support such agenda. Whatever happened to common sense? The ideology of the democrats and the left is nothing short of an alignment with and surrender to the control of Satan.

This week we start reading the Book of *Shemot* which tell us one of the most amazing stories of all human history – the story of the Exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. God has offered a helpful outline for all of students of Scripture with the words which He provided to Moses in Ex. 2:24-25. I see parallels between the plight of the Children of Israel some 400+ years after arriving in Egypt and our plight some 244+ years after our becoming ‘One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.’ America was founded as a covenant nation with the Almighty. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob does and will not forget *any* of His Covenants and neither is He a God of *favoritism* or a ‘respecter of persons.’

VaYishma is the vav-conversive form of the future tense of the infinitive *paal* verb *lishmoa* and it means “*and He will sh'ma...*” The Lord has always shown us the way to do something that He Himself has asked us to do. Recall that we were also asked to *sh'ma* (Deut. 6:4).

When is enough, enough? The answer, if you are *Adonai*, is when His Will has duly been carried out. Through the first two chapters, the cries, moans, and groans of the people of Israel from the harsh Egyptian servitude have been screaming out from these pages. What was the point of all this suffering among the children of Israel? Throughout the first two chapters, His name is not even mentioned. It is as if He had forsaken His chosen people. The fact is, however, that *Elohim* meant exactly what He said when Jacob first came Egypt: “⁴*I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again...*” (Gen. 46:4, ESV) Even amid the misery of their backbreaking labor, *Adonai* was there – even if He is not mentioned. He was, nevertheless, listening, perhaps, silently listening.

But in His silence, He was accomplishing several important things. Among them is the process of chastening the complacency of His children. When Jacob first went down to Egypt, he went with the intention of merely sojourning there. It was supposed to be a temporary stay. But the temporary stay turned into a permanent 400+ year stay. Israel began to be allure by whatever attractions Egypt had to offer. In short, they began to *assimilate* and lose their Godly distinctiveness. Instead of settling down, the children of Israel should have been making plans to leave Egypt as soon as possible. In all fairness, they were living in some of the most fertile land in all of Egypt, just on the eastern edge of the Nile River delta. In a time of famine, at least there was water and grazing land for their flocks. When the famine was over, it should have been time to leave. *Canaan and not Egypt* was/is the Promised Land. The children of Israel should have left the land of temptation and return to the Promised Land.

Instead, by remaining in Egypt, the people made themselves completely vulnerable to all Egyptian culture, which, apparently, they may have begun to participate in. Because of this, *Adonai* was in the painful process of

disciplining because "*When in Rome, Do Not Do as the Romans Do!*" Accordingly, Israel's sin lay in imitating the ways of the surrounding people and in some way losing their identity in *Adonai*. Throughout history, every time Israel fell into the sin of assimilation, it always ended up in slavery, as it did in Egypt. The Jews of Germany were, perhaps, one of the most assimilated of all Jewish generations. All of us know the horrible outcome resulting in slavery in the death camps. Assimilation therefore invariably leads to moaning and groaning.

The American Believing Community has also been assimilated and taken up the *Way of the Sinner*. Voices against Abortion have waned to a whisper and the LGBT agenda flourishes unchecked. We used to be called the "Silent Majority." Now we are not even a majority. We stand idle as more and more of our liberties disappear while we give ourselves to the gods of entertainment, sports, Hollywood, etc. We are anemic (even bulimic) and have gotten away from not just our Jewish Roots, but also from our true Christian Roots. The Body is more about entertainment than prayer and about numbers than the only one that counts, the Almighty. What happened to the warrior mentality? Satan is using us to jeer the Lord in our apathy: {³⁵ *The people stood there watching. And even the leaders were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Messiah of God, the Chosen One!" (Luke 23:35)*} We have sinned! All this has happened in our watch. The left sneers at President Trump but be not fooled, it does not stop there because they sneer at the seemingly powerless Believing Community also!

Being His people means to be "*the people of His covenant*." The psalmist said: "*The secret of Adonai is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.*" (*Ps 25:14*) What did *Adonai* do after He heard the moaning of the children of Israel? He "*remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*" Of course, He never forgot that covenant! The writer is simply writing from the human perspective, trying to express with human terms an infinite concept. America has a covenant with *Adonai* and are most certainly a covenanted nation with Him. There is no merit here or in Exodus. The children of Israel, having swallowed the pill of assimilation, are now crying out to *Adonai* for mercy. Exodus 2:24 states that "*Elohim will sh'ma*" their cry and came to their rescue. There is no merit involved. As for us, whatever *Adonai* will do for us is purely for two reasons. Firstly, out of His grace and mercy. Secondly, as this verse points out, it will be because of His covenant, not because of our merit. A covenant is a covenant – it is a legally binding agreement between two or more parties. In all cases the solemn engagement of one party to another and the promise of fidelity were fundamental. *Elohim* made such agreements with our forefathers and with America. Despite all the cruelty of Egypt and all the assimilation or complacency of Israel, *Elohim* promised to give the land of Canaan to Israel and to bring Israel up from Egypt. Thus, it is on the basis of those solemn promises that He acted in Exodus and I pray that so will it be for America.

Exodus 2:25 states: "*Adonai saw the children of Israel.*" What did He see? The first two chapters tell us what He saw. He saw the first generation of the children of Israel arrive in Egypt and disappear from the scene. Then He saw the extraordinary fertility and suffering of the second and subsequent generations. He saw the episode of the midwives. Finally, in chapter two and onward He sees Moses and delivers His people. Stating it somewhat differently, in chapter one, He saw the people, and in chapter two onward, He provides. *Adonai* saw all the physical distress. It was a sad and messy sight of miserable beaten slaves in complete subjection to the heathen gods and Pharaohs. These things anyone could see. What did He see which no one else saw? He saw the heart of Moses.

Is there anything in the universe that *Adonai* has no knowledge of? What does it mean in Exodus 2:25 when it says, "*And Adonai will know*"? The Hebrew word translated "*will know*" is from the verb, *yodea*, which although meaning, "*to know intimately,*" hints at more than mere intellectual knowledge. It is used in connection with a marriage relationship, specifically its sexual component. It speaks of deep intimate personal knowledge. When we read "*And Adonai knew*" we are to understand that there were some things about the situation of which only *Adonai* had intimate knowledge of. In addition, the phrase comes after the previous words, "*Adonai saw.*" On the one hand, future actions could be based on an intimate knowledge of the people whom He saw and knew. On the other hand, future actions could be based on the nature of the situation He saw they were in. *Adonai* knows our situation. His actions are coming, and He will show Himself strong of behalf of America. Count on it!