

ABC's of SALVATION

by

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CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

YOUNG EGYPTIAN

“And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick” (I Samuel 30:13).

ALL of I Samuel 30 should be read carefully, for few incidents in all the Old Testament more graphically picture the grace of God in salvation. This incident took place when Saul was on the throne of Israel. Several years before this, Saul had been set aside by God as king of Israel, and David had been anointed by the prophet Samuel to the kingship. During this interim, while Saul still outwardly held the kingdom, David had been hunted and hounded by Saul.

While a fugitive from Saul, David spent most of his time in southern Judea and on the Philistine border. Achish, king of Gath, had given him the town of Ziklag for a dwelling place. One day, when David and his men returned to Ziklag, they found the town had been burned by the Amalekites, and the inhabitants, including David's wives, carried into captivity. In the pursuit of the enemy, David's men found this young Egyptian alone in a field.

Let us note some of the analogies to the plan of salvation found in this Old Testament story.

I. Both He and His Master Were Under a Curse

The young man was an Egyptian. Egypt, in the Scriptures, is a type of the world.

- Isaac was warned not to go into Egypt (Genesis 26:2).
- Egypt became the place of slavery to Israel (Exodus 1, 2, 3).
- God's curse was upon Egypt (Ezekiel 29:3).

As an individual, this young man was a stranger to God. Worse yet, he was fighting under a master who was under the curse of God.

In Exodus 17:14-16 it is written: **“And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven . . . For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”**

The sinner is not only individually bad himself, he gives his allegiance to a system of which Satan is the god (II Corinthians 4:4). Whether he knows it or not, the sinner walks according to the prince of the power of the air, fulfills the desires of the flesh, and is by nature a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:2, 3).

II. The Young Man Was Abandoned by His Master

The text shows that this young man had been abandoned by his master as soon as he became sick.

The moment he was useless as a soldier, he was left by the Amalekite to die in the field. It may be that his devoted service to the one who now abandoned him contributed to his sickness.

How true the picture is! Who are the derelicts of society today? In most cases, they are those who were robbed by the devil while giving him their devoted services. The man on the Jericho road had been stripped, wounded, and left to die (Luke 10:30). The devil robs men of morality, character, intellectuality, and manliness while they yet serve him, then he turns them adrift to die. “The law that runs through hell’s house is the best first, the worst last” (Spurgeon on John 2:10).

It is a terrible sight to see men acting as scavengers on the garbage dumps of great cities. In many cases these men have held honorable and responsible positions and, in not a few cases, are college graduates. It is the place the devil has sent them when their usefulness to him is gone—but worse yet, unless reached with the gospel of Christ and saved, they go out into an eternal night. This is the devil’s reward for faithful service.

III. This Young Man Was Found by David’s Servants

David’s soldiers went out into the field and found him (I Samuel 30:11).

The believer is a soldier (II Timothy 2:3); the field is the world (Matthew 13:38). As a good soldier for Jesus Christ every believer should go out into the world and rescue sinners who are the servants of the devil.

Alas, how little of this kind of service is being done! Instead of being good soldiers in the field of service, most professed Christians seem to be hospitalized, taking the time and attention of the true servants of God. Few there be of faithful pastors whose time is not taken by the attention of spiritually sick saints instead of these saints doing the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12).

Just a few days ago, a godly pastor in a northern city said that a man came up to him at the close of a service in which he (the pastor) had urged his people to a deeper prayer life. This man, white with rage, said, “Why do you keep urging people to pray—we pay you to do our praying.”

This may be an exceptional case, but the principle involved is found everywhere.

Sunday school teachers have been bitter toward the Sunday school superintendent when he urged them and members of the class to go out and do personal evangelism. Most churches boast of being “lighthouses,” but souls are going down in the ocean of despair all round about with scarcely any attempt to reach them. I have always liked the story in Mark 2, of the four men who tore up the roof of a house to get a sick man to Christ.

IV. David’s Grace to the Young Man

This sick Egyptian was brought to king David. No doubt David could have looked to the north and beheld the smoke of the burning town in which he had lived and from which his own loved ones had been carried captive. This young man belonged to the army which had brought this destruction. What would David do? Would he “liquidate” him, which seems to be the modern, twentieth century method? Would he send him to some concentration camp to linger and die? No. David, the man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22), would show to this poor, sick, lost, abandoned enemy, his matchless grace.

It is a wonderful picture of the grace of God. It is an Old Testament story of the Good Samaritan. It is the story of Ephesians 2:1-5.

V. David Fed the Young Man

You will note that David gave this young man bread to eat and water to drink—the two great sustainers of life.

In the Scriptures, water often stands for the Holy Spirit and bread for the Word, and vice versa (See John 3:5; 6:53, 63; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5; James 1:18).

After the young man had been given bread and water by David, he was given a cake of figs and clusters of raisins.

The sinner is born again through the Holy Spirit and the Word. As such he is a new born babe and desires the sincere milk of the Word (I Peter 2-2). But there soon comes; or should come, a time when he desires the strong meat of the Word (I Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:13, 14). David did the right thing in first giving this young Egyptian bread and water, but it would have been ridiculous to have continued him on a bread and water diet. He needed the figs and the raisins for strength and growth.

We fear that the lack of genuine Bible teaching in many churches is not only keeping most of the children of God on a “bread and water” diet, but it is keeping them so spiritually anemic that they fall easy prey to the germ of every false doctrine in the air. May the Lord help us to take admonition from David’s good example in this story.

VI. The Young Man Joined the Forces of His New Master

This young Egyptian was soon in the army of David—he was now fighting with the forces he had formerly been fighting against.

The analogy still holds good, for **“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”** (II Corinthians 5:17).

A splendid example of this marvelous change is seen in Acts 9. When the chapter opens Paul is on his way to Damascus to persecute the believers in Christ—when the chapter closes, he is back in Jerusalem preaching Christ to the Jews.

This is again shown in Acts 16. In verse 25 the jailer is thrusting Paul and Silas into jail and fastening their feet in stocks—in verses 33 and 34 the same jailer is washing their stripes and feeding them in his home.

Again this is seen in I Corinthians 6:9, 10, 11. In verses 9 and 10, the apostle lists a long line of sins, terrible sins, then says in verse 11, **“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”**

One of the great tragedies of the present hour is the fact that so many professed Christians do not walk as if **“all things are become new.”**

VII. The Young Man Shared in the Victory

David and his men won a great victory over the Amalekites. He not only recovered all that the latter had taken, but he took spoil of their own goods, flocks, etc. The young Egyptian shared in all this.

The sinner saved by God’s grace not only gets back in Christ, the Head of the new creation, all that he lost in Adam, the head of the old creation, but infinitely more. He is a joint heir with Christ (Romans 8:17) and shares in all His riches and privileges.

One of the peaks of divine revelation is found in Ephesians 2:6, 7 where it is written, **“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”**

Rescued thus from sin and danger,
Purchased by the Saviour’s blood,
May I walk on earth a stranger,
As a son and heir of God.

~ end of chapter 25 ~

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