

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 8, 2024

EXODUS 4:31

INTRODUCTION:

1. **EXODUS 4.31:** *“So the people believed”*
 - a) Faith was produced by two components. (Ex. 4.30; cf. Acts 10.33,47; 11.14-17)
 - b) The word of God, not miracles, has the power to save. (Rom. 10.17; 1.16; Heb. 4.12)
2. **EXODUS 4.31:** *“then they bowed their heads and worshipped.”*
 - a) Notice the posture of the children of Israel. (cf. Matt. 26.39; 1 Tim. 2.8)
 - b) Notice the practice of the children of Israel: Faith, Reverence, Thankfulness.
3. Before the children of Israel believed, God predicted their response to His word.

I. GOD KNEW THE HEART OF ISRAEL

- A. **EXODUS 3.18:** *“Then they will heed your voice”*
 1. God sent Moses to elders of Israel and knew that they would believe. (v. 16)
 2. Moses did not have the same foreknowledge. (Ex. 4.1)
 - a) Moses did not trust his own abilities and thus anticipated failure.
 - b) The signs he was given shifted the power to God. (Ex. 4.4,5,8,9)
 - c) We take too much responsibility for the faith of others. (Luke 10.16; 1 Thess. 4.8)
- B. How did God know that the elders would believe?
 1. **PSALM 139.1:** *“O LORD, You have searched me and known me.”*
 2. **PSALM 139.2:** *“You understand my thought afar off”*
 3. **PSALM 139.6:** *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.”*

II. GOD KNEW THE HEART OF PHARAOH

- A. **EXODUS 3.19:** *“But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go”*
 1. God sent Moses to Pharaoh and knew that he would refuse to let Israel go. (Ex. 7.4)
 2. The heart of Pharaoh was on display for all to see. (Ex. 5.2)
 - a) Pharaoh had a heart of arrogance. (cf. Dan. 4.22-24; Ezek. 28.1,2,9)
 - b) God knew how Pharaoh would respond even before his birth. (Rom. 9.17)
 - c) We can see the heart of man through their actions. (Prov. 23.7; Matt. 7.15-20)
- B. How did God know that Pharaoh would reject Him? (Jer. 17.9,10)
 1. **JEREMIAH 17.9:** *“The heart is deceitful above all things... Who can know it?”*
 - a) “Let your heart be your guide.” But we cannot trust our own hearts. (Jer. 9.14)
 - b) Therefore, be careful judging the hearts of others. (John 7.24)
 2. **JEREMIAH 17.10:** *“I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind”*

III. GOD KNOWS YOUR HEART

- A. The wisdom of God exposes the condition of my heart.
 1. **HEBREWS 4.13:** *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*
 2. I cannot hide my heart from God. (Ps. 94.4-11)
- B. The word of God reflects the condition of my heart.
 1. **HEBREWS 4.12:** The Bible *“is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*
 - a) Discerner (kritokos): The Bible can be critical of my heart.
 - b) Therefore, the Bible is our standard of judgment. (cf. 2 Tim. 3.16,17)
 2. **JAMES 1.22-25:** The Bible is the mirror by which we see ourselves.