

**How long
wilt thou
refuse to
humble
thyself
before ME?**

The Man who was Proud

Humility is a rare quality to be found in any person. Pride however will readily express itself not only towards men, but more notably towards the God of heaven as evidenced in the man to whom the question was first asked, ***“How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before Me?”*** (Exodus 10:3). This Pharaoh is not readily identifiable except as being the ruler of Egypt, just prior to the Israelites liberation and departure under the hand of Moses.

He was arrogant, he was proud; he had wealth, position and power and had enforced the servitude of the Israelites as his bond slaves. He believed himself to be God, incredibly, thinking he could dictate as he pleased until he was made to understand he was but a fickle, mortal man whom God had allowed to rise up in prominence so that through this king's hardness of heart, He might manifest His power to the world. What a death blow to anyone's pride!

Despite numerous opportunities and admonitions, he resisted and refused to bow his will to acknowledge the requirements of the living God to release His captive people. He had previously boasted ***“Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice ...”*** (Exodus 5:2). Dogs know their masters and sheep their shepherds voice, but that a man should not know or confess his Creator is a most serious situation indeed that such contempt should be shown.

This Pharaoh like so many since, dared defy the God of heaven and brought upon himself and his people swift destruction in the form of those ten judgments that you may be familiar with, real and sure demonstrations of divine power that manifested this man's impotence for what it was.

In God's righteous dealings, he was soon to lose his cattle, his firstborn son, his army and his kingdom! He was to learn the hard way: ***“for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased.”***

The Man who was Humble

In refreshing contrast to the previous individual, we are able to give consideration to One who was truly self humble, yet never proud. The following is written of Him in the Scriptures of truth.

We learn of Him, ***“Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:”*** – He being the Son of God and possessing all the essential qualities of deity, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, accepted worship, honour and glory as One on equality with God the Father. Yet from such a glorious realm He took a self denying step – ***“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”*** Thus set against His supreme position in the universe, He expressed an attitude of self-effacement by veiling that outward mode of glory, embracing as a perfect Man all the essential features of a bond servant toward God the Father, in a position of subjection and obedience on earth in His sinless frame.

We read on ***“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of a cross.”*** Having proved His true humanity in the spheres of family life, working, civil and spiritual life as seen in the Gospel accounts He humbled Himself yet further to the shameful and despicable death of the cross. He bowed to death, who death could not command, being without sin, yet becoming a sacrifice for sinners.

In response, ***“God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That ... every knee should bow ... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*** (Philippians 2:6-11). God has vindicated Him by resurrection and extolled Him, the Man who pleased Him well.

The Lord Jesus Christ showed by His self-effacement in a most profound way that: ***“he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”***

Will we Humble Ourselves?

We may not be in the position of a Pharaoh, but one thing is certain: we are all prone to pride in its various manifestations.

The original question can truly be asked us by God Himself, as to how long we will refuse to acknowledge Him and bow to His will as revealed in His word. We should readily guard against considering that we know better than Him. He knows our individual frame, our origin and our destiny and has our good and blessing in His heart.

The Israelites were eventually brought out of Egypt by blood and by power on that Passover night when Pharaoh lost his firstborn son. There was no blood of a lamb applied to the door posts or lintel of his house or many others in Egypt that solemn night. Those who thought they knew better and refused to follow the necessary steps soon learnt the folly of refusing to humble themselves before God who will and must punish sin. Salvation was by that lamb alone.

The Israelites as Pharaoh's bond slaves in Egypt's iron furnace were powerless to free themselves. God used this crisis to teach them and ourselves of our true spiritual plight and pitifulness to the mastery of sin over which we have no power and often no desire to overcome or forsake. He only could supply the redemption.

The Lord Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, the firstborn over all creation by preeminence, as a faithful bond servant to God the Father upon earth, surrendered His life on the cross to become the ultimate Passover Lamb for all mankind. He died and arose as the firstborn from among the dead, that we might know emancipation from the shackles of the devil so epitomised in Pharaoh. ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*** (John 3:16). The issue is, will we humble ourselves before the God of Heaven and let Him lift us up as heirs in Christ?