

WHEN THE DOOR OF MERCY WILL BE SHUT

"But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."
St. Matthew XXV. 12.



(Matt. 25: 21-41; Amos 7:8)

The Lord spoke to the Prophet Amos saying, I will not pass by and spare them anymore. He was finished warning the nation of Israel, due to their hardness of heart. In their exit from Egypt, Israel experienced God's protection in every way they needed. They escaped all the plagues applied to Egypt, and even the last one, which was the death of all the firstborn sons. By the blood of the sacrificial lamb, upon the doorpost of their houses, their sons were spared from death. That was a token or a sign that when God saw the blood He would "Pass over" the nation of Israel and no plague would destroy them. God's mercy is available in the opportunities that come to us. Its door has been opened for a long time for all to enter because our God is longsuffering. He desires that all be saved. There is no limit to His mercy while its door is opened. God's mercy is such that can never be compared to human's mercy in the fullest extent of it. Webster dictionary describes mercy as: refraining from punishing offenders, enemies, persons in one's power; kindness in excess of what may be expected or demanded by fairness; forbearance and compassion; the power to forgive, clemency, etc.

Paul's letter to the Romans confirms that in chapter five and verses six and eight: While we were yet in weakness, at the fitting time Christ died for the ungodly. But God shows and clearly proves His love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. The mercy of God is expressed through His loving-kindness, and in His desire that none should perish. It is because of His mercy and loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not, said Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:22. To wake up to His mercy is to realize His faithfulness and compassions toward the sons of men. He first showed men His mercy when they first sinned. Although, men sinned against Him, He took upon His Son to pay for its consequences through His death. That's mercy beyond measure. Opportunities are given to all to enter its door and receive God's immeasurable mercy. Life is the means through which we can do that. While there is breath in our nostrils, opportunities will fly to us. It is up to us to grab it and not let it go without accepting what God is offering us.

There is only today in the time frame of God's mercy and opportunity. When Israel hardened their heart toward God, He shut the door of mercy and swore in His wrath and indignation, They shall not enter into My rest (Heb. 3:8-11). Then while it is [still] called today, if you would hear His voice and when you hear it, do

not harden your hearts as in the rebellion [when the people provoked and irritated and embittered God against them] (Heb. 3:15).

There were ten virgins supposedly waiting for their groom. The problem here was that only half of them were genuinely ready. They were the ones who had entered the door of opportunity while God's mercy was available. One sign of that was that their lamp was filled with oil- the presence of the Holy Spirit. The foolishness of the other five represented their position out of God's mercy. They could never be prepared without taking the first step of acknowledging the voice of Mercy calling them to repentance and enter into the door of mercy of God's love. From the beginning, when our forefathers sinned, the spirit of rebellion and pride took over their lives. These sins keep men's ears from hearing God's voice, even of those who calls themselves believers.

The writer of the book of Hebrews gives us a warning in a figure of speech pertaining to the Jewish nation when in route to the Promised Land. He says, While it is still called today, if you would hear His voice and when you hear it, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion [in the desert, when the people provoked and irritated and embittered God against them] (Heb. 3:15). Many were left behind for having not listened to God's voice; they refused, in their pride and rebellion, to comply with His commandments as not hearing His voice, and as a result, they did not repent to be saved. The door of mercy then was shut to them and they were left in the desert, not being able to enter the Promised Land.

We believers also are aiming to the Promised Land, going through the desert of life with all kinds of temptations and dangers, and as God's presence went with Israel, His Holy Spirit is with us too. Before His departure from earth, YAHSHUA promised to be with us till the end. He is the sole intermediary between us and God. He is also called the Spirit of Truth, the Counsellor, Teacher, and Intercessor. He is available to help us provided that you and I listen to His voice and follow Him. His mercy is the reason why we are alive. Morning after morning, it arises new with its door opened. Come, He says, inviting us to drink of the Living Water, the only water that will satisfy our spiritual thirst. While there is still mercy, there will be opportunities to repent and to turn around and away from God's wrath, which will come to us when Mercy's door is closed. Someone once said that opportunity runs with its hair in front. There will be no chances to grab it by its hair.

Time is a big factor in the life of men. God's mercy abides in the space of time. When time is no more, there will no more be mercy available. While there is today, the writer of the letter of Hebrews emphasized, hear the voice of Mercy, for its door will not be opened forever. Israel experienced it many times. YAHSHUA cried loud calling Jerusalem to repentance, warning them of the consequences. Would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For a time is coming upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank about you and surround you and shut you in on every side, and they will dash you down to the ground, you [Jerusalem] and your children within you; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not come progressively to recognize and know and understand the time of your visitation that is, when God was visiting you, the time in which God showed Himself gracious toward you and offered you salvation through the Messiah! (Luke 19:42-44).

This is a solemn warning for all believers in YAHSHUA and unbelievers. God, in His mercy is calling you while there is today. Failing to recognize the time of God's visitation will bring eternal consequences. Don't leave Him out of your life, knocking at your door, asking you to open for Him to enter. It will be a time when you will be the one left out begging Him to open the door, if you continue in your rebellion and proud attitude, and that will be too late. His mercy has closed its door for you. Now, you will face Him not as a Savior, but as a judge Who will execute His wrath on you. Remember, you and only you are responsible for your fate. For if we go on deliberately and willingly sinning after once acquiring the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for sins, but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God]. It is a fearful thing to incur the divine penalties and be cast into the hands of the living God! (Heb. 10:26-27,31).

You can read the book of Revelation, Isaiah, and Daniel to understand the extent of God's wrath that will come to all who reject Him. Don't let yourself be found in that situation when mercy closes its door!

THINK ABOUT IT!