

# I Called upon the Lord

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 4/5/2010

Today is the Last Day of Unleavened Bread. The Children of Israel came out of Egypt on this day. Egypt had been to them a land of great distress – so much so that Egypt has become a synonym for sin.

On the Holy Days we receive meat in due season (Luke 12:42). Just as God **saved** the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and anguish – leading them through the **Red Sea** – God through the power of His Holy Spirit saves and delivers us, His People, today, from Slavery to Sin and the difficult problems we face – even the insurmountable obstacles that we think stand in the way of our Christian lives.

When you study out the chronology of the events when Israel left Egypt you will find that more than likely, they came out “This Morning” – the last Day of Unleavened Bread. Israel came completely out of Egypt – they came completely out of sin. Both the chronology and the meaning of the day would indicate that events unfolded just like that.

Exodus 2:23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, **and they cried**, and their **cry** came up **unto** God by reason of the bondage.

Exodus 3:9 Now therefore, behold, the **cry** of the children of Israel **is come unto me**: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

In His mercy and compassion, God hears and answers our cries unto Him. The Children of Israel were unable to escape from Egypt by their own power – then needed God’s help – God’s deliverance. This Last Day of Unleavened Bread Pictures coming completely out of sin – but let’s understand this: we desperately need God’s help. We must cry out to God – we must plead with Him to help us. The title comes from this and other verses:

Psalms 18:6 In my distress **I called upon the LORD**, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and **my cry came before Him**, *even* into his ears.

God knows that to overcome sin and obey Him we need His Spiritual help – therefore – He wants us to know that He is there for us in times of need. Have you ever been in a **hopeless** situation? God is the one who rescues us from distress. Sometimes it seems that no matter which way you turn – there is no help?

Genesis 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will **I slay my brother Jacob**.

Rebecca passed this threat on to Jacob who fled the country. I like these instances of **God’s personal intervention** in the lives of His people.

Genesis 32:1 And Jacob went on his way [he was leaving Laban’s country after 20 years service], and the angels of God met him.

Genesis 32:2 And when Jacob saw them [the angels], he said, This *is* God's host [Two hosts]: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim [meaning - two hosts].

Genesis 32:3 And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

All those years, Jacob feared what Esau would do to him for usurping Esau's birthright.

Genesis 32:4 And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now:

Genesis 32:5 And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and women-servants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.

Genesis 32:6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him. [Uh Oh - A regular army!]

Genesis 32:7 Then Jacob was greatly **afraid and distressed**: and he divided the people that *was* with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;

Now, that was a good time to **cry out to God** in fervent prayer for help and deliverance.

Genesis 32:8 And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.

(There is a parenthetical inset :9 – showing a difference in timing)

Jacob is **crying out to God** to save him – to deliver him from Esau – who had promised to kill Jacob.

Genesis 32:9 And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which said unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

Genesis 32:10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

Jacob is greatly **afraid and distressed** – and he cries out to God to **Deliver him** and his family from the hand of Esau.

Genesis 32:11 **Deliver me, I pray thee**, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, *and* the mother with the children.

And Jacob reasons – “It won't hurt to remind God of His promise.

Genesis 32:12 And thou said [Lord], I will surely do thee good, and make thy [children] as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

God First made this promise to Abraham – Jacob's grandfather.

Genesis 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

We see a pattern of blessings AND a pattern of rescue and deliverance developing.

Genesis 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fled from the face of Esau thy brother.

Genesis 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that *were* with him, Put away the strange gods that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

Genesis 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

Galatians 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that He might **deliver us** from this present **evil world**, according to the will of God and our Father:

And deliver us from Satan – as Jesus taught us to pray.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver us** from evil:

We have put ourselves in jeopardy through our sins. I have put myself in jeopardy through my sins. People can use it against us – as in... You call yourself a Christian – when you have done “so – and –so.”

America has not yet come to the point of crying out to God to rescue us from distress – but as sure as the Sun came up this morning – Great Unimaginable Distress is coming on our people.

Deuteronomy 28:53 And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the strait-ness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

Luke 21:23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. [Gentiles vs Israelites]

Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

We American Israelites think that we will rule forever – but we will soon see differently – that day is at hand. How terrible would it be to see this American soil **being blessed** under Gentile rulership? After Israel and Judah went into captivity – the land of Israel blossomed in blessings of grain and fat cattle – while the children of Israel labored in distress.

Nehemiah 9:34 Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, **kept thy law**, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

Nehemiah 9:35 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gave them, and in the large and fat land which thou gave before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

Nehemiah 9:36 Behold, we *are* servants this day, and *for* the land that thou gave unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we *are* servants in it:

Nehemiah 9:37 And it yielded much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we *are* in great distress.

Let's understand clearly – there is a time when we can **cry out to God** and have our prayers answered – But never take that Great Blessing for granted – because the time is coming soon when God will no longer respond to the cries of His people.

Our Country today has rejected God, His laws and His counsel.

Proverbs 1:25 But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Proverbs 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

Proverbs 1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; **when distress** and anguish comes upon you.

Proverbs 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Proverbs 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Proverbs 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. [that is bitter fruit]

Proverbs 1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Proverbs 1:33 But whoso hearkens unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

When Christ returns there will be a people who will know and believe the lessons of history – they will know and obey their God.

Isaiah 30:19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee **at the voice of thy cry**; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

Let's take a look some inspiring verses in the Psalms and look at this concept of **crying out to God for deliverance** and being heard by God.

Psalms 4:1 **Hear me** when I call, [David is begging of God] O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me *when I was in distress*; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

David was a man after God's own heart. Not just his repentance - but his constant looking to God to be saved out of **distressful** situations.

Psalms 6:4 Return, O LORD, **deliver** my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

Psalms 7:1 O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and **deliver** me:

This is a message of hope - in that God hears us. Are We Like David - This is a right attitude. Hurry up lord and **help me**.

Psalms 22:19 But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, hasten thee to **help me**.

(A petition to God)

Psalms 25:16 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I *am* **desolate** and **afflicted**.

Psalms 25:17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my **distresses**. [my anguish]

Psalms 25:18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins

We - as Christians - put ourselves in vulnerable positions because of our sins. We must rely on God to come to our aid and assistance.

Psalms 25:20 O keep my soul, and **deliver** me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

Psalms 31:1 ...In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: **deliver** me in thy righteousness.

Hurry! Tell God to hurry?

Psalms 31:2 Bow down thine ear to me; **deliver** me **speedily**: be thou my strong rock, for a house of defense to save me.

Psalms 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open **unto** their **cry**.

Psalms 37:40 And the LORD shall help them, and **deliver** them: he shall **deliver** them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Psalms 39:8 **Deliver** me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish.

Hurry! Tell God to hurry again.

Psalms 40:13 Be pleased, O LORD, to **deliver** me: O LORD, make **haste** to **help me**.

This is a new Testament concept in the OT.

Psalms 41:1 .... Blessed is he that considers the poor: the LORD will **deliver** him in time of trouble.

Psalms 46:1 God *is* our **refuge and strength**, a very present **help in trouble**.

Psalms 50:15 And **call upon me** in the day of trouble: **I will deliver thee**, and thou shalt glorify me.

Notice the depth of pleading that David goes into. We all find ourselves in hopeless situations that are too much for us. We are powerless to bring about reconciliation. We can do nothing to restore peace and fellowship. If it were not for the sure promises of God .. we would surely perish.

Psalm 56:13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou **deliver** my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

Psalm 57:2 I will **cry unto** God most high; **unto** God that performs all things for me.

Psalm 79:9 **Help us**, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and **deliver us**, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

God says:

Psalm 91:14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I **deliver him**: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Psalm 91:15 He **shall call upon me**, and I will **answer him**: I *will be* with him **in trouble**; **I will deliver him**, and honor him.

Psalm 102:1 A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and pours out his complaint before the LORD. Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my **cry** come **unto** thee.

Psalm 107 – Read all of this chapter when you have time.

Psalm 107:5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul **fainted** in them.

Psalm 107:6 Then **they cried unto the LORD** in their trouble, *and he delivered them out of their distresses*.

Psalm 107:13 Then **they cried** unto the LORD in their **trouble**, *and He saved them out of their distresses*.

Psalm 107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

Psalm 107:15 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* His goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalm 107:19 Then **they cried unto the LORD** in their **trouble**, *and he saved them out of their distresses*.

Psalm 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions.

Psalm 107:21 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalm 107:28 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he brings them out of their distresses.

Psalm 107:29 He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

Psalm 107:30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he brings them unto their desired haven.

Psalm 107:31 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalm 118:5 **I called upon the LORD in distress:** the LORD answered me, *and set me* in a large place.

Psalm 118:21 I will praise thee: **for thou hast heard me,** and art become my salvation.

Psalm 120:1 In my distress **I cried unto the LORD,** and he heard me.

We certainly do not want for our pleas for deliverance to be unheard.

Judges 10:14 Go and **cry unto** the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

Judges 10:15 And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seems good unto thee; **deliver us** only, we pray thee, **this day.** [immediately]

There was a time when I thought there was a chance that America would repent – and turn back to God.

1Samuel 12:10 And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now **deliver us** out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.

Psalm 43:1 Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O **deliver** me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Psalm 56:9 When I **cry unto** thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

Turn to God – Go to God – that is our only refuge.

Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which **cry** day and night **unto** him, though he bear long with them?

Unleavened Bread pictures coming out from under a death sentence – that we brought on ourselves.

2Corinthians 1:9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead:

2Corinthians 1:10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

2Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory forever and ever.

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! **who shall deliver** me from the body of this death?

Answer:

Romans 7:25 I thank God **through Jesus Christ our Lord.** So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD *is* a God of judgment: blessed *are* all they that wait for him.

Isaiah 30:19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee **at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, He will answer thee.**

In closing, let me pose the question: **What greater** necessity is there than that we be delivered from the bondage of sin? ...That we be delivered from this body of sin? Than that we come completely out of sin? We cry out to God in our time of anguish and trouble to deliver us from our distresses. I wish we had time to read all of 2Samuel 22. Please read all of this song of David when you can – it is very good.

2Samuel 22:1 And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the **LORD had delivered him** out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

2Samuel 22:2 And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and **my deliverer;**

2Samuel 22:3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, **my Savior;** thou save me from violence.

2Samuel 22:4 **I will call on the LORD,** *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

2Samuel 22:5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

2Samuel 22:6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

2Samuel 22:7 In my distress **I called upon the LORD,** and cried to my God: and **He did hear my voice** out of his temple, and **my cry** *did enter* into his ears.

End: I Called Upon the LORD