

Robbery Is Commanded

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Robbery commanded (Ex. 3:21-22; 12:35-36).

Robbery forbidden (Ex. 20:15; Lev. 19:13).

It is a sad commentary when people try to discredit God by making false accusations against Him by stating that He would command robbery. This is a very serious charge and those who teach such a lie will eventually have to give account for it (Mt. 12:35-37).

Almighty God does not have a split personality like many people do. He does not issue a command and then completely reverse it. If mankind has been commanded not to steal, nothing is going to change that directive (Mal. 3:6). The first scripture that is twisted to make it appear that God changes His commands is dealing with the nation of Israel (cf. 2Pet. 3:16). They had just spent four hundred years under Egyptian slavery and exploitation; not to mention the murder of many of their firstborn sons (cf. Ex. 2:22). Now it was time for the Egyptians to compensate the Israelite slaves for hundreds of years of cheap labor,

And I (God) will give this people (the Israelites) favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. ²²But **every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing**; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder (SHD 5337 – take away from; spoil) the Egyptians (Ex. 3:21-22; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Logically, if someone is going to rob another person, the robber does not ask for permission. Instead, the robber will take what he wants either by force or stealth. Because God brought the Egyptians to the point they could no longer endure the plagues that were sent to them, they were more than happy to see the Israelites go. It was with a sense of relief that the Egyptians gave many valuable goods to the Israelites because they knew that once the people of Israel were gone, the plagues would finally end,

And the Egyptians urged the people that they might send them (the Israelites) out of the land in haste. For they (the Egyptians) said, "We shall all be (end up) dead" (Ex. 12:33; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because Almighty God knows the end of all things before they occur, he foretold this 'plundering' of the Egyptians to Abraham four hundred years prior to it happening (cf. Isa. 46:10; 48:3),

Then He (God) said to Abraham: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them (the Egyptians) and they will afflict them (the Israelites) four hundred years. ¹⁴And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; **afterward they shall come out with great possessions**' (Gen. 15:13-14; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The final scripture that is twisted by some people to accuse God of commanding the Israelites to commit robbery is actually confirmation that the Israelites had the blessings of the Egyptian people,

Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and **they asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing.** ³⁶**And the Lord had given the people (Israelites) favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they (the Egyptians) granted them what they requested.** Thus they plundered the Egyptians (Ex. 12:35-36; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

If someone asks for something, and the person or persons being asked grant the requested items, there is no robbery taking place. The robbery of Israel's freedom by Pharaoh of Egypt is the real theft that needs to be addressed. In fact, the release of Israel from Egyptian slavery foreshadowed Jesus Christ's future work, which will provide freedom from the spiritual slavery of Satan and his system of governing (cf. Isa. 14:12-17).

The Pharaoh who refused to obey God's command to release the people of Israel, so they could go and worship Him on His Holy Days, pictures Satan who works diligently to prevent mankind from obeying God's commands (Rev. 12:9), which include the observance of the weekly Sabbath, New Moons, and Festivals (see studies: God's Holy Days).

The work of Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery and through the waters of the Red Sea foreshadowed the work of Jesus Christ whose death and resurrection would enable all of mankind to be freed from the curse of the death penalty for sin (Rom. 6:23; cf. Gal. 3:13; 1Jn. 3:4). Currently, the majority of mankind is under slavery to this death penalty. If a person is led by God to repent for the sins they have committed (Rom. 2:4b), that individual is then baptized by immersion in water. This whole process was pre-figured by the people of Israel going into the Red Sea,

Moreover, brethren, I (Paul) do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea (1Cor. 10:1-2; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Following immersion in water, the newly baptized individual has hands laid upon them (see studies: Baptism) and they receive the promise of God's Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit appeared like tongues of fire on the Day of Pentecost following Christ's death and resurrection,

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributed and resting on each of them (Ac. 2:3).

This was the fulfillment of a number of prophecies, all of which deal with the internalization of God's law and commandments. At Mt. Sinai these were imprinted in

stone tablets by fire, which pictured a future time when all of mankind will have a deep inward desire to obey God's word. This process began progressively on the day of Pentecost following Christ's death and resurrection,

Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. ²And he said: 'The Lord came from Sinai and dawned on them (the Israelites) from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints (holy ones; angels, cf. Ac. 7:53); **from His right hand came a fiery law for them** (Dt. 33:1-2; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The prophet Jeremiah confirmed that eventually all of mankind will have a willing attitude toward obeying God's law and commandments. Biblical law will not have to be enforced with various penalties because everyone will want to obey them, and Satan, who is pictured metaphorically as Pharaoh of Egypt (cf. Eze. 31 & 32), will no longer influence mankind to reject God's commands,

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts (inward parts); and I will be their God, and they shall be My people (Jer. 31:33; Ed. note in parenthesis).

All nations will eventually be joined, or grafted, into the twelve tribes of Israel. This was always the purpose behind God giving this ancient nation His law and commandments. They were meant to teach all other nations by their faithful and obedient example, but they fell short,

For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob (father of all Israelites), and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. **The strangers (other nations) will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob** (Isa. 14:1; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The apostle Paul understood that the nation of Israel, as a whole, had been temporarily cut off from understanding God's truth and that they would eventually be grafted back to the position that God had originally intended for them. However, they have to repent before this can occur,

And they (twelve tribes of Israel and their descendants) also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for **God is able to graft them in again** (Rom. 11:23; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So Israel being freed from Egyptian slavery was meant to picture a future exodus of Israel's descendants, and all the nations of this world, from the spiritual slavery they have endured under Satan's system of lies and deception. Satan has done such a thorough job of robbing mankind of God's truth that they are not even aware of it (cf. Jn. 18:38). Until this "Pharaoh" is dealt with by Jesus Christ, the majority of mankind will remain deceived (Rev. 12:9; cf. see study: Satan's Removal and The Sabbath Rest). So the lie regarding God commanding Israel to rob the Egyptians is just another diversion of the Adversary meant to distract people from understanding God's plan of salvation (Jn. 8:44). This plan is summarily pictured in the exodus of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Therefore, Satan is the real robber and mankind as a whole is the victim of his crime.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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