

TRUE FREEDOM

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The collapse of a dictator's regime was symbolised in April , 2003 when a huge statue of Saddam Hussein in central Baghdad was toppled. Crowds danced and cheered as it fell to the ground. On December 13, 2003, U.S. forces finally captured the Iraqi president in Operation Red Dawn.

As we celebrate the release of Iraq from the bondage of dictatorship, we ought to reflect on true freedom which is typified by the deliverance of ancient Israel from their bondage in Egypt. Moses instructed them to slay a lamb and put his blood on their door posts. On that night the Lord PASSED OVER Israelite houses with the lamb's blood and slew all firstborn Egyptians. Hundreds of thousands of Israelites left Egypt the next day. Consider the joy they must have felt when they were saved after hundreds of years of bondage. When Moses brought them out, did he say, "Freedom is the power to elect your own leaders!" No. He gave them a much greater freedom. He led them to Mt Sinai where God, with a thundering voice that every one heard, gave them what the New Testament calls, THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY, the ten commandments, the COVENANT God made between himself and us.

The Old Covenant given at Mt Sinai provided the letter of the law graven on stones. The New Covenant gives us the spirit (inner intent and broad application) of the law graven in our hearts becoming part of our character and way of life. As we daily meditate on God's words, learning to keep and practice them in spirit, we become more and more like our Father, God.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH US

The Two Great Commandments

- * Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul, all thy mind and all thy strength.
- * Love thy neighbor as thyself.

The Ten Commandments

- * I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- * Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- * Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of anything in heaven or in earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them.
- * Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- * Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt not do any work. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth and rested the seventh day. Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.
- * Honor thy father and thy mother.

- * Thou shalt not kill.
- * Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- * Thou shalt not steal.
- * Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- * Thou shalt not covet any thing that is thy neighbor's

The New Commandment

- * Love one another as I (Jesus) have loved you.

SIN is breaking God's commandment. True Freedom is being set free, not just from outward bondage to men, but from inward bondage to sin and all the scourges brought upon society as a result of sin. And Jesus' sacrifice is the lamb's blood put upon the door posts of our hearts. By him the yoke of our sins can be broken. We can have God's forgiveness and be set free to attain eternal life.

If you would like to be set free from the bondage and dictatorship of this present evil world, all you need to do is repent of being subject to the world and instead become subject to God.

SCRIPTURES TO PONDER ABOUT FREEDOM

2Pe 2:19 Of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Rom 6:20-22 When ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Jo 8:31-35 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin

Jo 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

2Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Gal 5:13 For ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

1Pe 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

James 2:25 Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Deut 6:12 Beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage

Gal 4:31-5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Rom 8:21 The creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Psm 119:45 I will walk at liberty, for I seek thy precepts.