

JEHOVAH - RAPHA

(Exodus 15 : 26)

If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE.

Modern excavations on Egyptian mummies reveal what diseases led to their death : blindness due to sand and dust storms coming from the Sahara desert, serpent and scorpion bites, infections of inner organs, kidney stones, tuberculosis, leprosy, and heart-related diseases. The ten plagues of Egypt can also be included in that list. Those things are what God promises to preserve us from.

The children of Israel had just miraculously crossed over the Red Sea. Under Moses' guidance, they walked in the desert for three days until their supply of water ran out. Many countries today face the same drama.

They arrived at a place called Marah where they found water, but their rejoicing was short-lived because this same water was toxic and unfit to drink, creating bitterness and disappointment.

Imagine the scene of panic, the time of testing of their faith, as thousands of men, women and children were deprived of drinking water and therefore condemned to die from thirst in this desert. The people, having **lost all hope**, murmured against Moses, saying : WHAT SHALL WE DRINK ?

When an entire community of people thirsts and complains, we are near a revolution. Modern-day parallels come to mind with events taking place in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen and other countries. Men have given these uprisings "Arabic Spring". This uprising threatens to shake the entire planet; even China trembles as it faces this phenomena, fearing of becoming its next victim. These countries revolt, thinking they will gain freedom and a form of democracy, but they will only find bitter waters. Islam awaits them, rendering

them even more oppressed and enslaved. Even ourselves, as comfortable and indifferent to these plights we may be here in North America, just a little would suffice to hit us head-on. Are not the “Occupy Wall Street” protestors a forewarning sign ?

All these revolts for major changes are human endeavours, hopes, dreams of a better world. Endeavours for better governments. Battles against poverty and corruption. The aftermath of these political upheavals are a long way from being cheerful and promise-laden.

Governments, dictators, kings and nations are shaken, a rupture from past times. It is a revolt against a blind submission to a dictatorial system. The rejection of dependance and slavery to a false religion, a revolt against pervert religious leaders' hypocritical and corrupt authority, of irresponsible governments who, with friends and collaborators, have enriched themselves at the hands of the people.

This political change is accompanied by a gigantic economical change. At the present time, we only see the tip of the iceberg. However, it is far from an established fact that the next governments will be more democratic. Already, Egypt and Syria are a menace to Israel. Fanatical Muslims persecute Christians and burn their churches without seeing the established authorities intervene.

The United States of America have a 14 trillion dollar debt and yet print money relentlessly all while being aware of the terrible consequences to come. In Europe, countries such as Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal are on the brink of bankruptcy. Sounds of revolts are heard around the world because of unemployment and inflation. Millions of people have lost the fruit of their labour in just a few short weeks, losing their jobs, their homes, entire families threatened to go under. Many have lost all hope; divorces and suicides are behind our neighbours' doors. Many have abandoned the faith and they murmur. How will we react when our turn comes and we experience such things ? Here is a reassuring promise :

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I COME QUICKLY : hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown (Rev. 3 : 10-11).

A similar change in the church is foreseeable, close at hand, about to take place.

Sumptuous churches overladen with millions in debt will know bankruptcy. Even so, at the present time, Pastor Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California is on the market. Recession does its damaging work slowly but surely.

Ever since the tower of Babel, man has dreamt of big and mighty things. The twin towers, American symbol of economic power, have fallen.

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. Ps 127 : 1

Like a passing train, dreams pass and disappear, never to return. Las Vegas, city of opulence, of extravagance, the city of the American dream, sin city, debauchery and vice, is presently confronted with its biggest ever financial crisis, squarely hit by recession. Five star hotels and casinos have closed their doors.

The housing crisis has caused millions of houses to be abandoned by their owners who took with them everything they could. Banks offer \$1000 to anyone who leaves his house without taking any of its contents. It is the beginning of the end of the American dream.

Friday, June 24, 2011 : a vote was taken in New York City to legalize same-sex marriages. This vote, 33 against 29, was considered a step towards progress. Republicans, considered as conservatives, joined in with the Democrats. A few hours later, great rejoicing could be seen in the streets of New York City, complete with music, celebrations, balloons, dances and shows. NYC thus sent a message to the entire world :a choice was made, be a part of it, welcome the progress of a modern society.

Scornful men bring a city into a snare – Prov. 29 : 8.

On June 24, New York agreed to a law contrary to logical moral intelligence, a revolt against Divine law, warning us not to imitate the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha who were destroyed by fire.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man sowed, that shall he also reap (Galatians6:7).

And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly (2 Peter 2:6).

MOSES AND ISRAEL

For Israel, the crossing of the Red sea was a new beginning, a new birth, a new horizon, a challenge to overcome. Exactly like when we were saved. What is not necessary, for our spiritual growth, that our faith be tested? How many times have we murmured and doubted? I once asked the Lord if I myself doubted him often. His response: Yes, my son, several times a day! So, I told him: How can you then love me? He answered: I do not see as a man sees; in the midst of your doubts, I see your desire to know me better.

What could Moses do when facing doubts and despair of an entire group of people? The only thing we can do when facing an hopeless situation: MOSES CRIED OUT TO THE LORD. Have you ever cried out to the Lord? I distinctively remember crying out to the Lord at least three times in my life – and each time, the answer came my way. It is the cry of faith! I even wrote a message on this CRY (go to my web site: www.liberationmf.org – under the heading messages).

Today, the church finds itself in a similar position. It is threatened of spiritual and financial bankruptcy. Many carry debts they will never be able to repay. Threats come from all sides, mainly due to its lukewarmness and her indifference. It is threatened by false doctrines, false prophets, visionaries, dreamers. False manifestations attributed to the Holy Spirit. Some claim having gone to heaven, even descending into the pit of hell. May 21, 2011 was recently targeted as the day the world would come to an end. False workers get wealthy at the hands of naive people who know not the Scriptures and walk according to the flesh. Everywhere, the flesh is glorified; the sellers in the church are numerous. Worldly music has entered the church through the back door. We teach social dances in lieu of the one done in the Spirit. We organize shows in the church. We invite American preachers, believing they will bring a renewal within the congregation. All this is in vain – we have to invite Jesus who stands at the door and knocks.

However, many Christians thirst after reality, thirst for God's presence, desiring to drink the water Jesus offered the Samaritan woman. They have not forgotten the fact that whosoever

drinks from the fount shall never thirst. They pray for a miracle, deliverance, a manifestation of the power of God. For a mighty revival.

But for bitter water to become purified as in Moses' days, there is a price to be paid. Without repentance, without prayer, without faith and without vision, the people perish, there is no hope. There is agony, turmoil, tears are shed because of human misery, poverty, diseases, wickedness, wars, horrors ! There is groaning, supplications, cries directed towards the throne of grace.

I recently saw a video on YouTube where people live in extreme poverty on a mountain of trash and relieve themselves in the middle of the street. A young man was unashamedly bragging having killed thousands of babies; hell on earth. Prostitution and sex everywhere – the only ticket to the next meal. They like their vices, their sins, they have rejected the Creator, silenced the voice of their conscience. They have become slaves of Satan, corrupt to the bone marrow.

I cried and I prayed, and asked the Lord is there was any hope. Is a light able to penetrate this daily horror ? When I think that we dare complain and murmur over our minor daily “luxurious” miseries.

Fortunately, I was encouraged when I looked up the word EVANGELICAL on the web. In the above-mentioned country of terror – the Republic of Libya – I found there are churches there who sing praises to the Lord; in the midst of the worse darkness, there is hope, there is light ! Alleluia !

Seek and you will find, knock and it will be open unto you, believe and you will receive!

(The second part of this message is yet to come).

Evang. Marcel Favreau

Translation: Pierre Favreau