

Exodus and Redemption

Old Testament--part 4 (Multiply, pp. 173-185)

Sept. 1, 2013

DAY 1: Israel's Captivity

1. Why should we study the Old Testament? Following Jesus is not just a "Jesus-thing." God's redemptive plan of salvation is THE storyline in history, or better said, "HIStory."

2. Last week we studied God's covenant with Abraham, who was born approximately 1950 B.C. Moses, who we study this week was born approximately 1571 B.C. The exodus occurred approximately 1491 B.C.

Exodus 1:11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly.

3. If you had been a descendant of Abraham and lived in these brutal conditions as a slave, what would you have thought of God's covenant?

4. Can you think of any human way for the nation to escape slavery?

5. Would you have asked, "Where is the land promised to Abraham?"

6. Were God's hands "tied?" Was the covenant kaput? Read the seldom-remembered verses tucked into God's covenant made with Abraham.

*Genesis 15:13 Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated **four hundred years.** ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.*

7. What strikes you about these two verses?

8. By the time of Exodus, which of these situations had played out?

9. Which of these situations was still to be played out?

10. What strikes you about God from this story?

DAY 2: Moses's Encounter with I Am (Ex. 2:23-3:22)

1. How could God deliver the *nation* from slavery, *and* get them to the Promised Land?

Exodus 2:23 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

2. There are four important actions God did. What is significant about each action?

"God heard" - _____

"God remembered" - _____

"God saw" - _____

"God knew" - (action needed!) _____

3. The next phase of God's redemptive story, miraculously begins with one man, Moses!

Exodus 3:2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.... ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

4. What would have been your response?

Exodus 3:6 And God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey..."

5. What strikes you about God or God's redemptive plan in Exodus 3:6-8?

Exodus 3:10 "Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

6. How does God answer Moses's question, "Who am I?" _____

Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'"

7. How does God answer Moses's question, "Who are you?" _____

DAY 3: "Let My People Go!"

1. Moses heads to Egypt and confronts Pharaoh, armed with the promises of God. Moses meets unexpected resistance--a lot of it!!! Instead of the people's situation getting better it got worse!

Exodus 5:22 Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?"²³ For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

2. Moses did what was right and everything seemed to go south! How has this happened to you?

3. In the following verses, how did God answer Moses's three complaints from Ex. 5:22-23?

Exodus 6:1 But the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

a. _____

² God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them.

b. _____

⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.

c. _____

⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.' "

d. _____

4. Would you have liked God's answers to your questions? _____

Why or why not? _____

⁹ Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery. ¹⁰ So the Lord said to Moses, ¹¹ "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." ¹² But Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" ¹³ But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

5. Moses did as he was told. How did it go? What would you have concluded if you were Moses? What would you have thought about God?

DAY 4: The Passover Lamb

1. Moses clearly warned Pharaoh that if he didn't let God's people go, the first born in all Egypt would die. In spite of nine former plagues, Pharaoh still refuses to bow his knee to God. Is that surprising to you? Why or why not? _____

Exodus 12:29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock.³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.

2. Do you claim God's promises for provision and blessing? Do you believe His promises for discipline over sin?

3. Do you secretly believe you can "get away with sin?"

4. God offered Pharaoh a choice. He rejected it. God offered Israel a choice. They accepted.

Exodus 12:5 "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.⁷ Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it."

5. Why do you think the Israelites escaped the death of the firstborn?

___ They were better than Pharaoh?

___ They were better than the Egyptians?

___ They were more religious than the Egyptians?

___ They genuinely *trusted* God enough to obey Him?

6. The Old Testament way of salvation was trust, just like in the New Testament. The people trusted that when the people repented of their sins, God was a forgiving God.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

7. What parallels do you see in the Passover lamb of Exodus, and Christ, our true Passover Lamb?

DAY 5: Through the Red Sea

(To read the account of the parting of the Red Sea, read Exodus 14:13-31).

1. Read the SONG the people sang after the miraculous deliverance and exodus. Underline what they realized about God.

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.² The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.³ The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.⁴ "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.⁵ The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.⁶ Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.⁷ In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.⁸ At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'¹⁰ You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.¹¹ "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?¹² You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.¹³ "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.¹⁴ The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.¹⁵ Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.¹⁶ Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased.¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.¹⁸ The Lord will reign forever and ever."¹⁹ For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing.²¹ And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

2. The exodus serves as a paradigm of God's salvation.

a. What things did God do? (Look back at your notes for the week!)

b. What did the recipients of salvation do?

Epilogue: Within days, the people complained, grumbled, and murmured against Moses and God. They were ready to go back to Egypt and slavery. What does that tell you about human nature?