



Exodus

From Slavery to Freedom

Lesson #1

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Background

- Written by Moses - Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." NIV
- Written around year 1400 B.C.
- Hundreds of years pass in the interval between Genesis and Exodus – Israel goes from being a small favored family to a large persecuted people.

Background

- Gen 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.
NIV
- Gen 46:2 And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," he replied. 3 "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.
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Background

- The name of the book, Exodus, means 'departure' - Heb 11:22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. NIV
- Joseph delivered Egypt from extinction through the wisdom God gave him, but evidently knew Egypt was not to be the permanent home of Israel.
- What he did not know was that Israel would spend so many years away from home and in a strange world.

Major Points

- Like so much of life, Exodus is about man's problems being answered by God solutions.
- Exodus is a story of national redemption that pictures personal redemption for us.
- We all love those moments in movies when the 'cavalry' shows up – in this story the cavalry is God and a few servants He chooses to work through.

Major Points

- God answers Israel's prayers in His time.
- God convinces Israel's enemies to let them go.
- God delivers the law to His people.
- God prescribes a way to worship Him.

Redemption



Symbols in Exodus

- ***Egypt*** – the world that is ruled by Satan and his principles. Our lives before salvation.
- ***Wilderness*** – the Christian’s state when we try to live life our way in our own strength. We are out of ‘Egypt’, but we are still not where we ought to be.
- ***Canaan*** – the place God wants us to live. The surrendered Christian life that is out of the world and into the kingdom.

From Groaning to Glory

- *Ex 1:8 Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. 9 "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." 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. NIV*

From Groaning to Glory

- *Ex 40:33 Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work. 34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; 37 but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out — until the day it lifted. 38 So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels. NIV*

Ex 1:1-15

1:1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; 3 Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; 4 Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. 5 The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt. 6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them. 8 Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. 9 "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." 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.

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Forgetting the Past

- What has happened?
- The Egyptians had forgotten the blessing the people of God had been to them.
- They began to fear them and see them as a political threat and so sought to control them via slavery.

Forgetting the Past

- How much like the Egyptians are the politicians of our day?
- We, as nation have forgotten the blessing the people of God have been to this nation.
- “We have been invincible, not because of our armies or our system, but because our country has been rooted in religion and morality.” Del Tackett

Israelites in Bondage

- Israel (Jacob) and his family went to Egypt to survive the great drought of Joseph's day.
- They left their homeland given to them by God and got comfortable in their new land – probably too comfortable.
- It is possible for God's people to get comfortable in the world, but not permanently.

Israelites in Bondage

- Before long, they were roundly rejected by the world (Egypt) and enslaved.
- How many Christians have found themselves in a similar trap – too much time in the world is the great antidote to living for the Lord.
- It always begins in pleasure and ends in pain.

Moses, the Deliverer

- Acts 7:23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites. 24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. 25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. NIV
- Where would Moses get such an idea? Probably from his mother.

Moses, the Deliverer

- When slavery did not completely ease the Egyptians fears, Pharaoh decided to do some population control.
- Ex 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live." NIV
- Can you imagine such a barbaric act? Yes, unfortunately we can in abortion.

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- Ex 1:15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" 19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive." 20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. 22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live." NIV

Moses, the Deliverer

- Heb 11:23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. NIV
- Jochebed and Amram exercised their faith when they put Moses in a basket and set it afloat in the Nile river.
- God, rewarded their faith by putting Moses in a place where the king would not dare harm him – his own daughter's arms.

Moses, the Deliverer

- ***A faith lesson for us from the baby in the basket step of Amram and Jochebed – sometimes faith can look like foolishness.***
- Years earlier a man named Noah did what also looked like the labor of fool when he built an ark.
- Years later, the nation of Israel will march in circles around Jericho and shout in an attempt to knock down the walls of the city.

Question

What sort of things do we do today in faith that might look like foolishness to the world?

Moses, the Deliverer

- Consider Moses and the choices he made – surely God’s hand was in this all along.
- He rises in Egypt (not by birth, but by adoption) to a place where he may well have been the next Pharaoh, but he opted for the rewards of faith instead of the offerings of Egypt.
- Heb 11:25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. NIV

Moses, the Deliverer

- Moses exchanged worldly success for eternal service.
- Moses turned his back on a palace that would fall for a mansion that lasts.
- He traded earthly riches for heavenly treasures.
- Moses made godly choices and it cost him dearly in terms of temporal things and position.

Moses, the Deliverer

- ***Another faith lesson – do not expect rewards from the world for godly choices.***
- Our world has a long and consistent history of rejecting truth and those who bear witness to it.
- Our context for decision making needs to be – now is short, eternity is long.

Moses, the Deliverer

- Moses tries to do a right thing (begin the deliverance of Israel) in wrong way.
- Ex 2:11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. NIV

Moses, the Deliverer

- Moses had a keen sense he was the deliverer Israel had been looking for – but, his timing and methods were not right.
- Moses has to go on the run to evade execution and finds himself in the land of Midian where he takes a wife and starts a family.
- Back in Egypt, people are praying - Ex 2:23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. NIV

Questions / Comments