

Exodus — Redemption Through Deliverance

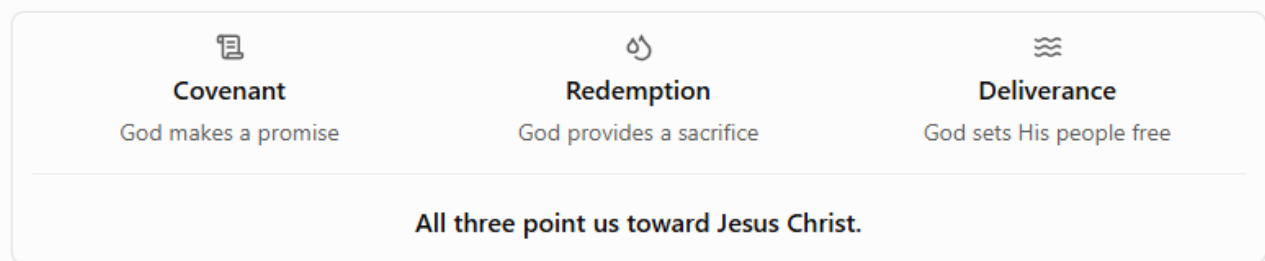
Genesis 15:7–21; Exodus 12:1–14; Exodus 14:10–31

THE BIG IDEA: God redeems His people through the blood of a substitute, delivers them from bondage by His power, and calls them into a new life of faith and obedience.

The Story of Redemption

The Exodus is much more than the story of Israel escaping Egypt. It is one of the greatest pictures of God's plan of salvation found in the Old Testament. Through the covenant with Abraham, the Passover lamb, and the crossing of the Red Sea, God reveals a pattern of redemption that ultimately finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

The big picture:



I. The Covenant of Blood: God's Promise to Abraham; Genesis 15:7–21

Before God delivered Israel from Egypt, He made a covenant with Abraham that established His promises to Abraham's descendants.

A. Understanding the ancient blood covenant

In the ancient world, some covenants were formally established through a solemn ceremony involving sacrificed animals. In Genesis 15, God instructed Abram to bring several animals, divide them, and arrange their pieces opposite one another. Passing between the pieces symbolized the seriousness of the covenant and the consequences of breaking it (see Jeremiah 34:18–20).

B. God passes through the pieces; Read Genesis 15:12–18.

- God caused Abram to fall into a deep sleep.
- God foretold that Abraham's descendants would become strangers and slaves in a foreign land.
- God promised that He would judge the nation that enslaved them and bring them out with great possessions.
- A smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between the divided animals, symbolizing God's presence.

The remarkable detail: Abram did not walk between the pieces. The divine manifestation passed through them. The covenant's fulfillment rested upon God's faithfulness to His promise, not upon Abraham's ability to fulfill every condition.

C. The covenant foreshadows Christ

Genesis 15 does not explicitly say that the ceremony represents the crucifixion. Nevertheless, within the unfolding story of Scripture, it anticipates important truths about redemption. God takes the initiative. God makes the promise. God provides what is necessary to accomplish His redemptive purposes. Ultimately, Jesus Christ bears the curse of sin on behalf of His people (Galatians 3:13–14).

Key principle: Salvation begins with God's grace and is secured through His faithfulness.

II. The Passover: Redemption Through the Blood of a Lamb; Exodus 12:1–14

More than four centuries after God's covenant promise to Abraham, the Israelites were living in bondage in Egypt. God raised up Moses to confront Pharaoh and deliver His people. After nine devastating plagues, God announced the final judgment: the death of the firstborn. Yet God provided a way of deliverance.

A. The lamb had to be without blemish; Exodus 12:3–5

- Each household was to select a lamb without defect.
- This foreshadowed Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb of God.
- 1 Peter 1:18–19

B. The lamb had to die; Exodus 12:6

- The lamb was not merely admired, protected, or kept as a symbol. It had to be sacrificed.
- The Passover illustrates the principle that deliverance from judgment required the death of a substitute.
- 1 Corinthians 5:7

C. The blood had to be applied; Exodus 12:7, 12–13

- The Israelites were instructed to place the blood on the doorposts and lintel of their homes.
- God declared that when He saw the blood, He would pass over them.
- Their deliverance was not based upon their nationality, morality, wealth, or personal achievements. It rested upon God's gracious provision and their obedient response to His command.

- In the same way, salvation is not earned through good works but received through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9).

D. The Passover established a new beginning; Exodus 12:1–2, 14.

- God established a new beginning in Israel's calendar and commanded the people to remember their deliverance.
- Redemption was not simply about escaping death; it marked the beginning of a new identity as God's redeemed people.
- Key principle: The blood of the lamb provided protection from judgment and marked the beginning of a new life.

III. The Red Sea: Deliverance From Bondage; Exodus 14:10–31

Although Israel had been spared through the blood of the Passover lamb, they still needed to be delivered from Pharaoh's power. With the Egyptian army approaching and the Red Sea before them, the Israelites faced a seemingly impossible situation.

A. God's people were powerless to save themselves; Exodus 14:10–12

- Israel was trapped between Pharaoh's army and the sea. Fear caused the people to question God's purposes and even long for their former life in Egypt.
- This illustrates humanity's spiritual condition apart from Christ: enslaved to sin and unable to save ourselves by our own strength (Romans 6:16–18).

B. Salvation belonged to the Lord; Exodus 14:13–14

- Moses told the people not to fear, but to stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord.
- Israel could not defeat Pharaoh's army or divide the waters. Their deliverance required God's supernatural intervention.
- Key principle: What was impossible for Israel was possible for God.

C. God made a way where there was no way; Exodus 14:21–22

- God divided the sea, allowing Israel to cross on dry ground.
- The same waters that provided a pathway of deliverance for Israel became the instrument of judgment against the pursuing Egyptian army.
- God's salvation included both rescuing His people and defeating the power that held them captive.

D. Deliverance led to faith and worship; Exodus 14:30–31.

- When Israel witnessed God's mighty deliverance, the people feared the Lord and believed in Him and His servant Moses.

- Their response was to recognize God's power, trust His word, and worship Him (Exodus 15:1–21).
- Key principle: God does not redeem His people merely to release them from something, but to bring them into a relationship with Himself.

IV. Jesus Christ: The Fulfillment of Redemption

- The Exodus establishes a powerful pattern that points forward to the greater salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ.

The Exodus	Fulfillment in Christ
Israel enslaved in Egypt	Humanity enslaved to sin (John 8:34)
The Passover lamb without blemish	Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:19)
Blood protects from judgment	Christ's blood secures redemption (Romans 5:9)
God delivers Israel from Pharaoh	Christ delivers believers from the dominion of sin (Romans 6:6–7)
Israel passes through the sea	A picture of identification with Moses; baptism signifies union with Christ (1 Corinthians 10:1–2; Romans 6:3–4)
Israel begins a new life as God's people	Believers become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- The Passover lamb and the Exodus are not merely historical events. They are part of God's unfolding plan of redemption, fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- The Red Sea crossing is not identical to Christian baptism, but Paul uses Israel's passage through the sea as a baptismal analogy in 1 Corinthians 10:1–2.

V. Personal Application: Living as Redeemed People

1. Redemption requires a substitute.

Just as the Passover lamb died and its blood marked the households of Israel, Jesus died for our sins. Question: Am I trusting in my own goodness or in the finished work of Jesus Christ?

2. Redemption means freedom from slavery.

Israel was not delivered so they could return to Egypt. Likewise, Christians are not saved so they can continue living under the dominion of sin. Question: Are

there areas of my life where I am still living as though I belong to my former master?

3. Redemption requires trusting God's promises.

At the Red Sea, the Israelites could not see a way forward. Yet God had already promised to deliver them. Question: Where is God calling me to trust His promises even when I cannot see the outcome?

4. Redemption produces a new identity.

God brought Israel out of Egypt to make them His own people. Through Christ, believers belong to God and are called to live for His glory. Question: Does the way I live reflect that I have been redeemed by Jesus Christ?

VI. Key Takeaways

1. God is faithful to His covenant. His promises to Abraham were fulfilled through the deliverance of Israel and ultimately through Jesus Christ.
2. Redemption comes through the blood of a substitute. The Passover lamb foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus.
3. Salvation is the work of God. Israel could not deliver itself, and neither can we save ourselves from sin.
4. Redemption leads to a transformed life. God saves His people from bondage so they can live in relationship with Him.