

EXODUS 8:20-24

A Redemption Between Us

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CONTROLLING QUESTION: What distinguishes the people of God from the world around them?

GOVERNING TRUTH: By His sovereign grace, the LORD redeems a people and brings them into a permanently binding relationship with Himself.

THE HEART OF THE PASSAGE

"I will put a division between My people and your people" (Exodus 8:23).

Pharaoh sees slaves. The LORD says, "They are My people." The central issue is ownership, worship, and covenant belonging.

LISTEN FOR THE ANSWER

What makes the difference between Egypt and Goshen—and between a person who belongs to God and one who does not?

What do you most want the LORD to show you through this passage?

1. THE LORD CONFRONTS THOSE WHO REFUSE HIS AUTHORITY

Exodus 8:20-21

THE COMMAND: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me." The LORD is not negotiating with Pharaoh. He is asserting His rightful ownership of His people.

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE

"You are not your own. For you have been bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Jesus did not purchase us to exploit us. He shed His own blood to rescue us from sin and bring us under His loving rule (Romans 6:17-18; Colossians 1:13-14).

STEWARDSHIP: Our time, bodies, possessions, relationships, gifts, and abilities belong to the LORD.

Where are you tempted to receive Christ as Savior while resisting His ownership?

THE MERCY IN THE WARNING

God warns Pharaoh before the swarms arrive. His patience gives room for repentance, but it does not signal indifference (Romans 2:4-5).

TRUTH TO REMEMBER: God's patience should never be confused with indifference.

2. THE LORD DISTINGUISHES THOSE WHO BELONG TO HIM

Exodus 8:22-23

Egypt is covered by swarms while Goshen is spared. Creation obeys a boundary no Egyptian can see because creation obeys its Creator.

THE PURPOSE: "In order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land" (Exodus 8:22).

WHY DID GOD SPARE ISRAEL?

Israel was not morally superior to Egypt. God acted because He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 2:24-25; Deuteronomy 7:7-8).

COVENANT GRACE: God did not redeem Israel because of who they were, but because of who He is.

A REDEMPTION BETWEEN THEM

The Hebrew word translated "division" can also carry the idea of redemption or ransom. Israel could not overpower Pharaoh, purchase freedom, or deliver itself. God had to redeem them.

How does seeing your unworthiness make the grace of your Redeemer more precious?

3. THE LORD MAKES HIS RELATIONSHIP VISIBLE

Exodus 8:24

THE CERTAINTY: "Then the LORD did so." He said what He would do, and creation obeyed.

Egypt experiences judgment. Goshen experiences redemption. The distinction becomes a sign that the LORD is present in the land (Exodus 8:22-24).

CAN PEOPLE SEE THAT WE BELONG TO GOD?

Grace does not make believers naturally superior, but grace does not leave believers unchanged. The New Covenant gives new life and the indwelling Spirit (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Titus 3:4-7).

The world should see Christ in our patience, mercy, forgiveness, truthfulness, compassion, and love for one another (John 13:35; Ephesians 4:32).

FOR UKIAH BIBLE CHURCH: The church should be something the world cannot explain apart from the presence of Christ.

What should become more visible in your life and in our life together?

THE BLOOD THAT BROUGHT US NEAR

Luke 22:20; Ephesians 2:13; 1 Peter 2:9-10

At the cross, God placed the judgment we deserved upon His Son (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24). Jesus stood where we should have stood and bore what we should have borne.

THE NEW COVENANT: “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood” (Luke 22:20).

The blood of Christ does not merely keep us out of hell. It brings us near to God and into a permanently binding relationship in which He says, “I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10).

A PEOPLE FOR GOD’S OWN POSSESSION

“You once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:10).

ONE SENTENCE TO REMEMBER: The New Covenant does not merely give us a place in heaven. It gives us a place among God’s people, in God’s presence, as God’s own possession.

PREPARING FOR THE LORD’S TABLE

1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-32

The Table does not create the distinction between the saved and the unsaved. It visibly declares the distinction Christ has created through His death and resurrection.

LOOK TO CHRIST

Remember His body given for you. Remember His blood poured out for you. Remember that you were far away but have been brought near.

EXAMINE YOUR HEART

Is there sin to confess, bitterness to release, forgiveness to extend, or a relationship that needs attention? We cannot celebrate that Christ made us one while willingly holding ourselves apart from one another.

INVITATION: Believers come because Christ is worthy. Those who have not trusted Christ should receive the Savior proclaimed by the bread and cup (John 5:24; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

MY PRAYER