

Open your Bibles to Exodus 1:1-14.

- Before I begin, I want to give honor where honor it is due: I want to thank Pastor Stephen and Pastor David for relieving me of my pulpit duties these past few weeks.

- It has been a great blessing to be at home more with my family and adjust to having a new baby.

- But, now I'm back. For better or for worse, I'm back.

- And this morning, we begin a new series. By God's grace, I plan to walk us through the whole book of Exodus.

Exodus is probably the most famous book of the Old Testament.

- Exodus means "going out." It's to leave somewhere. It's a book about how Israel went out from Egypt, by God's hand.

- It was written by Moses as a record of how God liberated the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, formed them into a nation, gave them His holy Law that they might honor Him, and put them on the path to the Promised Land.

- There are so many memorable scenes in it: Cruel slavery, the slaughter of the Hebrew children, a baby in a basket on the Nile, the burning bush, God's Name revealed, Moses the Mediator, staffs turned to serpents, the Ten Plagues, the Passover, freedom for the slaves, the parting of the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud and fire, manna from Heaven, the giving of the Law at Sinai, the Golden Calf, the building of the Tabernacle, and God's presence filling the place.

- There have been films made, songs written, and many books penned about this great story.

- It's an adventure. It's real. It's captivating. It's history. And it's recorded for us in Sacred Scripture.

That's all great. But why do I want US to study Exodus together?

1. To keep it real, I've never preached through a whole book of the OT. And I need to do that.

- I need to learn how to preach OT narratives and laws and all that.

- And, to be honest, Christians in general need to learn how to read and interpret the OT better. And I doubt that we are an exception to this.

- The OT is CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE. And most Christians would do well to treat that way more often than we do.

- So then, a study of Exodus is a great place to start.

2. A second reason that I want us to study Exodus is that it is FULL of pictures of our redemption.

- By redeeming Israel in an earthly sense from their bondage to slavery in Egypt, God gives us a picture of what He would one day do through the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Exodus is the great event of the OT that is constantly referenced throughout the Bible.

- It was God's OT redemption story.

- One preacher rightly said that the Exodus is the Gospel of the OT.

Now, hear me out: The Exodus really happened. It's history.

- But we must also remember that God is the Author of

history and the ultimate Author of Scripture.

- And this means that we ought not be surprised when things God did for the Israelites mirror, foreshadow, or anticipate what God would do through Jesus Christ for the world.

- People, places, events, offices, and more throughout the book of Exodus constantly point us to Christ and His work to save sinners.

- Exodus is like a picture-book of salvation through Jesus Christ. Sometimes the pictures are shadowy. But we can see them if we put the light of the NT on them.

- So it will be of great spiritual value for us to consider how the OT relates to the NT.

- And it will be great for us to see how everything that has happened in history and is recorded in Scripture is part of God's one big story of redemption through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

3. Third, Exodus is full of God.

- He shows us so much about Himself in this book that it is staggering.

- As we work through Exodus, we will get a better understanding of WHO GOD IS as we see WHAT HE DOES.

- God reveals Himself through His actions. And Exodus stands tall over the rest of the OT in showing us the wonderful works of God.

- Brothers and sisters, we know God. All who trust in Christ truly know God. But we need to know Him more. We need to know Him in greater measure.

- We need to see His character. We need to see His love. We need to see His glory. We need to see HIM.

- And Exodus will help us to see Him rightly. And that's

because God reveals Himself gloriously throughout this book.

Now with that said, I want to focus now on the sermon for today.

- I want to go wide with this opening sermon. (I'll probably do that throughout this series.)
- I want us to think about what God is up to in these opening verses.
- I won't be going verse-by-verse. And, honestly, what I'm going to preach on is not explicitly found in these verses. (So, Lord willing, I plan to come back to part of this text next Lord's Day.)
- You see, there is a question that I think stands behind these verses. And that question is "Why?"
- This morning, I want us to see a big theme to the whole Exodus and really, all of history.
- And here it is: In the Exodus, God is revealing and glorifying Himself. The purpose of the Exodus and everything that happened prior to it is to reveal and glorify God in many ways.

Let me ask you a question: What do you think life is about?

- Why do you think things happens, ultimately?
- What do you think your reason for existing is?
- Something I've noticed lately is that many people, both young and old, seem to just be lost. They don't seem to know what they're supposed to do with their lives.
- They have no real perspective on anything. Everything seems so short-sighted and vain most of the time.
- But there has to be something more. There has to be something greater than social acceptance, brief times of

fun, money, fame, and all the rest.

- There has to be something greater. And there is: God is that Greater Thing.

In this passage, God reminds those who look back on the Exodus that it is HE who reigns over all human history.

- And all history is telling HIS STORY.

- All human history is the story of God's self-revelation and self-glorification.

- Everything is about Him and His glory so that He might be praised forever and ever by His People for who He is and what He has done.

- And knowing that will change our perspective on everything.

- So with that said, may God bless us as we sit under the ministry of His Word today.

If you would and are able, please stand with me now for the reading of the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.

Exodus 1:1-14

[1] These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household:

[2] Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,

[3] Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,

[4] Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

[5] All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.

[6] Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.

[7] But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased

greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

[8] Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

[9] And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.

[10] Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.”

[11] Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

[12] But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.

[13] So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves

[14] and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

(PRAY)

Our God and Father,

•We thank you for your Word. And we are excited to see what you have for us today.

•Please speak to us by your Spirit through the Word you inspired.

•Teach us. Help us to see you. And cause us to rejoice and glory in our Redeemer, your Son, Jesus Christ.

•Grant us to hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Scriptures for your glory and our good.

- We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake.*
- Amen.*

1.) In the Hebrew, this book starts with the word “and.”

- Literally the opening verse says, “AND these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob...”

- This tells us that Exodus doesn't stand alone as a book. Rather, it's a continuation of a story that started in Genesis.

- So, before we can appreciate what happens in Exodus, we need to remember what happened in Genesis.

- What I mean is this: Moses is writing about the Israelites, the Sons of Israel/Jacob, coming to down to Egypt where their brother Joseph already was.

- You see, this is the story of a family. It's the story of a family that God had made promises to: The descendants of Abraham.

- But if we don't know at least a little about what happened with that family in Genesis, then we won't understand what's happening here.

So let me answer a question to begin: How did the Israelites get to Egypt?

- We find our answer in the last few chapters of Genesis, in the story of Joseph and his brothers.

- Phil Ryken summarized parts of the story well and briefly:

- “With the mention of Joseph and his brothers, it all comes back to us. Joseph was the first member of the

family to enter Egypt. He was the favorite son, the apple of his father's eye, and thus the envy of all his brothers. In a fit of jealous rage they threw him in a pit, sold him into slavery, and took his bloodstained robe back to their father (Genesis 37). Yet in the providence of God, Joseph eventually became the prince of Egypt. When his family later went to Egypt in a time of famine, Joseph was able to give his brothers bread, and the whole family resettled in the Nile Delta (*the land of Goshen*)."

So the Israelites, just seventy people when they came down to Egypt, came to Egypt by an act of God's providence.

- Joseph, who was sold into slavery, was already there when they came down. And God had placed him there in order to save His People, the family God had made promises to. (Joseph saved them from starving.)

- So God had providentially brought this family down to Egypt through famine.

But God also explicitly and immediately told Jacob/Israel, the grandson of Abraham, and the father of what would become the Twelve Tribes of Israel, to go down Egypt.

- We read in Genesis 46:2-4, "And God spoke to Israel in vision of the night and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then He said, 'I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to GO DOWN TO EGYPT, for there I will MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION. I myself WILL GO DOWN WITH YOU to Egypt, and I will also BRING YOU UP AGAIN, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes.'"

- So then, we see that God brought this family to Egypt

through famine.

- But God also commanded them to go to Egypt.

And God provided for and sustained them while they were in that country.

•He saved them from famine and death that would've come upon them had they not went to Egypt.

•And He did so in order to keep His promises that He had made to the great father of that family, Abraham.

•Remember, God promised Abraham offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky, that a great nation would come from him, that kings would come from him, that those descendants would have a land (Canaan) to dwell in, and that the One who would bless the world (the Messiah) would come from him.

•God brought the Israelites down to Egypt in order to save them from certain death, SO THAT God would keep His promises to Abraham.

So then, it was God who brought the Israelites down to Egypt.

•But He did so with a promise to one day bring them up out of Egypt and into the Promised Land that He had promised to Abraham, their grandfather.

2.) So that's how the Israelites got to Egypt: God brought them there.

- But what happened to them while they were there?
- We'll now review what our text says.

There are roughly 400 years of history in these opening verses. And Moses passes over them quickly only highlighting what must be mentioned.

- And he tells us that the Israelites went down to Egypt.
- Seventy descendants of Abraham, Jacob and his sons, the tribes of Israel went down to Egypt.
- Joseph was waiting for them there. And, as we read toward the end of Genesis, for Joseph's sake, the king of Egypt granted his family to live in the land of Goshen.
- The nation of Egypt was so indebted to Joseph for saving everyone from the famine, that the king decided to be kind to Joseph and his descendants by giving them a good place to live within the land of Egypt, for as long as they liked.
- So God preserved them and put them in a good place.
- Now, this place was only every meant to temporary for them, according to the plan of God. But they did dwell there for centuries.
- And then that whole generation died, as we read in v6. Joseph and all his brothers and all who first went down to Egypt passed away.

But the story isn't over.

- V7 says, "But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them."
- The concept of the Israelites growing larger and larger is repeated in five different ways here: They were "fruitful," "increased greatly," "multiplied," "grew exceedingly strong," and "the land was filled with them."
- This is meant to signal that they were being blessed supernaturally by God.
- They had more children than what was normal. They had less infant-death and miscarriage than normal.
- And they grew so large that the land, Goshen, where

they lived was filled with them.

- God grew and preserved His People until they were a great multitude of people. Tons of Israelites.

- What started as seventy descendants of Abraham has bloomed into a nation that was living with the larger nation of Egypt.

- God was keeping His promise to make Abraham into a mighty nation.

- At this point, everything was going well for the Israelites. They were safe, secure, had a good place, and were being blessed by God.

But then a turning point happened.

- v8 tells us that “there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.”

- “Did not know” here probably means “did not care.”

- Many years had passed by since Joseph helped Egypt. There was possibly a regime change.

- And the new Pharaoh believed that he had no obligation to show any kindness to the family of Joseph, the Israelites.

Now, we can see from the text that this new king was wicked and paranoid. (Most tyrants are.)

- vv9-10 tell us, “And he said to his people, ‘Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’”

- This was said to “his people.” That is Pharaoh’s people. Probably his counselors and not to the population in general.

- It sounds like this was the beginning of a propaganda

campaign designed to end with the slavery of the Israelites.

Nothing in the text would tell us that the Israelites had done anything wrong to the Egyptians.

- They were living in Goshen, being blessed by God, working their land, and living their lives.
- But the king said that they were a threat to Egypt. This was entirely unfounded.
- He exaggerated their numbers by saying that the Israelites were greater than the Egyptians. (That's nonsense. Egypt was much larger than Goshen.)
- And, though they had never risen up against the Egyptians, the king said that, if left unchecked, the Israelites would grow too large and if war broke out, they would join Egypt's enemies and escape from the land.
- Apparently, the Pharaoh wanted to keep the Israelites in Egypt, but just keep them down and oppressed.
- He wanted them to become his forced labor to build store cities and work the land.
- OR, he didn't want them to leave Egypt because he feared that they might return someday to wage war once they were an even larger nation.
- Either way, his paranoia was unfounded. His animosity toward the Israelites was unjustified.
- And this proves that this Pharaoh was an anti-God figure and horribly wicked man. He is the enemy of God and God's People.

And so, as v11 tells us, the Israelites were enslaved.

- The language of being "afflicted" and having task-masters is probably broader than just work.

- This could've included being taxed very heavily as well as set to work.
- So they were robbed of their wealth and their freedom. And they were made to work as slaves, building store cities for Pharaoh.
- This was Pharaoh's plan coming to fruition: The Israelites are slaves. Their spirits are broken. They are being worked to weakness and/or death.

This is all highlighted in vv13-14. There we read:

- “So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.”
- In two short verses, Moses makes their situation quite plain and highlights the severity and cruelty with which the Egyptians treated them.
- They were slaves. Their lives were bitter. The service was hard. They worked the fields. They were worked ruthlessly.
- And all of this is not to mention the greatest atrocity that future verses reveal: The slaughter of their male children at birth.

This was horrible suffering for the Israelites.

- We can't really appreciate how awful this would've been to live in. Death would've been preferred most of the time, I would imagine.
- Their pain was real. These were real people. This isn't just a story.
- It's much easier for us to read than it was to live.

3.) And this makes us ask a question: Why did this

happen?

- The text tells us in the nearer context of human activity why: The new pharaoh was evil and paranoid.

- But there is a deeper answer for why this happened. And it takes some time to unravel.

We get our preliminary answer in Genesis 15.

- There in v5 we read how God spoke to Abraham, the great ancestor of the Israelites to whom the promises were first given.

- And God said, “Look toward heaven and number the stars, if you are able to number them...so shall your offspring be.”

- And then in vv13-14 God goes on to say, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.”

- All of this, this whole situation, was foretold by God to Abraham when He made a covenant with him.

- Abraham’s descendants would grow to be a great nation. And they would be sojourners in a foreign land. And they would become slaves there and be afflicted for centuries.

This is the reason why this happened to the Israelites: God foreordained it.

- God predestined these things to take place.

- And we know that because God doesn’t know things apart from His decree of them.

- God doesn’t learn. So if God says that something will happen in the future, it is because He has ordained it.

- He could make things fall out another way. But He doesn't choose to do so.
- So then, God foreordained everything that happened to the Israelites. Both their blessing and their slavery.

All of this, as awful as it really was, was nevertheless part of God's Plan for them.

- Nothing was random. Nothing was uncontrolled.
- Rather, God was ruling over it all, guiding it all to its proper end, and working in it all to bring His Word to pass.
- We can't shy away from the horrors of the enslavement of the Israelites. It was real. And it was awful.
- But we also can't shy away from the fact that this was nevertheless God's Plan for them and history.

But do you see something important here?

- Pharaoh's plan that he executed to harm God's People actually set the stage for God's fulfillment of His own promises.
- God foretold the slavery. He foreordained it. And He had also promised to bring the Israelites out from that land and into the land that He promised them.
- All of their suffering set the stage for God to do what He had said.

4.) But knowing this makes us ask again, "WHY?"

- Knowing that God stands behind all of this and is working in it all, even the horrors of Israelite oppression, makes us ask "WHY?" (And it's the big "WHY.")
- Why did God allow this?
- Why did God plan things to go THIS way?

- Why slavery? Why the murder of the children? Why oppression?
- Why such a hard plan?
- Why not another way? Surely, there could've been another way, if God so chose.

Here is the answer that the Scriptures give us:

- God planned for things to go this way, even with all the horrors that were involved, in order that He might reveal Himself and glorify Himself in ways that He otherwise would not have done.
- God's self-revelation and self-glorification are the reason for everything that happens in Exodus.
- In the "Exodus Psalm" (Psalm 106) we read a verse that tells us why God saved Israel. And that also informs why God ordained there would be something TO SAVE THEM FROM.
- In Psalm 106:8 we read, "Yet He saved them FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE, that He might MAKE KNOWN HIS MIGHTY POWER."
- God saved them "for His name's sake." That is, for His glory. That He might be glorified in doing so.
- And God saved them "that He might make known His mighty power." So that the Israelites and all the other nations might see that He is Almighty God.
- In other words, the Exodus happened so that God would reveal Himself and glorify Himself to His People and the world in the way He deemed best.

You see, in this whole things we call the Exodus, God was going to reveal Himself and His character.

- He was going to reveal things about Himself that otherwise would not have been known. Or, at least,

would not have been known as clearly.

1. He will show Himself to be the Faithful God.

- By bringing them out of Egypt, AS HE PROMISED to do, He will show that He is faithful to His Word.

- The promises made in covenant to Abraham would indeed be kept. God had brought them into a foreign land. They had become slaves. And God was going to bring them out.

- And in doing so, He will demonstrate that He is the Covenant-Keeping, Faithful God.

2. He will reveal Himself as the sovereign over the whole world.

- By bringing the Israelites out of Egypt with a mighty hand, He will show that He controls everything.

- He has controlled the fact that they became slaves. And He controls when it ends.

- In the plagues, He will show that He is sovereign over all creation. In the miracles He will do the same.

- God will demonstrate for all the world, and especially His People, that He is God. And that no one can stop Him from fulfilling all His purposes.

3. He will show Himself to be the Only True God.

- Each plague will correspond to an Egyptian God.

- And God will show that the idols of the nations are worthless and that HE ALONE is the Living God.

- He will show that He alone is "I AM." He is God. And Yahweh is His name. And there are none beside Him.

4. He will reveal Himself as the God who saves His People.

- He is going to free them from tyranny and slavery.
- He is the God who redeems and rescues a weak and needy people by His own hand.

5. He will reveal Himself as the God who saves by using a Mediator.

- God is going to choose Moses as His mediator between Israel and Himself.
- God is going to show His People that He is pleased to choose a human mediator in order to accomplish His purposes to save His People.

6. He will show that He is the Supreme Lawgiver.

- After saving His People, He will give them holy laws at Sinai.
- He will demonstrate that He is good and just and holy and righteous.
- And He'll also do this by executing judgment on the wicked nation who enslaved His People.

7. He will demonstrate that He is the Compassionate God who loves His People.

- He will “come down” to rescue them, as He tells Moses.
- He will hear their cries and go to work to save them.
- He will answer His People. And He will bless them.
- Why? Because He loves them. He will show that He loves them by what He does for them.

8. He will show that He is a God for the nations.

- He will allow Egyptians and anyone else who desire to flee Egypt alongside the Israelites to join themselves to Him and become His People.

- He will show that He is not just for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles.

9. And He will show that He is the God who desires to dwell with His People in a better land.

- He will free His People so that they can worship Him.
- And He will dwell among them in the Tabernacle.
- God will show that His end-goal is that His People be with Him and He with them.

And in all of this self-revelation, God will glorify Himself.

- Through the redemption of the Israelites, through the Exodus, God will glorify Himself.

1. In all of the things He reveals about Himself, He will be glorified in all the earth.

- The nations will see and hear of what He has done to Egypt. And they will fear Him.
- They will see that He is God over the world. That He is the Great I AM.
- And they will be compelled to acknowledge His reign and, in one way or another, give Him the glory.

2. And He will be glorified, worshipped, adored, and praised by His people.

- Why? Because He has saved them by Himself.
- His People will forever praise Him as the God of the Exodus, who ruled over their situation and saved them that they might become His special possession of all the people of the world.

Can you see?

- The Exodus, even with all the suffering involved, even with all the darkness, was by the design of God to reveal and glorify Himself by saving His People out of Egypt.
- Their enslavement in a foreign land set the stage for God to reveal and make much of Himself, to the praise of His glory forever and ever.

Now, to this some will ask, “But why not another way? Why did it have to be like this?”

- My answer is twofold:

1. Because God is free to do with His creation as He wills.

- That’s a hard answer. But it’s true. Read Romans 9. And then read Romans 11.

- Everything exists for the glory of God. Everything exists by Him, through Him, and FOR HIM.

- Everything is about Him. Everything and everyone in this world exists to make much of Him.

- God is free to glorify Himself however He chooses.

- And, because we know that He is the all-wise, all-good, sinless, and righteous God, we know that this was the best way for Him to glorify Himself.

2. Second, and more for us, apart from the Exodus, we would not know and glorify God as fully as we can with the Exodus having happened.

- In a real way, even for all the suffering, it was for the benefit and eternal joy of the People of God that all things fell out the way they did.

- God desired to be eternally praised as the God who saves. And there had to be something to save His People from. So God ordained all that took place.

- God is found to be sweeter to us as we know Him as the One who saves and redeems His People.
- So this is for our benefit and eternal rejoicing as His People that things fell out this way.

5.) Now, I don't know if you've caught this yet or not, but the question that our text raises about the Exodus is the question of all human history:

- WHY?
- Just as we ask, "Why the slavery? Why the pain?" We also ask, even more deeply, "WHY THE FALL?"
- Why did God foreordain the sin of Adam, the broken Covenant of Works, that sin would take place, that man would fall so far from God, death, and all the other horrors that we see in history?
- Why would God order things to happen this way? Why not another way?

The answer to this is the same as the the Exodus:

- The self-revelation and self-glorification of God.
- God ordained the fall of man into sin, notwithstanding all of the horrors that came from it, in order that He might reveal and glorify Himself as the great God and only Savior through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Though God did not force Adam to sin, He nevertheless ordained it.

- But remember that right after the Fall, God promised the Seed of the Woman who would come and crush the head of the serpent, the devil. (Genesis 3:15)
- Just like after declaring the future slavery of the Israelites, God promised their redemption, so also right after the Fall of man, God promised our redemption

through Jesus Christ.

- And all of human history, just like all of Israel's history in Egypt, has been the stage on which God reveals and glorifies Himself in His beloved Son, Jesus.

Since the Fall, God has revealed and brought glory to Himself.

- He has demonstrated that He is holy, just, patient with sinners, gracious to sinners, merciful to sinners, faithful to the undeserving, compassionate on the wicked, the only-wise God, the great Judge of mankind, and the Savior of those who trust Him.

- He has shown that He loves His People with a love that knows no bounds. For in Jesus Christ, He Himself came into the world to save sinners from what we have done.

- He has shown us what it means to love on the deepest level by taking our sins upon His shoulders and suffering the punishment due to us for our sin.

- He has shown us that there is no God like Him in Christ's life, death, and resurrection to save us from the wrath that we deserve for our sin.

- And the Fall was part of the plan to reveal and glorify Himself by saving us.

- Just like the slavery in Egypt set the stage for God's story of the Exodus, the Fall set the stage for God's greater story: Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Without the Fall, we would not know God as we do, having been redeemed from it by Christ.

- We would not know what it means for God to love the unlovable, be kind to the undeserving, show mercy, give grace, be sacrificially loving, be patient, choose a people

for Himself, or be the SAVIOR, apart from the darkness of the Fall of man into sin.

- This may sound strange, but God is sweeter to us since we have been redeemed by Him, than if He had not ordered things this way.

- We praise Him for things that we would not have praised Him for.

- We know Him in ways that we would not have known Him.

- We have tasted of His goodness in ways that we would not have been able to.

- And so, God is most glorified, having ordained things to go the way they have.

- And we praise Him for it, even though the pain in this world is still real and awful.

Brothers and sisters, God is in the business of His own glory.

- And He has done exactly that. He has glorified Himself in the greatest and best way possible.

- And the horrors of the Fall are part of that plan, just as the horrors of the Egyptian slavery were part of God's plan for Exodus.

Brothers and sisters, see this:

- Everything is ALL ABOUT GOD AND HIS GLORY.

- It's all about Him. Period.

- Everything exists to tell His Story. Everything exists for His glory.

- From Him, through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!

Now, I know that some do not like this view of

history or the Fall.

- And that's because they do not yet understand that everything is about God.
- They still think that everything is about man.
- But that is not the case. Everything exists for God's glory and purposes.
- And He is free to do what He wills in order to glorify Himself the way that He, in His perfect righteousness and wisdom, has seen fit.
- But if we understand that we exist for Him, and that all things exist for Him, then we will receive this truth with faith and joy and glorify God for His glorious rule over all things.

Brothers and sisters, let me just let the cat out of the bag:

- All that happens in this world, whether good or bad, is serving to open up the great scene of Revelation 5:8-10.
- “And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”
- THIS IS WHAT ALL HISTORY IS WORKING TOWARD.
- Everything is setting the stage for this scene that God has purposed to come to pass: Eternal praise of God in

Christ Jesus for redemption by His blood.

6.) Now, understanding that all of human history and life is a means to God revealing and glorifying Himself gives us a new perspective on many things.

1. It changes how we view OUR GOD.

- He is big. He is great. Everything is about Him.
- Maybe He is bigger than you thought He is.
- Think about it: How big and important and all-worthy and glorious must He be if literally everything that happens is ultimately ABOUT HIM?
- How great and all-important must He be if He has ordained all that comes to pass for HIMSELF?
- Brothers and sisters, He is bigger than we realize.
- We are players in His game. We are actors on His stage.
- Everything is about Him and Him telling His story.
- What our catechism says really must be true. God must be the CHIEFEST BEING, because everything is about Him and His glory.

2. It changes how we view OUR LIVES.

- Brothers and sisters, if everything is about Him, what kind of lives ought we to live?
- Hear me out: If everything that happens is so that God would be revealed and glorified at the end of the day, then for what purpose do you and I live?
- Answer: To KNOW Him (He has revealed Himself to be known by us). And to GLORIFY Him.

To believe that is to be changed in every way imaginable.

- If that gets down into our hearts, we will speak differently, we will parent differently, our attitudes will change, we will suffer more graciously, we will work differently, we will read our Bibles and come to church differently.

- Everything will change if we honestly believe that we exist for the twin purposes of knowing and glorifying God.

- All the things of this world will become dross to us and we will see God as the gold that He is.

- This world and it's pleasures will become vain to us and we will become a People obsessed with God. We will become like wild men for the Lord.

- May God help us to get these words into our head: "If life is all about God, then it's not about me."

3. Lastly, knowing that all of history and life is about God's glory gives us a new perspective on OUR FUTURE.

- It gives us comfort.

- We know that God did not put the Israelites in Egypt for no reason. And He did not leave them there forever.

- He put them there, and they suffered for a time. That is true.

- But He put them there so that one day He would be praised for bringing them out and into the Promised Land.

Brothers and sisters, we are headed to the Promised Land, a perfect country with God.

- We are headed to the place that God has promised all who repent of their sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- We are headed to a place where there is no more sin, no more weeping, and no more pain.
- We are headed to a place where we need no sun, for God Himself is our light.
- And we will make it there.

There are many things that we suffer now.

- Life is often a veil of tears. But we will make it to the Promised Land because God has already redeemed us through Christ.
- He will lead us home. He will keep His promises that He has made to us in Christ.
- Why? Because He does all things to reveal and glorify Himself.
- And His end-goal is to be glorified in saving us fully and finally from all harm.
- All will be well for the People of God.

May God help us to see everything rightly as we remember that the God of the Exodus is our God through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

- Amen.