

Open your Bibles to Exodus 12:29-42.

- We're continuing our study of the book of Exodus.
- This morning we come to THE EXODUS ITSELF.
- And our theme will be The Faithfulness of God.

I've been a Christian for thirteen years this month.

- And as time goes by, as I grow in my walk with Christ, and the more I study the Scriptures, I see more and more a huge theme throughout the Bible.
- Simply put, that theme is "Trust the Lord."
- God's complete trustworthiness is found in basically every portion of Scripture.
- He is faithful to His Word. Every time. Without fail.

Our text today is a shining example of that reality.

- The Exodus is about God glorifying Himself by revealing Himself through saving His People.
- And these fourteen verses reveal, they SCREAM, that He is the faithful God.
- He keeps every word. Every promise. Every threat. Every everything.
- Not one word of His will fall to the ground.

So this morning I hope to encourage every believer:

- You can trust God to keep His promises to you.

Some of you are weak and weary. We all get that way.

- It's just part of life in a fallen world.
- But, by God's grace, I want to put hope in your heart.
- And that hope is founded on nothing less than the very

nature of our faithful God and His promises to His children.

•So may God bless the preaching of His Word and make it balm for His weak and wounded People.

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

Exodus 12:29-42

[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.

[31] Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.

[32] Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!”

[33] The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.”

[34] So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders.

[35] The people of Israel had also done as Moses told

them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing.

[36] And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

[37] And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

[38] A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.

[39] And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

[40] The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years.

[41] At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

[42] It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

(PRAY)

Our Faithful God,

•You've promised to give your People every grace, that we might grow in our love for you.

•You've promised to strengthen us when we're weary.

- *You've promised to teach us your ways.*
- *You've promised to sanctify your People.*
- *So, Holy One, we ask that you would make good on those promises today and, by your Holy Spirit, work in our hearts as your Word is preached.*
- *Show us the mercy and grace that belong to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.*
- *Help your children. Be the Father to us that you've promised to be.*
- *We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake.*
- *Amen.*

1.) Before we dive in, I want to say something:

There are a handful of apologetic issues that could be addressed in some of these verses.

- Some skeptics argue that the large number of Israelites who left Egypt is an impossible figure.
- Some claim there's a contradiction between Genesis 15 that says the Israelites would be oppressed for 400 years, and v40 saying that their time in Egypt was 430 years.
- I want to acknowledge those things.
- But I want you to know that I won't be dealing with them much in this sermon.
- They should be addressed. But they're not quick or easy answers. And the purpose of this sermon isn't to deal with the objections of unbelievers.
- So if you want to talk about them, please come and talk with me sometime.
- But my goal isn't to lecture you on textual criticism or

apologetics this morning. I want to preach to your hearts.

- There are answers. But I won't dive into them today.

The text before us is PACKED with fulfillments of God's promises and predictions.

- I want you to see them, so you're encouraged to trust Him to keep all of His promises.

- So let's dive in.

God had threatened a Final Plague.

- He had said that wherever the blood of the Passover lamb was absent, the firstborn of that house would die (12:12-13).

- He said He'd strike at midnight that night (11:4).

- He said no house would be exempt from the plague, from the highest to the lowest in Egypt (11:5).

- And He said, "There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again." (11:6)

- God had given warning in 4:22-23.

- Moses was to tell Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, 'Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"

And so it was.

- The opening verses of our text, give a plain statement of the facts.

- "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. 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.”

- God had warned. He had threatened. He had demonstrated His power in nine other Plagues.
- Pharaoh had refused to free God’s People. And God kept His Word.
- And it as just as horrible as He had said. Every Egyptian family suffered God’s judgment.
- The judgment was horrible. But through His demonstration of wrath, God was faithful to His Word.

We’re then told of Pharaoh’s reaction to the Plague:

•“Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, ‘Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!’”

•Now, our translation says that Pharaoh “summoned Moses and Aaron.” But that word “summoned” can be rendered “sent word” or “informed by messenger.”

•Moses had said in 11:8, “And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.”

•So it seems, then, that Pharaoh sent a delegation to speak on his behalf and beg the Israelites to leave, just as Moses had prophesied.

•Just as God had said.

Pharaoh was begging them to leave Egypt.

- His command was fourfold: “Up...go out...go...be gone...”

- He’s a defeated man. He’s lost and he knows it.

This was unconditional surrender.

- Pharaoh holds nothing back. None of his former bargaining.

- He even says, “bless me also!” That wasn’t saving faith. Rather, he wanted to make sure that God didn’t strike any further. He’s the same old Pharaoh, just beaten.

- He’ll change his mind in the future and go after them. But here, he gives up entirely.

- God had said in 11:1, “Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward HE WILL LET YOU GO FROM HERE. When he lets you go, he will DRIVE YOU AWAY COMPLETELY.”

- And so it was.

Then we go on to read of how the whole nation begged Israel to leave.

- “The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, ‘We shall all be dead.’ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks and on their shoulders.”

- God had said that the Israelites were to eat the Passover dressed for travel. And they were to eat unleavened bread in the future in remembrance of the Exodus.

- And here we see that they dressed appropriately, because that very night they were begged to leave. And

they didn't have time for their bread to rise.

- Just as God had said, so it was.

And then in vv35-36, we read this:

•“The people of Israel had done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.”

•Formerly, Moses had instructed them to ask for these things. And God moved the hearts of the Egyptians to give them.

•This was justice. Past wages for slavery paid to God's People. And future provision for their needs.

But this was also a fulfillment of God's Word.

•In Exodus 3:21-22, He said, “And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

•And so it was.

But not only did the Israelites leave Egypt. vv37-39 tell us:

•“And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks

and herds. And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.”

- 600,000 young men, plus women, children, and old men, plus a mixed multitude of non-Israelites left Egypt.
- That’s over 2 MILLION people.

God miraculous multiplied Israel. We read that in 1:7.

•The first Pharaoh of Exodus feared their numbers. We read that in 1:9-10.

•And this huge number of Israelites is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2: “...I will make of you a great nation...”

•And so it was.

And the mixed multitude that went with them was the fulfillment of God’s Word in Exodus 7:5.

•God had said, “The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.”

- This mixed multitude no doubt had Egyptians in it.
- God had brought some of them to fear and seek Him.
- Just as He had said.

Then we come to a summary statement about the Exodus in vv40-41:

•“The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”

•Now, at this point, some will say, “Genesis 15:13 says Israel would be oppressed ‘400 years.’ Here it says ‘430 years.’ That’s a contradiction.”

No it isn’t.

•It’s normal human language to round large numbers when looking into the future or back on the past.

•God speaks to us in normal human language.

•It seems then that God was speaking broadly in Genesis. But Exodus is speaking more specifically in hindsight.

•QUESTION: Is God not free to speak as we do? Or is that something we’ll try to keep for ourselves?

Maybe you don’t like that answer.

•But you should know that there are some very detailed answers about the timetable of 430 years that I can’t get into right now.

•But know this: There is good Bible evidence that both 400 years and 430 years are correct, depending on when you start counting and from what perspective you’re looking at God’s promises to Abraham.

•That’s all I can say for now.

The big point, though, is that God freed them just as He had promised.

•He said in Genesis 15:13-14 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...they shall come out...”

•And Exodus 6:6 says, “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 so it was.

Actually, it was “on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”

- On that very day, after the Passover.
- On that very day, Pharaoh drove Israel from Egypt.
- Just as God had said.

Finally, we come to v42:

“It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.”

- That night when God struck Egypt, He was also watching over Israel. He protected them from His wrath while judging their enemies. And all to save them.
- So, since God watched over Israel that night, Israel was to forever keep a night of watching “to the LORD” in remembrance and thanksgiving of His work for them.

GOD WAS FAITHFUL.

- He judged and saved.
- He kept His Word.
- So the People rejoiced and praised Him.

2.) Now, as I said in the introduction, this text, with all its fulfillments of promises and prophecies, SCREAMS that our God is faithful.

- Every single thing He said would happen, happened.

Friends, He can be trusted.

- We can believe that every thing He says will be done.
- It'll be done His way, and in His time, for sure. **BUT IT WILL BE DONE.**

And this shouldn't surprise you. Not when you consider THE GOD WHO PROMISES.

•When we remember that the One we're dealing with is the LORD, I AM, YAHWEH, THE ONE WHO IS, it's no surprise that He's completely trustworthy.

What do I mean?

- I'm talking about the nature of God.
- His essence is such that He can never fail to be faithful.
- It is against His "God-ness" to fail, be unable, or be unfaithful.
- Let's consider who the LORD is:

1. He is the UNCHANGING ONE.

- His Name is **"I AM WHO I AM."** This is one of the first things that He spoke to Moses at the burning bush.
- And His Name reveals His nature.

He has always been. And He has always been what He is. He is not "becoming" anything.

- He is immutable, unchangeable, steadfast.
- As James 1:17 says, He is **"the Father of lights, with whom there is NO VARIATION or shadow due to change."**

Think about this: For God to change, He'd have to be bound by time.

- Why? Because change happens in time.
- There has to be a point in time before the change and point in time after the change.
- But our God is ETERNAL. He exists outside of time.
- He created time. So He isn't bound by it. He existed before there was such a thing. He created "the beginning" when we read, "In the beginning, God..."

And God is PERFECT.

- To change is to change either for the better or for the worse.
- But He is perfection. He has no need for change.
- And He's INDEPENDENT from all He has made. So He needs nothing. There is nothing that can effect a change in Him.

He doesn't change in any way at all.

- And that means He doesn't change His mind, either.
- As Numbers 23:19 says so beautifully, "God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind."
- NO CHANGES. Not of His nature, will, mind, perfections, purposes, promises, NOTHING.

And so, He won't change regarding His purposes for His People.

- He won't change His mind about us.
- He won't alter a single promise.
- HE WILL BE FAITHFUL BECAUSE HE CANNOT BE ANYTHING ELSE.

2. He is the One who CANNOT LIE.

- Notice I didn't say "He WILL NOT lie."
- "Will not lie" means that He could but chooses not to.
- I said that HE CANNOT LIE. It is actually impossible for Him to lie.

• As we've already read, "God is not man, that He should lie..."

• There are indeed things that God cannot do. Namely, He can't do anything that violates Himself. He can't do anything that violates His nature.

QUESTION: Can you become a bird?

• No, you can't. Why? Because "bird-ness" is not in your nature. You can't change your nature. You're a human.

• In a greater way, God can't lie because He can't become a liar.

• That would necessitate a change in Him. And He can't change.

ILLUSTRATE: I tell my wife, "I wouldn't lie to you." But I can't say, "I cannot lie to you."

• Why? Because we both know that I can lie. I choose not to lie to her, but we both know that I could.

• So there may always be an element of, "Is David lying to me? Has he lied to me?"

• But not so with God. He literally can't do it.

• So you know He'll keep His Word. He can't do anything less.

3. He is the One with ALL POWER.

• He is "God ALMIGHTY." He literally has "all might." All power belongs to Him. He IS POWER.

- There is no lack of ability with Him.
- For God, to will is the same as doing! If He wills something to be done, IT IS DONE!

Brothers and sisters, God doesn't try.

- HE JUST DOES!
- He doesn't exert energy. He doesn't grow weary. He just does what He wills with no effort at all.

Sometimes we don't keep our promises because we literally lack the ability to do so.

- BUT NOT WITH HIM.
- No one can stop Him keeping His Word to you. No one can hold His holy arm back from doing His will.
- No purpose of God can be thwarted. For He is ALMIGHTY.

4. He is the One with ALL WISDOM.

- He knows everything, as 1 John 3:20 says.
- There is no lack of knowledge in Him. Nothing surprises Him. He knows all things exhaustively, for in Him all things live, move, and have their being.

And He knows exactly what to do with His knowledge.

- He is WISDOM ITSELF.
- His plans are perfect.
- He's never surprised. Never perplexed.
- He's never thought, "I hadn't considered that."
- And that means that what He promises, is sure to come to pass.
- There will be no unforeseen circumstances that keep

Him from doing it.

And He knows all because He foreordains all.

- He has determined what will come to pass.
- So it's nonsense to think that He'll promise you something and not fulfill it.
- What could stop Him? He's decreed all that will be, and exhaustively knows how all things will go, and with infinite wisdom has planned exactly how to keep His Word.

3.) Brothers and sisters, all of those things are solid ground for us to believe whatever He's promised.

- But before I move on, I want to remind you of one more thing about our God that should encourage you:
- HE LOVES YOU.
- This unchanging, infinite, eternal, almighty, all-wise, sovereign, truth-itself God, LOVES YOU.

And what's one thing we know about love?

- We, with our fallen and sinful natures, keep our promises to the ones we love.
- We HATE the idea of unkept promises to our children.
- How much more for the holy God toward His own?

We keep our word, so long as we have the ability to do so.

- Have you ever noticed that all of our promises have an explicit or implied caveat?
- “I'll be there, Lord willing.”
- “I'll do whatever I can.”

- BUT NOT WITH GOD.
- He has perfect ability to keep His Word.
- His very nature makes it so. And, if it were possible, His love for you strengthens that reality.
- HE WILL NOT FAIL TO DO WHAT HE'S PROMISED.

Dear Christian, do you doubt this?

- Would you say He doesn't love you with a ferocious love?
- If He doesn't love you, then explain to me the Son of God living and dying in your place!
- If He doesn't love you, explain your eternal Election to salvation!
- If He doesn't love you, explain why He's forgiven you of your sins and has made you His child through Christ!
- Of course He loves you! The fact that you're saved is the proof.
- And because He loves you, He will be faithful.

4.) With the time I have left, I'd like to encourage you in some of the things God has promised His People.

1. He says that He'll give you strength for whatever lies ahead in your life.

•Isaiah 40:31 says, "...they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Maybe you see horrible difficulties ahead of you. Or you're in the middle of them.

- He says that He'll give you strength to endure.
- He'll cause you to fly like an eagle. And if you can't fly, He'll give you strength to run. And if you can't run, He'll give you strength to walk.
- You will endure. When you have no might, He'll give you His. When you faint, He'll revive you.
- As you set yourself to go through the valley of the shadow of death, but to please Him as best you can while you're there, His grace will be your supply.
- God has promised! TRUST HIM.

2. He also says that you'll rejoice again someday.

- I know that some of you are dealing with some seriously difficult stuff: Lost family members, failing health, financial difficulties, death, family strife, and a host of other things.
- And you may wonder if you'll ever be happy again.
- Things seem so dark that you wonder if you'll ever see light in your life again.

God says this to you: "...Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God." (Psalm 42:11)

- YOU SHALL AGAIN PRAISE HIM!
- He will rescue you from the pit of despair, for HE IS YOUR GOD!

Probably in this life, you'll rejoice again. The clouds will break. The sun will shine again.

- That's usually what happens with all of us, in due time.
- God is so kind that our lives, generally, aren't one big

midnight until we die.

- Don't lose hope. God is your God.

But, for some, the darkness abides.

•But I know this: Certainly, in the life to come, you'll rejoice again.

- You are on the road to Heaven, through Jesus Christ.

•You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. Your destiny is an eternity in a place with no darkness, for God Himself will be your light.

•And you will rejoice in that day. When you see Him, you'll know only joy forever.

•This world isn't all there is. God has promised you a better one.

•You will rejoice again. God has promised. **TRUST HIM.**

3. He also promises you victory over sin.

•I know that some of you, like me, are so sick of sinning. It consumes you. You're weary from the fight.

•And it sometimes seems that you'll never grow past the sin you're trying to kill. You want it to die, but it seems like you'll deal with it forever.

•And you despair of growing in holiness. You worry that things will always be like this.

Hear me: You'll struggle with the flesh until you're dead. That's a fact.

•But you don't have to commit the same sins your whole life. You don't have to live in the same expressions of heart sin, even if you have to wage war against the root until you die.

- And you don't have to stay where you are. **YOU CAN GROW.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

- You have the Spirit of God dwelling within you. And He is at work, empowering you to grow on degree at a time.

- It's a long process. And it's not over in this life.
- But God will not be stopped. You **WILL** grow.

And one glorious day, you'll never sin again.

- "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3:2)

- We're not what we will be. But one day, when we see Jesus face to face, we'll be perfect, like He is.

- There is coming a day when we'll be sanctified completely. We'll never sin again.

We'll grow now. And we'll be perfected later.

- God has promised. **TRUST HIM.**

4. Your God promises you that you'll be saved. You will persevere. He will preserve your soul.

- I know that some of you worry that you won't persevere to the end.

- You know your own weakness. You know your

coldness of heart. You know your cowardice. And you worry that, if push comes to shove, you'll not be strong enough to continue in the Faith, and you'll be lost.

But God promises this in 1 Peter 1:3-5:

•“According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, KEPT IN HEAVEN FOR YOU, WHO BY GOD’S POWER ARE BEING GUARDED THROUGH FAITH for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

- Did you hear that?
- Your inheritance, eternal life, is being kept for you in Heaven by God Himself.
- And not just that, but YOU are being GUARDED BY GOD HIMSELF so that you receive what He’s promised.

My dear weak brother, my weary sister, God Himself keeps His hand on you.

- Omnipotence itself guards you.
- Who can break that shield?
- You’re weak. But He’s strong. And He preserves your soul. He guards you. He keeps you.

And hear what our Lord Jesus says:

•“I give them eternal life, and they will NEVER PERISH, and NO ONE WILL SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND.” (John 10:28)

- The Good Shepherd doesn’t lose sheep.
- You who have come to Christ in faith cannot be lost.

- God Himself would have to stop being God for that happen.
- Your Lord won't allow it. He's already given you eternal life. It's yours. And it's forever.

You will not be lost.

- Yes, you're weak. But God is strong.
- He has promised. TRUST HIM.

4.) Brothers and sisters, as I come to a close, let me tell you something that's encouraged me greatly:

- A promise delayed is not a promise denied.
- A promise not yet fulfilled is not a promise that will remain unfulfilled.

Remember Israel when you're tempted to doubt.

- God's promise of the Exodus was 430 years coming!
- But He kept it. Because He's faithful.

All throughout the Bible, God says, "TRUST ME!"

- And He's never given us a single reason not to.
- On the contrary, in our lives and in the biblical record, He's given us every reason to take Him at His Word.

So may God help us to trust Him and to hold fast to His promises.

- Amen.