

The God Who Saves (Exodus Introduction)

Exodus 1:22-2:10

Intro. The story of Exodus is the story of Jesus and the unfolding of the Gospel.

Tyler Staton: "Exodus is the whole biblical drama in micro-form – Creation, Enslavement, Liberation, and Renewal."

- Exodus has a Deliverer, a firstborn son, who resists the temptations that enslave us, and whose death and blood is across every doorpost of those who believe and alive in all those who taste of His love at their table.
- Jesus' life and ministry is empowered and seen through the Exodus events:
 1. Passover – Christ's sacrifice on the cross
 2. Red Sea – Baptism
 3. Manna – Bread of Life
 4. Tabernacle – God coming to dwell with His people.

N. T. Wright: "The story of Jesus is told as the story of Israel's long-awaited new Exodus."

Just like we know who God is when we see Jesus, as Walter Brueggemann said: "The Exodus is the concrete act of historical emancipation by which Israel knows who God is."

Why study Exodus? Because God wants you to know that you can dwell with Him! The Exodus is not about God doing miraculous things so He can get close to you! It's not about delivering you to a better way of life!

Terence E. Fretheim: "God's saving purpose in Exodus is not simply to get Israel out of Egypt, but to get God to dwell in Israel's midst." We must study Exodus because it's all about Jesus!

Phillip Ryken: "Almost every scene (in Exodus) is a masterpiece: the baby in the basket; the burning bush; the river of blood and the other plagues; the angel of death; the crossing of the Red Sea; the manna in the wilderness; the water from the rock' the thunder and lightning on the mountain; the Ten Commandments; the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night; the golden calf; the glory of the tabernacle...From beginning to end Exodus is a God-centered book, a theological history. To read Exodus, therefore, is to encounter God. When the biblical writers recall the exodus, they rarely mention Moses at all; instead, they speak of the wonders of God." --- **AND THAT** is the reason it's so important for us to study Exodus!

- Exodus is the story of humanity's enslavement and God's deliverance.
- Exodus is the story of God's deliverer and the foreshadowing of God's perfect Redeemer.
- In Exodus, Moses would be the savior to Israel, but he could never be THE Savior of their people and the world. Israel and every person living in the world needed a real Savior.
- Moses WAS a great leader - **Deut. 34:10-12** "And there has not arisen a prophet since Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all the land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel." – **No one compared to Moses until a cry swept through Bethlehem** – "who was the One counted more worthy than Moses – as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself." (Heb. 3:3-4) – He is Jesus!

The Backdrop of Exodus is God's promise to Abraham in **Genesis 15:13-14** "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."

- God set the stage through the life of **Joseph** (recap)

- **1:6** “Then Joseph died...”
- **1:8** “Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.”
- Israel went from PROSPERITY to PERSECUTION – from AFFLUENCE to AFFLICTION – from SECURITY to SLAVERY
- In the Bible, Egypt is a symbol of spiritual bondage. And the events which occurred in Egypt would live in Israel’s history and throughout church history as the place where God’s people first experienced the REDEMPITIVE POWER of GOD!
- BUT, the overarching message of Exodus is that God is able to deliver His people who trust in Him. Therefore, the **BIG IDEA** is that **God fulfills His promise to deliver His people, therefore, we can entrust our Sufferings, Convictions and Heart to the God Who Saves!**

The story of the EXODUS opens provides three ways we can entrust our lives to the God who saves!

I. Entrust Your Sufferings to the God Who Saves (1:8-14)

A. Your greatest suffering comes at the expense of sin’s enslavement

- John 8:34 “Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin”;
- Rom. 6:23 “The wages of your sin is death...”.

B. But, Jesus freed you from sin’s enslavement!

- **1 Pet. 2:24** “He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”
- **Col. 1:13-14** “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

C. Therefore, when you entrust your sufferings to the God who saves, you can rejoice EVEN in your sufferings!

- **Rom. 5:3** “...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope!”
- **1 Pet. 2:21** “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.”
- **What are we to follow?** Just as Christ suffered unjustly, there are times when Christians are mistreated and persecuted. **Jesus said**, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”. **1 Pet. 2:22** “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.” What is Peter saying? If Jesus endured the worst suffering and did not lash out in bitterness or unkindness, why should we?

III. In 2015, Thomas Duncan, a Liberian pastor, was arrested after rebel forces took over his village. With no prospects of getting out, rather than get bitter, Thomas began to sing with JOY! When asked why he could still sing while suffering unjustly, he responded, **“They can chain my body, but Christ has already set my soul free.”** Eventually, he returned home, he did not speak of bitterness but of gratitude. He said his imprisonment deepened his trust in God and strengthened his hope in Christ’s deliverance. He later said, “I learned in that cell that joy is not found in freedom from suffering, but in belonging to the Savior who suffered for me.”

II. Entrust Your Convictions to the God Who Saves (1:15-21)

Exp. The reason you must entrust your convictions to the God who saves is because our natural inclination is to fear those who have power over us! **We must ask God to give us courage so that we might stand up for truth in a generation demanding acquiescence to their immoral philosophy.**

A. Your convictions for what God values stem from a reverence for God (v. 17)

Matthew 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

A.W. Tozer: “The man who fears God will never be afraid of men.”

B. While your responsibility is to obey civil authorities, God allows civil disobedience when obedience to human authority would require disobedience to God – Peter and the other apostles arrested for preaching the gospel - **Acts 5:27-29** “And when they brought them, they set them before council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, ‘We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.’ But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’”

- **R.C. Sproul:** “Convictions are not opinions we hold, but truth that holds us.”
- **John Piper:** “What you believe deeply will eventually determine how you live daily.”

III. Mayen Anyang was a Sudanese tribeswoman from the Dinka tribe. She describes in her own words what it was like for her to fear God rather than men:

I was at the market in Abin Dau with my family, including our five children, when the Raiders came. We were all taken captive. I was tied by my wrist in a chain to other captives. The journey to the north was very hard. We had to walk for about two solid days. We were given scarcely any food, and my children were beaten. I have a scar on my wrist from where I was bound. At the end of my journey, I was separated from my family and taken to a camp in Shetep. Those who ran the camp, put constant pressure on me to convert to Islam. About twice a day they would tell me we should all become Muslim, and then it would be possible to live together as brothers, but that if we did not, they would kill us all. On several occasions, this was accompanied by beatings. I was beaten severely with sticks. The upper bone in my arm, now sticks out as a result of this meeting. On another occasion, during the night, they came to me again and told me that I must become a Muslim and that they would beat me if I did not. I cannot change my religion. I am a Christian and I have committed myself to Christ.

What you believe has never been more important than it is right now.

III. Entrust Your Heart to the God Who Saves (1:22-2:10)

Exp. Story of Jochebed's decision and how God rewarded her sacrificial love!

- A. When you give your heart to the God who saves, you are saying, “You have all of me!” I trust God for everything I love**
- B. When you give your heart to..., you are saying, “You have the power to save me!” I trust God for my future.**
- C. When you give your heart to the God who saves, you are saying, “You are all I need!” I trust God for His forgiveness.**

The God who saves is the One who brought Israel from enslavement and delivered them to the Promised Land; Who guided them through the Wilderness as the Cloud by Day and Fire by Night; Who was their Bread from Heaven when they were hungry and Water from the Rock when they were thirsty; Who gave them the Law so they might flourish among the nations; Who became their Tabernacle, the place they would find forgiveness; and Who pictured in the ARK their redemption as He did in the days of Noah and would ultimately demonstrate through the Cross and Resurrection! You can ENTRUST Your Life to the God Who Saves right now!