



Exploring God's Love through the Bible: The Exodus

July 3, 2016

EXHORTATION CONCERNING GOD'S LOVE

Last week, as we looked at the Abrahamic Covenant, we found out that the ultimate point of the promises of the covenant with Abraham, was **Christ!**

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Gal 2:16, 29)

God is SO loving, He chose Abram thousands of years ago, not only to father Israel and inherit land promises, but to be the physical and spiritual line through which the Messiah would come and we'd be saved! How great is the love of God!!

TODAY'S TEXT: EXODUS 2:23-25

- Today we begin to look at one of the most momentous and celebrated times in the history of Israel, the exodus from slavery in Egypt.
- This event was mentioned so often in poems, songs, prophetic utterances in Scripture for a reason. It was a big deal.
- And it connects with the ongoing narrative of God's love and God's redemptive plan. One of my favorite Bibles says this in the introduction to Exodus:

Exodus tells of God's fulfilling his promise to Abraham by multiplying Abraham's descendants into a great nation, delivering them from slavery in Egypt, leading them to the Promised Land, and the binding them to Himself with a covenant at Mount Sinai.

- Truthfully, there is NO way to even approach cataloging the love of God in Exodus in one sermon; to do it right means looking at God's love through the entire Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). **There's SO MUCH LOVE!**
- So today, I'd simply like to look at the **heart** of God for His people, expressed so wonderfully in the language in our Text. We'll take our time and work through this extremely significant time in redemptive history in order to parse and praise the love of God in Christ Jesus for His people.

LOOKING AT GOD'S LOVE IN THE TEXT:

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God

heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them. (Ex 2:23-25, KJV)

FIRST, WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID GOD'S PEOPLE END UP IN BONDAGE?

1. Remember God's covenant with Abraham? God is so loving, He actually told Abraham what would happen:

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the LORD said to Abram, "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. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. (Gen 15:12-15)

2. As God continued to shower His love upon Abraham, Isaac was eventually born (Gen 21:1-5). You might recall the *great love of God* towards Abraham in sparing Isaac on Mount Moriah:

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." (Gen 22:9-14)

3. Jacob was eventually born to Isaac, and Jacob had 12 sons (Gen 25:26, Gen 30, 35:22-29).
4. Jacob's second to last son was named Joseph (Gen 30:24). His last son was Benjamin, who was born as Rachel died (Gen 35:16-19).
5. Joseph was hated by his brothers because his father Jacob favored him (Gen 37:3-4) and because God planned to exalt him (Gen 37:5-11).
6. His brothers sold him into slavery for 20 shekels of silver (Gen 37:18-28). Joseph was eventually bought by Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard in Egypt (Gen 39:1).
7. After many trials and temptations, God enabled Joseph to rise to become the second most powerful man in the world (Gen 40-41).
8. God warned Pharaoh through Joseph of the coming of a very severe famine. You might remember it was Joseph who saved all of Egypt from starving.
9. Suffering from the famine, Joseph's brothers (who thought he was dead), hearing there was grain for sale in Egypt, made the journey to buy some. Joseph eventually revealed himself to

them, forgave them, brought Jacob and the rest of God's people there, and provided for them (Gen 41-50). You may remember his famous words of grace and love:

But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (50:19-21)

10. The point of this history lesson is this: God is **faithful!** Through hundreds of years and several generations, He executed His plan! Through rebellion and sin (there's much we skipped!), famine and betrayals ... God steadily moved His people into His great **purpose!**

Precious friends, our loving God is always working His redemptive plan. Through our faults and failures, our iniquities and lapses of faith, He yet loves and provides for us. Even when we think He has abandoned us, He has not! What amazing love!

SLAVERY IN EGYPT

1. Exodus 1:8-11 says,

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 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." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

2. The people of God went from being blessed and cared for by Joseph to being oppressed and forced into slavery. Yet even in the midst of slavery, they **prospered!** Exodus 1:12 says, "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."
3. This has always been a unique and divinely-inspired characteristic of God's chosen. Oppression only causes us to **grow** and multiply (cf. Acts 8:1-8)! If anything, **prosperity** is harder for us to handle than persecution!
4. But things got worse. An evil plan was hatched: kill the sons of the Hebrew women and manage their population and their threat by not allowing men to live (Ex 15-16).
5. By the love and mercy of God, this plan was thwarted, so Pharaoh devised another: "Throw all Hebrew boys into the Nile river" (Ex 1:21).

THE LOVING HEART OF GOD!

1. Now if we look back at our Text, we will continue to see the loving heart of God. We learn:
 - God heard the groaning of His people! *He hears us!*
 - God was moved by their cries for help! *He loves us!*

There is an image of the cries of His people “coming up to Him.” Revelation describes something similar (Rev 8:3-4).

- God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! *He remembers us!*
 - God saw His people, and “God knew.” *He knew of their sorrows; He knew of their pain; He knew what He would do!*
2. If you read Exodus 2, you’ll see how God spared the life of Moses through the **courage** of His mother and sister. You’ll see how Moses began to be prepared by God in the desert to be the one who would deliver His people from bondage.
 3. If you read a bit beyond our Text, you’ll see God’s loving intent:

And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." (Ex 3:6-10)

PREACHING CHRIST IN THE TEXT:

1. I submit that Jesus is the ultimate **deliverer**, fulfilling in the Spirit what Moses did in the flesh!
 - *Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the **true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**" (Jn 6:32-33)*
 - *Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. **For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses**—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (Heb 3:1-3)*
 - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** (Jn 1:14-17)*

2. I submit that instead of physical bondage, the Christian has been delivered from **Spiritual** bondage.
 - *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. (Col 1:13-14)*
 - *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:1-7)*
3. Praise God for delivering His people from Egypt! But how much more praise is due Him for delivering His people from death and eternal fire? According to the writer of Hebrews, Moses understood this too:

*By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. **He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.** (Heb 11:23-26)*

EXHORTATION TO THE CHURCH

I cannot say it any better than the Apostle Peter ... ;)

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness**, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.** (2 Pet 3:9-13)*

Amen. Thank you Lord Jesus for your deliverance!