

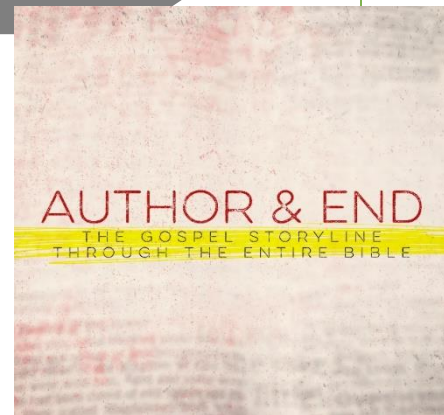
EXODUS 1-13

Lesson 8 – God Hears His People and Keeps His Promise

God's Plan Never Fails; His Promise is Never Broken

GOD USED INJUSTICE TOWARD JOSEPH TO EVENTUALLY SAVE HIS SMALL FAMILY. THAT FAMILY GREW INTO A NATION, BUT THEY WERE GREATLY OPPRESSED AND FORCED INTO LABOR AND SLAVERY. – EXODUS 1:6-14

God uses slavery throughout the Bible as a metaphor to represent sin. Why is this an appropriate picture for what mankind experiences with sin? _____



- Exodus 1:15-2:10 – Even though Pharaoh tried to stop the growth of Israel by law, they continued to grow. Notice that this part of the **promise of God was fulfilled in immense hardship**.
- Exodus 2:11-22 – Though we often breeze over this portion of Moses' life, he committed murder. He was a sinner. Yet, **God saves sinners and chooses to use them for His plan**.

In what ways have you experienced being enslaved to sin? _____

If you think about your own life, what sin or failure makes it even more amazing that God would save you and choose to use you? _____

GOD HEARD THE CRIES OF ISRAEL. WE ARE REMINDED THAT HE DID NOT SAVE THEM SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THEIR CRY, BUT HE SAVED THEM BECAUSE OF HIS COVENANT WITH THEM. HE CHOSE TO USE MOSES TO SAVE THEM. – EXODUS 2:23-3:10

- As you read this portion of the Bible, what is evident about the character of God? _____
- Why do you think God reminded Moses that He is the God of Moses' ancestors? _____

How should the faithfulness of God in the past increase our faith and hope in the future? _____

It had been four hundred years since God made these promises. Though we may be tempted to doubt or forget the promises of God, it is clear that He has not forgotten about us.

MOSES FELT INEPT AND UNQUALIFIED, AND HE WAS UNWILLING TO DO WHAT GOD WANTED HIM TO DO. – EXODUS 3:11-4:31

Notice that God did not cater to Moses' low self-esteem. God responded with a description of Himself.

1. God reminded Moses that He sees, hears, and knows our circumstances. – Ex. 3:7
2. God told Moses that He is independent and self-sufficient as God. – Ex. 3:14
3. God reminded Moses that He had been faithful in the past and that would never change. – Ex. 3:15
4. God taught Moses that He is a personal God to every generation. – Ex. 3:16
(God also does not handle every person and generation in the same way. His character does not change, but His actions and interactions can and will.)
5. God made a promise to Moses that was based on His own character and nature. – Ex. 3:17-4:20
6. Moses' eventual surrender to the will and way of God led to faith and worship from others. – Ex. 4:31

Moses began with the wrong question (Ex. 3:11) and the wrong focus (Ex. 4:10-13). This was not about Moses' identity. It was about God's.

GOD USES SIGNS AND MIRACLES TO PROVE HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE.

Did these miracles make God any more powerful or make Him any more God? _____
Then for who or what were these miracles performed? _____
What does this show about God's character in His interaction with humans? _____

In performing these signs and wonders, God demonstrated His power over all false gods. Each one of the signs He performed targeted a particular god that the Egyptians worshiped. Ultimately, the greatest sign and wonder God performed was raising Jesus from the dead, proving that Jesus is Lord even over death. This conquers all false gods.

The series of plagues certainly was strange and severe. But we must understand that there's something bigger going on than what we see at first glance. God was judging not only the Egyptians but also the gods of Egypt. In Exodus 12:12, God said that He was going to perform the last sign, the death of the firstborn, and in so doing, He would "execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt" The plagues fell on all the areas of life that were supposed to have been protected by Egypt's gods. God put His glory on display by judging these false gods—He alone is the Almighty.

There are some recurring elements throughout the ten plagues (in general, not all are shown in every case.)

1. The obedience of Moses and Aaron
2. God's power over Egypt's gods
3. Counterfeits or failed attempts to be like God
4. Consistent hardening of Pharaoh's heart after the plagues subsided (false surrender and conversion)

There's one dominant theme: "You will know that I am the Lord" (see Ex. 7:17; 8:10,22; 9:14,16,29; 10:2). God let everyone know that He alone is God. We must not miss this overarching theme in the midst of all the details of the plagues: God's mission is to be known and worshiped.

What are some "false gods" or powers that our society turns to for security? _____

Are we as Christians ever seen to be clinging to these same things? What kind of message does this send to the world about our God? _____

How does or will God stand in judgment and power over these false gods? _____

God one day sent another prince to save from slavery. Yet, he was perfect and holy. He leads forth captives and destroys the captor of sin. How should we live our lives after having been freed from bondage?

0-40

A Son in Egypt

- Born; placed in a basket in the Nile River; found by Pharaoh's daughter (Ex. 2)
- Killed an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave (Ex. 2; cf. Acts 7:23-24)
- Fled to Midian (Ex. 2)

40-80

A Shepherd in Midian

- Married Zipporah and had a family (Ex. 2)
- Met with Yahweh at the burning bush (Ex. 3-4; cf. Acts 7:30)

80-120

A Prophet for God

- Returned to Egypt to confront Pharaoh with the plagues (Ex. 4-12)
- Led the Israelites in the exodus and crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 12-14)
- Led the Israelites to Mount Sinai (Ex. 15-19)
- Gave the people God's law and His instructions (Ex. 20-Num. 10)
- Led the Israelites to southern edge of the promised land (Num. 10)
 - The people rebelled; condemned to wilderness for 40 years (Num. 13-14)
- Disobeyed God in how he brought forth water from a rock (Num. 20)
- After 40 years, led the Israelites to eastern edge of promised land (Num. 22)
- Allowed to see the promised land but not enter it (Deut. 3)
- Died on Mount Nebo (Deut. 34)