

Exodus: No Longer Slaves

Introduction:

The first five books of the Bible are a grouping called The Pentateuch. The Jews call these books the “Torah” and sometimes they are called the “book of Moses.”

Genesis is the book of the **beginnings**.

Exodus is the book of **redemption**.

Leviticus is the book of **worship** and **holiness**.

Numbers is the book of **wanderings in disbelief**.

Deuteronomy is the book of **covenant**.

We were made to reflect His Glory!

Genesis 1:27, 28 - *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.”*

The reason God made us in his own image and told us to fill the earth is that he intends that “the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord” (Numbers 14:21).

Sin corrupted the reflection.

We learn from Genesis 3 and Romans 5 that, “sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all men sinned” (Romans 5:12) and “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Because of the corruption of sin, every one of us is prone to seek his own glory rather than the glory of God.

We are bent on self-reliance rather than God-reliance. Self-worship instead of God-worship!

God made a promise.

God chose a man. His name was Abraham. God made him a certain promise: “I will bless you, so that you will be a blessing ... By you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:2, 3). “I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you ... to be God to you and to your offspring after you” (Genesis 17:7).

Abraham trusted God’s promise.

An amazing transaction happened between God and Abraham. Abraham believed God, and God justified Abraham (Genesis 15:6 - *And he believed the Lord, and he counted it*

to him as righteousness). Abraham took God at His word and rested in His promise—so much so that he was ready to obey God in sacrificing his own son through whom God had promised to give Abraham a great future!

God tested Abraham's desire to trust God.

The challenges you are facing now may be God doing the same thing with you. He could be testing your desire to really trust Him.

The New Testament Doctrine of Faith

The New Testament picks up on this transaction and makes it the model of how men and women get right with God in every age.

The precious gifts of justification (being right with God), sanctification (staying right with God), and final glorification (existing forever with God) were purchased by Jesus Christ as He took our punishment on the cross and repaired once for all the injury that all our sins have done to the glory of God.

Why should we study the book of Exodus?

Because Exodus is an epic tale of how God delivers His covenant people from the domination and control of slavery. In Exodus, we learn that we are **no longer slaves** because we are sons! (*Galatians 4:6, 7 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*)

From Abraham to Exodus

The story leading from Abraham to the exodus is familiar and vital: Abraham has a son named Isaac, according to promise. Isaac has two sons, Jacob and Esau, and, again according to promise, the younger—Jacob—gains the birthright and the blessing.

Jacob, whose name is changed to Israel, has twelve sons who become the twelve tribes of Israel. Through an amazing turn of events, Jacob's whole clan—about 70 in all—move to Egypt and in the next 400 years and multiply into a great nation.

Eventually, Pharaoh feels threatened by this foreign people and subjects them to slavery and abuse. The people begin to cry out to God for deliverance, and God sends Moses to lead them out of slavery and into the land promised to Abraham centuries earlier.

Exodus 1:8-11 - 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...

Exodus is a lesson book for the world.

Between Abraham and the coming of Jesus Christ to purchase mankind back, there were 2,000 years of history in which God dealt with the people of Israel in a way that He dealt with no other people.

Why did God wait 2,000 years to send His Son into the world to die for sin? Why did God limit His redemptive dealings almost entirely to this one people, Israel, for those 2,000 years?

- 1) The New Testament teaches us that the long history of Israel was necessary in order to make some things plain regarding God's ways.
 - a) The **incarnation** of God's Son, Christ Jesus
 - b) Christ substitutionary atonement on the **cross**
 - c) Justification that comes by **faith** apart from works of the law
- 2) Romans 3:19(NIV) - *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.*

Three foundational lessons from Exodus

- 1) God's name shall be glorified in all the earth.
 - a) This is God's root motive for everything that He does.
 - b) Example: God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that He could maximize the awe and wonder of His power!

Exodus 9:16 - But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

- 2) God is committed to keeping His promises.
 - a) God led the people out of Egypt because He had promised Abraham that his descendants would return to Canaan.
 - b) Genesis 15:13, 14 NIV - *Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.*

The exodus was a promise kept!

- 3) God's blessings flow from His heart of love.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 - For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in

*number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8** but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

- a) God says in Isaiah 43:7, "I created Israel for my glory." In 43:21, "I formed this people for myself, that they might declare my praise." In 46:13, "I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory."

- b) Galatians 3:6-9 - *...just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. **7** Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. **8** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." **9** So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*

The book of Exodus is not just a story of ancient Israel.

The book of Exodus is our story!

Christ is our deliverer and through His victory on the cross, ***we are no longer slaves!***