

OT Survey Class 4 Exodus

This morning we are going to look at the book of Exodus. We are going to see a painful but exciting birth of a nation. One that Hollywood felt was worth making two different movies about. Came in as 70 people and a family, but they go out as a nation because been there so long.

In Genesis 15:13-15 (promise to Abraham), we will see this promise in part this morning. Where an entire race will dispose of its shackles of slavery and be led out into wilderness by God. Theme of this book can be given in two words—redemption and revelation. You could slice the book in two in two words—1-18 redemption and 19-40 revelation. If you think about the theme of the book of Exodus is the theme of your life. If I asked you to give your testimony, what would you share about? You would share how you've been redeemed and how God revealed himself to you after your redemption. You would share how you got saved, you got baptized he took away your sin and guilt, you made Jesus your Lord and savior, you were redeemed, but you are here this morning and on Wednesdays because you are hungry for the revelation that comes through your whole life after you've been redeemed. That's the theme of this book. As we start in Exodus I want you to keep in mind this question—How is the story of Moses and the Israelites our story even today?

Exodus 1:1- In Hebrew starts “And these are the names”. Right off the bat we know not beginning of a new story but continuation of an old story. God has begun a work Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and twelve tribes and continuing his work. Here they are in Egypt. We understand they will be groaning for deliverance. God delivers them. So they go from groaning to grumbling. You think they would be forever satisfied, but it ends in glory as God brings to the edge of the Promised Land. It's been 350 years since Genesis ends that's where we pick up. 350 years long enough for a nation to forget its history.

v.7-14 Estimated that 1 out 3 people in Egypt were foreigners. Here's the picture came in as 70 people now most likely over 2 million strong. Moses comes out of these people. Pharaoh gave the order to kill any Hebrew boy. Midwives don't listen so he ups the ante to throw them in the river. In chapter 2, Moses is born and hidden for 3 months b/c he is a beautiful boy (now who is writing this?). He is hidden in the reeds and found by Pharaoh's daughter. God sets it up so that Moses' mom nurses him and gets paid for it. Why does this matter?

Moses is one of the most amazing men in the entire Bible (85 times in 84 verse in NT/Jesus talks about him). Moses comes into the court of Pharaoh and has great influence and wealth. In fact it is called all of the treasures in Egypt in Hebrews 11:26. Moses becomes adopted grandson of Pharaoh. According to historian Josephus this made Moses the next in line to be Pharaoh. Doesn't last all that long. One day an Egyptian is beating a Hebrew man and Moses thinks he's doing a good thing and kills him. Pharaoh finds out and tries to kill Moses but he fled to the middle of nowhere Midian.

Exodus 2:23-25- The people groan, but why does God hear them? The covenant that he made with Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph. God is held to His promise. What promise are you hanging onto?

In the middle of nowhere Moses spends 40 years of his life there. He married a girl and children are born to them. But you can split Moses' life can be perfectly into three 40 year periods. Moses spent 40 years of his life trying to be something. The next 40 discovered he was nothing. In final 40 years God took nothing and made something out of it. The joy of Moses' life is that when he knew was an 80 year old failure that was feeble and weak but God thought I could use you. Isn't it true of us too? Once we see we can't do it that is when God can use us.

In chapter 3, God appears to Moses as the burning bush. This is yet another theophany or manifestation of God. Moses goes to look and in v. 5-6. God identifies himself as the God of his fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God tells him he is to go to pharaoh. Moses explains why he's not qualified. Before we get too down on Moses, imagine God telling you that you need to go tell President Obama a message. Think about just the logistics of getting to see him let alone the conversation. Finally Moses says how will I even get the Israelites to believe me and he asks God who He is. In the answer, we learn a great deal about our God.

v. 14- I am what I am or I will be what I be. If God had simply said my name is Zeus this would've been easy, but I am what I am this is a god of being a god of process that will take whatever form He wants. In Hebrew culture a name has great significance (side note- this is probably why Pharaoh is never identified, it was a way of saying he was insignificant). To say a name gives one power over the other. The name defines the person (i.e. Jacob to Israel). YHWH—the Tetragrammaton which is translated I AM is not even spoken in Jewish culture. There is much more you can look into about the significance of this name that Jesus uses in the gospel of John that is worth studying, but for now the importance is that God will not be placed in a box and can't be simply defined.

God goes from here to train Moses and he sets off to Israel. Here we come to where Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh and God uses his power to perform the plagues. My question for you is why 10 plagues? Why does God not bring the Israelites out in one try? Why does he harden Pharaoh's heart? Wouldn't it make more sense for God to show His power in one great act and spare more lives?

What are some possible answers?

- God wanted to show the Israelites His power to build their faith Ex 6:6-7 (makes sense since the rest of the Bible refers back to this time to build faith and show God's power)
- God wanted to show the Egyptians His power to protect the Israelites Ex 7:5 (again this is another logical reason)
- God needed to show the Israelites what he could do so they would enter into the covenant contract with Him at Sinai (I will explain this a little later)
- That God's name will be proclaimed throughout the earth Ex 9:16
- It showed the ignorance and foolishness of Pharaoh and his magicians (i.e. magicians make extra frogs, more blood)

All of these are true, but none of them explain the 10 plagues (9 + the Passover). The reason for 10 plagues has additional significance. God was specifically showing his power over all the Egyptian gods. Look at the following chart. Each plague deals with God's supremacy to a specific god. God was very clearly saying to both the Egyptians and Israelites—you live in a polytheistic world, but I am God and there is no other.

As far as the hardening of Pharaoh's heart, it plays an important role in understanding Romans 9-10 where Paul addresses the unbelief of the nation of Israel. Are you bothered by the fact that God hardens Pharaoh's heart? Doesn't this mean he didn't have a choice? While there is a truth that God is sovereign, it is important to note that for the first five plagues Pharaoh hardened his heart. The Hebrew word means to confirm. God is confirming a choice Pharaoh already made. This should put the warnings we receive of a hard heart in context. We'll look at this in a bit as well.

Now let's look at the tenth plague. Final crushing blow. Do you know why Jesus is the Lamb of God? It roots back to this last plague.

Exodus 12:1-4 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. (NRSV)

Check out this progression in the New Revised Standard Version—v3 a lamb v4 the lamb v5 your lamb—first generic, then specific, then your personal lamb. That's how it is when a person encounters the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. He starts as a way, one of many—a lamb. Then they look at the Bible and learn He is the only way—the lamb. Finally they receive Christ as a savior and He becomes their own personal lamb.

Exodus 12:12-13- Understand something important. If you killed a lamb, you will die--Unless you put it on the doorposts. You were not saved by being a Jew, but by the blood of an innocent lamb. If you were a Jew and you were outside and disobedient you died. If you were an Egyptian and were invited into an Israelites house you would be saved by that obedience. We know from 12:38 that non-Jews went with them to the desert. By the blood of an innocent victim, a substitutionary atonement. Now you should understand why Jesus is called the Lamb of God by John the Baptist and our Passover by Paul

The rest of 12 and 13 the Israelites are packing and getting out of town. In v33, the Egyptians urge the Israelites to leave. Get out of here before we must suffer more. Here take our possessions. The promise to Abraham is partially fulfilled here. Everyone wants the Israelites gone except for Pharaoh who changes his mind.

Now I want to look at a couple of significant verses before we get to one of the great miracles in the bible. Did you ever wonder why it takes so long to overcome certain issues in your life?

Exodus 13:17-18- Why doesn't God just bring them right out of Egypt? He took them the long way—probably 40 days versus 2 days. God knew they weren't ready for the challenge yet. God gives us time for the real goal—getting to Heaven. Sometimes he doesn't make you face the Philistines in your life until he has prepared you for them. We need to be patient. God is making you wait to prepare you for the real battle. You see as much as the Bible story of redemption is about grace and obedience, we can't lose sight of the third component time.

Now look at v.22 We see the Shekinah or the physical manifestation of God. The pillar of cloud and pillar of fire. It represents God's presence with them. It acts as their rear guard.

Exodus 14:29-30- Some people naturalize this miracle. It was an earthquake—God still controls this. Some say it was the Reed Sea and not the Red Sea which is only 18" of water that the Israelites waded through. Of course it says dry land and a wall of water. What was it a wall of water this high? Still God drowns the Egyptians so if He did that with 18" of water it's even a greater miracle.

In chapters 16 and 17, they journey to Mt Sinai. As they are going there is a recurrent theme that applies to every human being, they grumble and complain. Isn't this like us? Short story—no provisions they need water and food. God provides water from a rock and manna from heaven. Manna is 16:14-15- bread the Lord gave to eat. A great study is how this relates to Jesus in John 6 and communion today.

They arrive at Mt. Sinai and we get the Jethro principle—a study on how to lead in chapter 18.

We've covered the redemption portion of Exodus. God brought his people out of Egypt because of his promise. They are part of his greater plan of redemption. Remember the seed must come through Judah's line. Satan will continue to try to destroy this line.

Now God is going to reveal to them how to live with one another and before God—move from narration to legislation—kernel and the core of the nations life b/c law to the Jew is the identity of the nation—covenant to nation—in a word or two give me your identity? In Christ—all that I am now is b/c I am in Christ. Aimless culture, so it is great to know who you are. The Jews don't view the law as a burden, but see it as God's faith in who they can become. We are still called to obedience today even under the New Covenant. John 15, Matthew 28.

Exodus 19:1-5—7500 feet up-- quite high.

Remember where you were, remember what I have done, how I've cared for you. God likens himself to an eagle that builds its nest high up in rocky inaccessible places. Their mother eagle would care for young. No natural protection or provision God provided for them. In v5, he calls them a special treasure for me--precious object. Do you view yourself as God views you? I'm worthless, etc. Understand value depends on what someone is willing to pay for it. (ex. Boston housing vs. Manchester) God was willing to pay the death and blood of his own son. Never devalue yourself. You are the child of the King.

In this chapter, we see what Mt Sinai is like and if you want to do a great study between the New and Old Covenants look at the Israelites fear here and the comparison of Mt. Sinai (Old) and Mt. Zion (New) in Hebrews 12. But now I want to look briefly at the significance of how the Ten Commandments are structured.

The Ten Commandments are in a different form the Mosaic (suzerainty (lord)/vassal model) as opposed to the royal grant model that was used with Abraham and will be used with David. Covenants always start with a preamble that starts with superior party. Exodus 20:1.

Part two is a historical prologue that shows suzerain can carry out the first part. Exodus 20:2. Ties back to why God brought them out of Egypt to show he could protect them. Third part is the stipulations that start with a pledge of loyalty. Exodus 20:3-4. When making contract need to be explicit. Then we have laws. In stipulation laws, focuses on what the vassal must do. Where the royal grant was a promissory contract what God would do for them, this contract is what the vassal needs to do. Next requirement is for safe-keeping and a guarantee that they will be read at regular intervals. This means that each generation needs to re-up. The key is that you can see again God using the format people would understand to teach them the heart he wants them to have.

Now we tend to want to skip through the next part of the bible. The action is over and it slows down. Why would I care about laws and measurements of a temple?

We would miss a significance glimpse of Jesus and heaven.

In chapters 26-31 we learn a lot of how the temple is designed and the role of those ministering in it that points to Jesus and is a shadow of heaven. I'm going to give you a quick glimpse, but there is much more here.

- Entrance to the temple on the eastern side meaning you'd have to go through the tribe of Judah. Anyone remember the significance of that? Jesus came from that tribe
- Menorah is the light in the temple- Jesus is the light of the world
- Bread was present at all times—Jesus is the bread of life
- Altar of incense- prayers of Israelites—Jesus is now interceding for us at the right hand of the Father
- Last veil kept everyone out except high priest once a year—After Jesus dying on the cross, the veil is torn in half from top to bottom so anyone can have an intimate relationship with God 24/7

John 6:46 Jesus said if you would believe Moses you would believe me b/c Moses wrote of me. Where did Moses write of Jesus? Right here. All in the tabernacle is beautiful picture of Christ. Also it's a

model of heaven in a crude form. Heb 8—priests serve at a sanctuary that is a shadow of what is in Heaven. This is why Moses warned to make perfect. You can see it in Revelation 4.

Telling you that so you will understand why so much literature devoted to tabernacle- 2 chapters about creation of universe, but 50 detailed chapters of the tabernacle b/c what it speaks about is so much greater.

Now I'll talk briefly about what I want to call the uh-oh chapter of Exodus--Chapter 32. It gets as much press as the Exodus out of Egypt- Aaron made a Golden calf... goodness in the midst of God revealing himself this quickly they turn away. In 40 days, the Israelites turn to idolatry. We are warned by this experience in Hebrews 3 to encourage one another daily so that our hearts won't be hardened. Even after seeing the parting of the Red Sea in 40 days on their own the Israelites turned to false gods and gave up the promised land. Are we stronger than them? What are you doing to keep your heart soft? Remember we have choice, but eventually God can "confirm" our hardened hearts.

In v21 Moses said to Aaron what did this people do to you? Aaron says, do not let any of the anger of my Lord become hot b/c I threw into fire and a calf came out-- it just walked out. What a lame excuse! Question for you—what excuse do you have for where your heart is? We need to heed the warning of their example as 1 Cor 10 tells us to and find a way out of our temptation.

Good news is that it doesn't end there. Moses has a personal encounter with God that shows no matter how well-educated or sophisticated we are at our core we just want to see God. Then 35-40 Israel starts obeying again and builds the temple. Here's where I want to close.

Exodus 40:34-38- God fills the tabernacle. So now the tabernacle is at the heart of encampment of Israel. Nation of Israel centered on God. God's presence is among the people. We have gone from groaning to grumbling to glory. God delivering from the furnace of Egypt out into wilderness where God is providing, preserving and protecting.

Message for you-- God wants to deliver you from slavery caused by your sin, bring you into deliverance and be at the center of your life. That's why the bible literally says and the word became flesh and tabernacled among us that we have seen his glory.