

EXODUS 1:1-22 THE NEED FOR DELIVERANCE

Today, we start a new study. We are going to begin a journey through the book of Exodus. All Christians need to understand this book. It has been said that aside from the book of Genesis, Exodus is the most important Old Testament book for Christians to be familiar with. The theme of this book is deliverance as a Deliverer brings His chosen people out of slavery. It is about redemption. The providence of God is so clearly seen in this story as well as God intervening miraculously.

We all appreciate freedom and this book explains what true freedom is. God set free, a nation that had been in bondage to bring them into their inheritance. The privilege of freedom is precious and the responsibilities of freedom are serious. We learn from the Old Testament many lessons that are meant for our instruction. Throughout this book we will see that the people who were delivered from a desperate situation, struggle with the whole idea of freedom. They didn't truly enjoy the fact that they were free to do God's will. They made a lot of mistakes and demonstrated

extreme disobedience. They had committed idolatry, sexual immorality, tested God, and complained against Him. All of this happened despite the great things He had done for them as He brought them out of slavery. They are examples to us, even today, as how not to behave in our freedom we have in Christ. This book is history but also very relevant to us today, as of course the whole of the scriptures is.

This book shapes the biblical understanding of what a life-giving relationship with God looks like. It starts with us recognizing that God is the only one who can supply our needs. The most basic need is salvation and in Exodus we see the nature of salvation God has planned. We see what the need, the cause, the purpose, and the goal of salvation are. This gives us a foundation for understanding the rest of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments.

INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS

1. THE TITLE

Exodus means "the way out". The departure of Israel from Egypt is the main fact in the book.

The Jewish rabbis call Exodus the "Book of Names" or "These Are The Names." This is how the book begins with the list of the names of the sons of Jacob.

2. THE AUTHOR AND DATE

Moses, without any doubt, is affirmed as the writer. He wrote the Pentateuch. Jesus had referred to the writings of Moses and the Law on several occasions. The date of the Exodus (1445 B.C.) means the writing was in the 15th century B.C. maybe between 1445-1405 B.C.

3.BACKGROUND AND SETTING

At the time of the Exodus, Egypt was very strong, militarily, economically, and politically. It was during the time of the 18th Dynasty Egypt. This was not an obscure period for Egypt.

Moses was born in 1525 B.C. and as he grew up in the courts of the Pharaoh, he was well educated. This was during his first 40 years. He exiled himself to Midian the next 40 years. God used his education and his exile to lead a nation out of bondage and in the wilderness for the next 40 years. This Exodus marked the end of a period of oppression for the Jews and started the fulfillment of the covenant promise made to Abraham that his descendants would go to the Promised Land and would multiply and become a great nation. Genesis 12

By God doing this He was able to give them His law so they would be theocratic people of God. This made them different from all other nations. By God revealing Himself this way, He instructed them in His sovereignty and majesty and supremacy, His goodness and holiness, and mercy and grace. He was the only God of the universe.

4.MAJOR THEOLOGICAL THEMES

The book of Genesis lays down the nature of the human problem and the basis upon which that problem can be solved. Exodus *explains how* that problem can be solved. This race could go back to its true identity.

Need For Deliverance

The Israelites were suffering oppression and a planned genocide. They were in a desperate situation and the only solution would have to come from outside themselves. Their very existence was threatened. There wasn't anything they could do for themselves for they had no power. This is an obvious analogy to the depravity of man. Humans are clearly not free. They are bent or inclined to do what is self-destructive. When one is in bondage, he is alienated from freedom and cannot help himself. This is quite a predicament. Sin cannot exist in the presence of the Creator. God is the source of life but His law demands curse and death. Just as the Israelites needed deliverance from their horrible condition, mankind is in the same condition. Man needs to be delivered from bondage and death.

Means Of Deliverance

The way that God chose to deliver His people deserves to be studied. He did not in one miracle bring them out of captivity. It was over an extended period of time and circumstances that He used to make this deliverance. It was one plague after another. God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Pharaoh's stubbornness was due to God's work. The point of the plagues was the way God revealed Himself. If God had just airlifted them out of the bondage, they would have missed the point. The point is that the only real deliverance happens when God Himself, in His character as sovereign Creator and Redeemer intervenes in our lives. God had to reveal Himself. The people were to know that He is the Lord.

Goal Of Deliverance

What must deliverance result in ? It is all about God taking up residence in the midst of the camp. Yes, God wanted to take them into the Promised Land, but the whole end of it all was that God would covenant with His people and tabernacle with them. The goal is that all His people will live in covenant with Him in obedience and experience the joy of His presence. The goal of deliverance is not just to be placed out of one place to another. The goal is to share the character of God and to glorify Him and enjoy His fellowship forever.

God Vs. the gods

In the book of Exodus God wants to correct the false view of deity that is at the heart of every worldview except the biblical one. Egypt was dominated by idolatry. There were thousands of temples and millions of idols. There was power in the religion of Egypt for Satan was the mastermind behind it all. Why did God send all the plagues? They were God's battle with the gods of Egypt. Each plague was directed against a particular god in Egypt. Ex 12:12 God wanted to reveal to His people that He, was greater than any god of Egypt and that He had the power to deliver them.

Holiness of God

God established this with Moses at the burning bush in chapter 3. He was standing on holy ground. God is the only one who can really be called "other". Holy denotes the absolute distance between human and divine. All throughout the OT we see God's revelation of His holiness. He even has His people to be holy.

Purpose Of The Covenant

The purpose is not that the keeping of the covenant is the way to God. It is the blueprint for a living relationship with God. It teaches the holy character of God. It magnifies His grace for we cannot please Him by trying to fulfill the covenant ourselves. The grace of Christ is magnified in the covenant.

Significance Of Revelation In History

The Israelites knew that God transcends nature. He broke into human history and the Jews testified to that. They were delivered from Egypt with signs and wonders.

1.GOD'S KINDNESS TO ISRAEL

VV 1-7

A more accurate translation uses the word, and to start the book off. It is a continuation of where the book of Genesis left off. Exodus is the sequel to Genesis. The death of Joseph concludes Genesis.

Gen 12:1-3, 15:5, 17:2,6, 22:17 The promises were kept.

A.Descendants of Jacob

1-6

The rabbis called this book "the book of names." It opens with a list of the names of the sons of Jacob who brought their families to Egypt to escape famine in Canaan. God used their experiences in Egypt to prepare them for special tasks such as being witnesses to the true God, writing the scriptures and bringing the Savior into the world.

During the time Joseph served as a ruler there in Egypt, he and his family were greatly respected. Even after Joseph died, that carried on for quite some time.

B.Growth of the nation 7

In Genesis 46 God said that Israel would multiply and become a great nation in the land of Egypt. By verse 7, this prophecy had actually taken place. Verse 7 continues the Genesis account. From the call of Abraham when God first told him He would make him a great nation, to the deliverance of his seed out of Egypt, it was 430 years, during the first 215 years of which they were increased but to seventy, but in the latter half, those seventy multiplied to 600,000 fighting men.

There were more than 600,000 men who were 20 years and older. With women and children, there could have been as many as 2-3 million people. God surely kept His promise. His promises sometimes seem slow to be fulfilled, yet they are always sure.

12:37, Numbers 1:46

2.EGYPT'S WICKEDNESS TO ISRAEL VV 8-22

Slavery and abortion are two ethical matters that our nation has dealt with or is dealing with now. It was not any different back at the time of Exodus as these issues reared their ugly heads. The awful depravity of man is seen in this chapter as well as the succeeding chapters of the book.

A.The Affliction of the Adults 8-14

As Israel had been in Egypt, some Semitic people had conquered in northern Egypt known as Hyksos. They would have been sympathetic to the cause of Israel. This would have been around a 200 year period. By 1550 B.C. a new Egyptian dynasty arose and evicted the Hyksos establishing Egyptian rule in all of Egypt. During the time of the Hyksos, the Israelites had increased and multiplied in big numbers. The Israelites lived quite comfortably there. "But the place of our satisfaction may soon become the place of our affliction." (Matthew Henry)

1.Joseph was forgotten Gen 15:12-14, 46:3-4 8

2.Reasons for affliction 9-10

The Pharaoh was well aware that the Semites might come and the Israelites would join them. When men deal wickedly they think they are doing wisely but the folly of sin will catch up with them.

3.The method taken by Egypt 11-14

They wanted to break the spirit of the Jews so they would not be likely to run off and join the Semitic tribes. They wanted to ruin the Israelite's health and shorten their days and diminish their numbers. Also they discouraged them from marrying, since the children would be born in slavery. Some

of the Jews had joined in with the idolatrous worship of the Egyptians. In Ezekiel 20:8 God threatened to destroy them while they were in the land of Egypt.

4.The increase of Israel

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Their method had an opposite effect. Times of affliction have often been growing times for God's people.. Christianity spread most when it was persecuted, the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church. The Israelites also behaved themselves so peaceably that the Egyptians could not find any occasion to war upon them. The Egyptians were in fear, so they tried to quell the fear by using force. They wanted to keep them poor by charging heavy taxes. They had to serve in rigor and severity.

B. The Murder of the Children

15-22

How terrible it is to spill the blood of the unborn or newborn.

It is quite ironic. He is the king and they are the slaves. He is rich and they are poor. He had the power to snuff out lives.

If Pharaoh let things just go the way they were, the Hebrews would become more numerous than the Egyptians. But if he turned his army loose on them, then he would be losing his work force. He had to break the cycle without losing his work force.

1.The command to kill Jewish boys at birth 16-21

If you killed the boys, within 2 generations, the nation would cease to exist.

The single most powerful man in the world at that time had made up his mind to obliterate the Jews.

2.Civil disobedience We must obey God rather than men.Acts 4:19, 5:29, Rom 13:5, Dan 1:3,6

The midwives had a greater fear. They feared God. The fear of the Lord is to do what He says. The service done for God's Israel are often repaid in kind. The midwives kept up the Israelites houses and in recompense for it, God gave them houses.

3.The command to drown the children 22

When one project did not work Pharaoh gave orders to drown them.

The enemies of God's people have been restless to wear out the saints of the Most High.

He that sits in heaven laughs at them. Ps 2:4

In the Nile Delta there are literally hundreds of branches of the River so it would not have been difficult to find a place to drown them.

You have to wonder whether the turning of the Nile to blood in the first plague was a judgement for this horrible crime.

How desperate the need for deliverance is. The Israelites were oppressed and were threatened to be destroyed.

God was going to deliver them for His name's sake. He needed to deliver His people to continue to demonstrate to the world who He really is and where the only hope for deliverance lies.

God controls everything as He is the sovereign God.