



EXODUS SERIES - FREEDOM TO LIVE

#1: PRESENCE AND DELIVERANCE

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INTRO:

The story of Exodus exemplifies the main theme of the Bible. God delivers his people from slavery. That's especially true in the first section of the book where God is taking his people out of Egypt.

There is also a Christological thread in Exodus, where Christ is present through the typology of Moses. Hebrews chapter three makes it clear that Jesus is greater than Moses, but the parallels are still there. Moses is a deliverer sent by God to bring the nation Israel out of slavery. He's a picture of Jesus, the deliverer who will rescue all of humanity. We see another hint of the parallels in Luke 9:31. When Jesus is transfigured and speaks with Moses and Elijah, they speak about his departure, literally his "exodus". The rescue of God's people from Egypt is a picture of the cosmic struggle to redeem all creation (Romans 8).

Jesus is the deliverer of all, but he is also the one who delivers us personally. And he didn't just deliver us from bondage to have us manage a few sins on the side that hold onto us. Jesus breaks the power of sin and death that he might destroy all the works of the devil, not just some. That's ultimately true for his people. So, it's true for you as one of God's children. In Luke 4:18, Jesus quotes Isaiah saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." It's where he goes on to quote his role as one who sets the captives free. Jesus delivers from every form of human captivity.

We all need an "Exodus", a personal deliverance while we await the ultimate deliverance at Jesus' return. And we find God delivering us through, until he delivers us from! So, remember to give thanks to the Lord for the deliverance you've already experienced and believe for more. We press forward for more. We fight because the Enemy is real. We fight because we sometimes don't need his help to stay mired in bondage.

Often we can feel ourselves cry out, "God, deliver me from me!" The power of sin was broken by Jesus, but the effects of sin still needed attention. The Enemy resists this. He is always trying to degrade the life we can have in Jesus.

MAIN TEXT:

*"These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. **The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt. Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.***

*Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, **"The Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."** So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they **built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.**" (Exodus 1:1-14)*

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

- God used Egypt to incubate a nation from the family of Jacob.
- The nation of Israel was born in that surrogate womb.
- The season of growth and favor that turned a family into a nation changed dramatically at one point in the narrative (v8)

THE ISRAELITES BECOME A PERSECUTED AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE

- A new Pharaoh comes to power who does not regard the Israelites with favor.
- When things change and favor departs from you, it can be an indication that one season is ending and another is about to begin
- That's when you need "going through" faith; It's a faith that endures despite tough circumstances

HOW WE SEE OTHER HUMAN BEINGS WILL DETERMINE OUR TREATMENT OF THEM: FEAR DISTORTS OUR VISION AND BREEDS ABUSE/OPPRESSION

- Pharaoh saw foes, when he was really looking at the blessed people of God.
- Had he seen God's people for whom they were, he might have invited into Egypt the blessing of God that rested on Israel.
- He saw only the capacity of God's people as slaves to serve his interests
- Pharaoh opposes the creation mandate for God's people "to be fruitful and increase".
- By making Israel an oppressed people, Pharaoh set himself against the God of heaven.
- Pharaoh saw himself as "god"; He did not conceive of a God who ruled as Lord of all (see Exodus, ch. 5), not just a territory or people, but as the Creator of Heaven and Earth
- He picks a fight with God. There is a confrontation brewing between "god" Pharaoh and the only God, Yahweh.
- The plagues are an explicit declaration that Yahweh, is the only God who matters. He is God over all other Egypt's "gods".

"So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread;..."

WHAT THE ENEMY MEANT FOR EVIL IS WORKING FOR US.

- Despite Pharaoh's mistreatment of the Israelites, they still grew into a nation of people.
- The Israelites' increasing number in Egypt was a sign of God's presence and blessing.
- God's people have a divine mandate to prayer for and bless our enemies; our very presence is a blessing.
- God is with his people, and he blesses them despite any oppression the Enemy throws at them
- There's always an "Exodus" form the tough times waiting for those who trust God.
- Look for Jesus in the midst of your affliction. Trust him for the turn. God has delivered, is delivering, and will always deliver his people. Look for "the fourth man in the furnace"; the one who saved three of Daniel's friends in the furnace (Daniel 3:24-27).
- But, "I'm going to worship and multiple even more, even if I DON'T get delivered." –Pastor Keith

"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." (Genesis 50:20)

"And we know that IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. " (Romans 8:28)

Grandfather "hoarder" story: Pastor Keith's grandfather grew up poor in the middle of the Jim Crow laws .He didn't have much and he wasted nothing. Today, he might even have appeared on AMC's *Hoarders*. He never threw anything out, and most of what he kept seemed like junk.

But every once in awhile he made something good out of that "junk" he collected. Something useful that blessed his family. God does the same thing. He makes good things out of the junk of life. Nothing is ever wasted. God says, "Look what I can do with broken pieces!" And a redeemed life becomes an illustrated sermon to the glory of God!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think God works redemption and deliverance within life's circumstances?
2. Where have you seen freedom and deliverance in your life? What testimonies of God's faithful deliverance have you experienced, or seen in others?

3. What do you think of the idea that you're winning even when you don't see it or feel it?
4. Where do you see Jesus in the story of the Exodus?
5. Have you ever looked at someone who bears the image of God and felt fear or loathing as Pharaoh did?
6. How do you relate to the story of Pastor's grandfather who made something useful out of junk?
How is that a picture of God's work in your?
7. What do you think of the idea expressed in Romans 8:28? Is it hard, easy, or even impossible for you to believe that when you consider the brokenness of this world? Does it seem that God is absent, and why or why not?
8. How do you find God when it's hard to do so? How do you look for the 4th man when you're in the fire (see Daniel chapter 3)?
9. In your opinion, how are the patience of God and his redemptive work intertwined?
10. Does the patience of God test your patience with the circumstances he allows? If so, how, and if not, why not?