

### Exodus: **Rescue of a People**

#### Summary of Exodus

##### What God did:

- Called Moses
- Rescued Israel from Egypt
- Established a covenant with them

##### Why he did it:

- So that he may dwell with them,

#### Outline of Exodus

- Deliverance from Egypt and journey to Sinai (1-18)
- Covenant at Sinai (19-24)
- Instructions for tabernacle and cultus (25-31)
- Breach and renewal of covenant (32-34)
- Building and inhabiting the tabernacle (35-40)

*What we are examining today..*

#### Exodus 1-18

Deliverance from Egypt, Journey to Sinai

#### **Literary Context**

How many rescuers (esp. someone rescuing a son)  
can you find in Ex. 1-18? (*study question 1*)

##### Rescue of Sons

- Midwives (ch. 1)
- Mother Jochebed (ch. 2)
- Pharaoh's daughter (ch. 2)

##### Rescue and Reversal

- Moses rescues fellow-Israeli,  
but plan backfires (ch. 2)

##### Rescue of Sons

- Zipporah rescues Moses  
(or rescues Gershom, 4.24-27, named in 2.22)

##### Rescue of Sons on National Scale

Israel is God's "son".

To Pharaoh:

"Let my son go that he may worship me," 4.22-23.

##### Rescue of Sons and Passover

- Passover = rescue of Israeli firstborn sons.
- Firstborn threat forewarned, 4.23.
- Fulfilled in 10th plague, 12.29-30.
- Statute for redemption of firstborn, 13.15.

### A Paternal Conflict over Israel

"The conflict is over paternal power,  
"and in the claim of the first-born the God of Israel and the  
king of Egypt have clashed in a head-on encounter."

Brevard Childs, Exodus, 102.

### Historical Context

Several plagues corresponded in some degree to Egyptian deities.

Nile (Hapi)

Cows (Hathor)

Sun (Re)

Pharaoh (and his firstborn)

"I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt," Ex.  
12.12, cf. Num. 33.4.

### **(handout)**

Route of Exodus

### **(handout)**

### Important Interpretive Questions

1-What is the significance of God's name, "I am who I am" (3.13)?

[Name gave access to a person's very character (OTS).]

(Name of God)

**A~**Causation (per Haupt)

'I cause to be what comes into existence'  
(causative "hiphil" stem).

**B~**Intensity (per Childs)

"...a Hebrew idiom in which something is defined in  
terms of itself...It can express totality or  
intensity. For example,

For Example

**A~**Literal Transl.: 'I will be gracious to whom I will  
be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will  
show mercy'

(Gen. 33.19).

**B~**Intensive Connotation: 'I am indeed he who is  
gracious and shows mercy'.

Childs, Exodus, 62.

**Similarly...**

'I am who I am' means...

'I am indeed he who is!'

### **Pharaoh and the Name of God**

Notice that the name "Yahweh" is an unknown deity name to  
Pharaoh:

"Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go?  
I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go"

(Ex. 5.2).

### **Interpretive Questions Continued...**

Who hardened Pharaoh's heart? (*Study question 2*)

Of 21 mentions of Pharaoh hardening:  
9 times attributed to the LORD  
5 times to Pharaoh  
7 times neutral

Hardening

Need of force anticipated by God  
"...unless a mighty hand compels...", 3.19.  
First active hardening is by Pharaoh  
after frogs (plague #2), 8.15;  
after flies (#4), 8.32.  
Lord hardens after boils (# 6), 9.12.

Hardening

Moses' question, "How long will you refuse to humble yourself...?" implies ability to choose humble response, 10.3.

Note God's restraint:

"I could have wiped you from the earth," 9.16.

Hardening

**A~**Linear Logic (Greek, Western):

Proposition "A" must be consistent with "B",  
consistent with "C".

**B~**Block Logic:

A, B, C may appear mutually exclusive, yet because of  
varied perspectives they may each be valid.

Marvin R. Wilson, *Our Father Abraham*  
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989), 150ff.

### **More Interpretive Questions...**

What is the significance of the Passover Meal (ch. 12)?

(*Study Question 3*)

Annually commemorated miraculous fulfillment of God's  
promise to rescue.

Four Promises--Four Cups

- 1~Ex. 6.6 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and
- 2~I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.
- 3~I will free you from being slaves to them, and
- 4~I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts  
of judgment.

Four Promises Continued...

Ex. 6.7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.  
Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out  
from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

### **The Upper Room Passover**

Jesus' redemption occurred during Passover season.  
He celebrated the Seder (ceremonial Passover meal) in the Upper Room.

He likely referred to Cup #3 (Cup of Redemption) as he said,  
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22.20).

### **Compare**

#### **Moses:**

"This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words" (Ex. 24.8).

#### **Jesus:**

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22.20).

Final Question: Why did God rescue Israel?

(Study Question 4)

#### **So that they could worship God.**

- 1~In Ex. 1-12, the need to worship is mentioned fourteen times.
- 2~To Moses: "You will worship on this mountain," 3.12.
- 3~To Pharaoh: "Let my son go that he may worship me," 4.23, 8.1, 9.1, 9.13.
- 4~Finally Pharaoh lets them go to worship, and requests a blessing for himself (12.31)!

"Serve"

Serve Egyptians (as slaves) / Or serve God (in worship).

Israel's problem:

They were unable to serve / worship God while yet in Egypt.

Summary

The problem of Egypt  
Obstructed worship.  
Purpose of release  
To enable worship of true God.  
When Israel forgets to worship, their release will cease.  
For the "Promised Land" is a conditional land-grant.