

## God is Not Done Yet

Over the last few weeks we've spent sometime looking at the life of Joseph and his brothers.

And the book of Exodus picks right up where Genesis leaves off connecting the story of Joseph in Egypt to the deliverance of Israelites from Egypt.

*<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here." <sup>26</sup> So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. (Gen. 50:25-26)*

Joseph made this request because he knew that the Jews would ultimately become slaves to the Egyptians but their time as slaves would only be temporary.

*<sup>13</sup> God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. (Gen. 15:13)*

And we are going to see that Joseph's request is honored and kept.

*<sup>19</sup> Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones from here with you." (Exod. 13:19)*

In fact they ended up burying Joseph on the piece of land that Jacob had purchased near the city of Shechem.

*<sup>32</sup> Now they buried the bones of Joseph, which the sons of Israel brought up from Egypt, at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of money; (Jos. 24:32)*

I begin with this timeline because I want you to see God's relentless unchanging work throughout time.

There were a number of low points during this part of Israel's history.

When the famine first came Jacob and his family feared starvation. **(But God Was Not Done Yet)**

When Jacob heard that Simeon had been kept prisoner in Egypt he cried, "Joseph is gone, Simeon is gone ... all these things are against me." **(BGWNDY)**

The Jews became hopeless as slaves in Egypt ..

... they were beat and abused and they cried out in despair **(BGWNDY)**

Most of the books of the Bible have one great overriding dominant theme.

The dominant theme of Exodus is redemption but not just redemption for the sake of salvation ...

... God's redemption for the purpose of intimate relationship ...

... God longs to dwell in the midst of His people.

... AND NO matter what the situation looks like or what the circumstances are ... this is ultimately where everything is headed.

Someone asked, "where is the world headed?"

... The world is headed to God! ... And God will dwell with His children.

We can even **see this** in the divisions of the book of Exodus.

- Ch. 1-18 is the **beginning of journey, the deliverance**, out of Egypt
- Ch. 19-24 is the **plan, lifestyle on the journey** ... THE LAW
- Ch. 25-40 is **the dwelling place** ... The Construction of the tabernacle.

As we go through Exodus we will see 2 things.

**First the history**—Exodus is actual history and history is important.

Here in Exodus Moses is leading and writing the Pentateuch and at the same time there are amazing miracles happening throughout the journey.

**Second we are going to see the spiritual** lessons, implications and applications that come out of these historic events.

There is a whole lot of typology in Exodus.

... when I say typology I mean that the **actual event or thing** we are seeing in Exodus is also teaching a spiritual truth.

- In **John 3 when Jesus is talking to Nicodemus** and he says *"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up."*
- While the Israelites were in the wilderness they were attacked by poisonous snakes. Moses made a brazen serpent and put it on a pole, and if those bitten looked at the brass serpent they would not die from the snake bite.
- Jesus said that in the same way he was going to be put up on a pole to save us from the poison of sin.

The Apostle Paul followed the example of Jesus when teaching from the Old Testament.

Based upon this we have a pattern, given to us by the Lord himself, to teach and understand many events recorded in the OT. It is interesting to me that the apostle Paul taught the book of Exodus this way.

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;

*<sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food; <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, with most*

*of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. (1 Cor. 10:1-6)*

That word “examples” the Greek word, ‘tupoi’, from which we get our English word, types.

It is very clear that Paul was reaching into the book of Exodus and using these ‘types’ to teach us spiritual truths. Therefore:

- Exodus is a beautiful picture of our redemption in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Egypt becomes an illustration of this godless world system that would keep us in the bondage of sin.
- Pharaoh is an illustration of the devil himself—god of this world.
- Then the Passover is an illustration of the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins.
- The children of Israel become illustrations of God's children today—believers who have been saved out of sin who are on their way through the wilderness to the promised land of consecration.

## **1. Salvation is Certain, Safe, and Secure**

*Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob; they came each one with his household:<sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; <sup>4</sup> Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. <sup>5</sup> All the persons who came from the loins of Jacob were seventy in number, but Joseph was already in Egypt. <sup>6</sup> Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. <sup>7</sup> But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them. (Exod. 1:1-7)*

Moses repeats the names of the sons of Israel because he is reminding us that these are God's people.

... verse 5 says that there were 70 of them that came to Egypt.

So, God begins this book on redemption by talking about His people and He tells us not only their name but how many there are.

I don't want to over simplify the text but this is exactly what redemption is about.

Salvation is personal and individual.

When you come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior the bible says in Revelation 21:27 that your name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

... that is true for everyone that believes upon the name of Jesus.

Also, Moses gives us a specific number. There were 70 souls and not a one of them was lost.

Jesus says in **John 6:39** that all of that the Father has given the Son none will be lost.

... nothing can separate the believer from the love of God.

It is wonderful day when you surrender your life to Jesus Christ

... that moment when everything between you and God is settled, clear, and reconciled

... that moment when you know for now all all eternity that the God of Heaven and Earth has you name and your number—and He will never lose it.

... God will never **ghost/abandon/discard** you

You need to also take notice that Joseph is not included in the 70 people ...

... Why isn't he?

... Because Joseph was already in Egypt ... he had been sent ahead to prepare the way for the preservation of God's people.

... In other words, Joseph's work **saved** the Jewish people and gave them **security**

... in fact it was only after Joseph died ... when Joseph was no longer with them, that they lost their hope and safety.

... they only became slaves AFTER there was no Joseph.

... In the same way our salvation and security is rooted and grounded in Jesus

... he is our hope/safety and unlike Joseph HE WILL NEVER go away!

... As long as there is a God in heaven God's children are CERTAIN, SAFE AND SECURE.

## **2. God's Blessings Can Lead To Persecution**

*<sup>6</sup> Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. <sup>7</sup> But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them. <sup>8</sup> Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. <sup>10</sup> "Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land." <sup>11</sup> So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. (Exod. 1:6-11)*

Some scholars estimate that from the time Joseph to the time of Moses the number of Jews had grown to over 2 million people.

... they left hardship and famine and Pharaoh gave them the region of Goshen to live in which was one of the most fertile areas in all of Egypt.

... it must have seemed like paradise.

And here the children of Abraham prospered and grew in wealth as they did in numbers.

... things were very good ... BUT LOOK AT VERSE 9.

*Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we.*

After a few generations had died off no one knew, or even cared about the story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams and saving the nation from famine.

... all Pharaoh and the people knew is that they were becoming the minority numerically and financially.

... and the Egyptians were fearful

... I don't care who you are fear will always bring a reaction ... and we see the Egyptians reaction in verse 10.

*"Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land."*

When Pharaoh says that they should deal "wisely" with the Hebrews he doesn't mean fairly or justly

... he means what is in the best interest of the Egyptians regardless of how it impacts the Hebrews.

We are seeing this played out in the headlines of our own nation.

... the world always becomes anxious and reactionary when Christians and Christian principles rise to the top.

... Satan doesn't want his crowd to be the underdog.

This is the very thing that drives mainline news ... CNN, ABC, MSNBC, CBS etc ... will always spin the news against Christianity and in favor of wickedness.

If the recent news reporting on Kyle Rittenhouse doesn't prove that to you nothing will.

**Look at verse 11:**

*So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor*

The laws of liberalism are intended to afflict Christians and Christianity

In many states, last year during Covid, bars were left open and churches were shut down

... states protected drunkenness and oppressed the church

**Listen:** If Satan can't win you over, he will seek to burden you down and wear you out.

*"Nathan you are being too judgmental ... just stay on course, don't say anything ... they are just misguided, in time they will figure it out."*

I don't believe that!

Time has proven time and time again the Satan and world are willfully blind and every bit of their agenda is against God.

... and this is nothing new

... look what happened in Egypt.

*<sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel. <sup>13</sup> The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; <sup>14</sup> and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them. (Exod. 1:12-14)*

The more the Egyptians oppressed the Jews the more God blessed them

... and instead of them stopping and say "we are mistaken the Jews are God's people and we are wrong" ...

... they just amped up their game against God's people.

The devil and his crowd are never going to let you have it for free and they are going to

fight against what is pure, holy, just, true, and right until Jesus comes back and casts them into the pit. (Rev. 20:10)

... and what is true in history and society it true for you and me.

Satan will try to convince you that Christians are stupid and Christianity is oppression.

... He will try to tell you that true freedom is the ability to sin and do wrong without judgment or condemnation ...

... and I can tell you from personal experience that sin is fun ... for a while

... like a fish in the water, for a little while the “bait” is tantalizing and tasty

... that is until the “hook” is set

*I'm reminded of a story of two men—Bill and Jack*

*They were steel workers who worked on those I beams 30 and 40 stories up in the air—like acrobats.*

*They riveted steel.*

*Jack heated the rivet and when it got white hot he would throw it to the Bill.*

*Bill would catch it in a pail, put it in the hole and rivet the beam.*

*They had worked together so long that their precision to throw and catch was impeccable.*

*... and they were best of friends.*

*That was until one day when Jack found out that Bill was having an affair with his wife and Jack decided he would get rid of Bill.*

*He came up with a perfect plan.*

*After heating the rivet Jack started throwing the rivets just a little further away from Bill each time.*

*... and the change was so slow and so minimal that each time Bill just reached out and caught like he always did.*

*... The change in distance was so miniscule it went totally unnoticed*

*... for several weeks ... in fact for months Jack moved further and further out until Bill would have to fully extend his arm to catch the rivets.*

*... and that's where Jack kept throwing the rivet for weeks until one day, the wind was just right, Bill was a little distracted and Jack threw the rivet just out of Bill's reach.*

*Without a second thought Bill reached out too far and fell 30 stories to his death.*

This story is a metaphor for what Satan wants to do in every one of our lives.

But if Satan can't "trick you" into falling ... HE will punish and persecute you.

... and if the first level of persecution doesn't get you he will increase the pressure.

***<sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; <sup>16</sup> and he said, "When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." (Exod. 1:15-16)***

Pharaoh's final solution was Hitler's final solution—just kill them.

... if you study world history you will see that the devil's plan has always been to exterminate the people of God.

- Caesar trying to kill all the male babies at the time of Christ's birth

- Nero slaughtering the Christians in the Coliseum.
- The Inquisition in Spain
- The history of the Muslim faith, is a history of Islam trying to exterminate Christians and Christianity.
- But it's not just Islam. In 2016 it was estimated that a church was burnt down or a cleric beaten on average 10 times a week in India by factions of the Hindu faith.

And look, Pharaoh tells Shiphrah and Puah to kill the male babies—that is abortion.

Like Adolph Hitler, Pharaoh enlists the whole nation to help him kill the Jews.

Honestly, on the surface all seems lost.

But the story doesn't end at Exodus 1:16 ... look on

*<sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.... <sup>20</sup> So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. <sup>21</sup>Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. (Exod. 1:17, 20-21)*

Two women made the choice that the rest of a nation was unwilling to make.

There are two lessons we need to learn here:

One, even if every body else does wrong ... you do right and God will not only bless you He will bless others through you.

Two, God is not done yet!

- Throughout the book of Exodus, time and time again the situation will appear to be hopeless ... that all is lost and then GOD WILL SHOW UP!

- Kill all the male babies ... but there are these two midwives who fear God. [**You see God wasn't done yet.**]
- Moses is supposed to be the deliverer, but then he kills an Egyptian slave master and he has to flee for his life. [**but GWNDY**]
- Pharaoh has promised to let the Israelites go, but then he goes back on his word. [**but GWNDY**]
- The Israelites have escaped, but then Pharaoh's army comes after them cornering them between two mountain ranges and the Red Sea. [**but GWNDY**]
- The Jews have no water and they are dying of thirst ... [**but GWNDY**]
- They have no food and they are dying of hunger ... [**but GWNDY**]

**This is a recurring pattern throughout all of human history.**

Adam and Eve sinned [**but GWNDY**]

Man was so wicked God had to destroy the earth [**but GWNDY**]

Israel fell into idolatry [**but GWNDY**]

In 18<sup>th</sup> century England, the nation was about to destroy itself from the inside out ... but then God raised up George Whitefield and the Wesley brothers and according to the historian Will Durant, England was saved through revival...

**... you see, God wasn't done.**

Sam Jones was a successful lawyer in Atlanta, Ga until he became a drunkard ... but one night in a bar God convicted him of his sins ... and he became an evangelist who was used mightily by God ...

... the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville was originally built for Sam Jones to hold evangelistic meetings ...

At his lowest point, consumed by alcohol, his wife considered taking their baby and leaving him

**... but God wasn't done yet!**

What about you today?

What about you?

Do feel that all is lost?

Do you think that you are too broken and too old for God to use?

Have you done something that you believe there is no coming back from?

Does your sorrow seem insurmountable?

You may be in complete and hopeless despair right now... But I have come to tell you that you are wrong!!!

### **God is Not Done Yet!**

Jesus came, healed the sick

... fed the hungry,

... he taught great moral lessons and helped many people

And the people responded by accusing him of heresy and sedition

... they tortured and killed Jesus by nailing Him to an old rugged cross ...

There at Calvary the very disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ hung their heads in shame and ran away into hiding.

... every friend, companion, family member, and follower abandoned Jesus.

## **BUT God Was Not Done Yet!**

Early Sunday morning the stone was rolled away and the crucifixion was crowned with a resurrection ...

You know what that means ... that means you may have death in your life ...

... the death of a relationship

... the death of a dream

... the death of a reputation

... even the death of hope

But for the child of God .... For every death GOD HAS PLANNED A GLORIOUS RESURRECTION!!!

... You might be hiding in the upper room but God has a day of Pentecost planned

... You might be trembling in fear over the death threats that are coming from Saul of Tarsus

..... But do not fear God ... Has something wonderful planned for the Damascus Road.

There is only one question left here for us today:

Will you continue to reject Jesus Christ and take your chances with the world, the flesh and the devil?

... Or will you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ the one who is always at work ... the one who never abandons His children.

*I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. <sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. <sup>4</sup> Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither*

*slumber nor sleep. <sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand. ... <sup>7</sup> The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. <sup>8</sup> ... From this time forth and forever. (Ps. 121:1-8)*