

The Greater Exodus: From Slaves to Sons

Introduction: If you are reading through the Old Testament you've very likely read from Exodus recently. This is a story that serves as a central theme throughout the Old Testament and serves as the identity of God's people. This is a story that points forward to a greater exodus that is accomplished in Christ. Let us spend a few moments considering the Exodus and what that means for us today.

I. The Exodus:

- A. A. Israel is Oppressed.
 - 1. A Pharaoh arose in Egypt that did not know Joseph.
 - 2. He became concerned that Israel would rise up against them and began to enslave them: 1:8-14
- B. God appoints Moses as deliverer of Israel.
 - 1. Israel cried out to God because of their bondage and God looked upon them: 2:23-24
 - 2. Moses is appointed to return to Egypt to deliver the people of Israel from bondage: Exodus 3-4
 - 3. Moses returns to Egypt and confronts Pharaoh, demanding he release Israel from their bondage: 5:5-9
- C. God delivers Israel through ten plagues:
 - 1. The ten plagues serve as an assault on the gods of Egypt as God demonstrates His power over them.
 - a. God told Moses that Israel would be delivered by His strong hand: 3:19-20
 - b. Pharaoh's magicians were able to replicate the first two plagues with their secret arts, but at the third, they're forced to acknowledge it is the work of God: Exodus 8:19
 - 2. God gives instructions prior to the tenth plague (the death of the firstborn). Israel is to observe the Passover feast: Exodus 12:1-28. After the tenth plague, Pharaoh finally relents and allows Egypt to leave.
 - 3. Israel departs and comes to the Red Sea, the people begin to complain and Moses parts the water and leads the people through on dry ground: Exodus 14
 - 4. Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues Israel but God drowns the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.
- D. God makes a covenant with Israel and establishes His law with them.
- E. The exodus was not just an mere historical event in the history of Israel, it would serve as the foundation of God's identity and their identity as a people.
 - 1. When God gave the law, He reminded the people that He is their deliverer: Exodus 20:2
 - 2. The exodus would serve as a foundation for their relationship with God and shape their identity as His people: Leviticus 11:45

II. A New Exodus:

- A. Israel serves as a type of Christ. The Exodus points forward to a greater exodus that would be accomplished through Christ:
 - 1. Hosea describes God's disappointment in Israel for failing to live up to the purposes that were established in the Exodus: Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:15, Exodus 4:22-23
 - 2. The Transfiguration account specifically connects Jesus death with the exodus: Luke 9:30-31
- B. The New Exodus:
 - 1. As Israel was in bondage to Egypt, we were in bondage to sin: John 8:34
 - 2. God appointed Moses to deliver Israel, Jesus is a greater deliverer: Deuteronomy 18:15, 18
 - 3. The Israelites killed the lamb, Jesus is our passover lamb: John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7
 - 4. Israel ate of the Passover lamb; we eat and drink of Christ when we follow His teaching: John 6:53-56
 - 5. God redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt, Jesus redeems us from the bondage of sin: Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 9:13
 - 6. Israel's freedom was on the other side of baptism in the Red Sea, our freedom is on the other side of baptism into Christ's death: 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, Romans 6:4
 - 7. Israel's identity was rooted in their deliverance from Egypt, our identity is rooted in our deliverance from sin and our freedom in Christ: 1 Peter 2:9

III. A Desire to Return?

- A. I want us to remember how Israel felt under their oppression. They groaned, crying out to God.
- B. Notice how soon they forgot what life in Egypt was like? Exodus 16:2-3, Numbers 11:4-6
- C. It is easy for us to recognize the folly of their desire to return to Egypt, however, when we return to sin we are walking in their footsteps. The Hebrews writer urges us to take heed to their example: Hebrews 3:7-12
- D. The exodus was supposed to define the Israelites and their way of life. In the same way, our exodus must define us and our way of life: Romans 6:8-12

Conclusion: The Exodus serves as a tremendous type of the salvation that would be made available through Jesus. Let us recognize our need for redemption and the blessing that has been made available to us and live a life that is rooted in our freedom in Christ.