



## **Week 14: Understanding the Old Testament: Exodus and Redemption**

**MV:** *"Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions." (Gen 15:13-14)*

As Genesis ends, Israel is a nation as numerous as the stars. Exodus starts and all of a sudden the nation is in captivity. Exodus 1 & 2 covers 400 years.

### **ASK: Was God keeping His promise to Abraham?**

*"Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions." (Gen 15:13-14)*

This is not only a promise but prophecy

The scene is being set for the greatest act of redemption so far.

This is the story of babies being slaughtered and Moses being put in a basket. He was trained in the house of Pharaoh, but he sensed a deep connection to Israel.

*"Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. 24 So **God heard** their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **God saw** the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them." (Exodus 2:23-25)*

### **God saw; God knew. He always does**

God encounters Moses at the burning bush (Ex 3 & 4). He has questions

- \* Who am I? God answers "I will be with you."
- \* Who are you?

### **I AM (I am that I am)**

- God cannot be defined by pointing to anyone or anything else
- always existed
- absolute power, absolute being, absolute importance
- YAHWEH

YAHWEH is used over 6,000 times in the OT

God wants to be known, not just as a specific deity, but as a specific person with character and a special relationship with His people

God sends Moses back to the people to lead them out of slavery and into the LAND he promised Abraham.

"Let my people go!"

Pharaoh stiffens and makes things worse.

What we see is a battle between the God, Yahweh, the God of Israel and Pharaoh, the son of the Sun god Ra (and all the other little gods out there)

Each plague will defeat a little god and the power Pharaoh is supposed to have over these things as the son of a god (the plague of darkness was esp. embarrassing to the sun god)

God is in control of every aspect of the world He created. He shares his authority with no one.

The 10<sup>th</sup> plague finally gets Pharaoh's attention, but it didn't have to get to that point.

*"29 Now it came about at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. 30 Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead." (Exodus 12:29-30)*

**God is faithful to keep His promises and faithful to carry out His wrath.**

Pharaoh could have submitted to God at any point along the way and spared his country

Imagine the scene on Passover night. The family pet is killed, its blood spread over the doorposts, frame, etc. The kids ask why? It's very traumatic. The answer is "it's a substitute. Instead of someone in the family, dying, the lamb died. That was the point of Passover.

The Israelites weren't better than the Egyptians on that night. They escaped God's judgment because they trusted in the sacrifice God provided...

THEY TRUSTED IN THE SACRIFICE GOD PROVIDED. DO YOU UNDERSTAND???

**The only way to receive forgiveness is through trusting the Forgiver.**

The only way to be a recipient of the promises of God is to trust God

Jesus could not have been any clearer that night. He was laying down his life for His followers as their Passover lamb.

So Pharaoh releases Israel, then changes his mind and pursues them to the Red Sea  
God splits the waters for His people and destroys Pharaoh and his army.

**Nothing is too hard or impossible for god**

**ASK: What did God people do in response to all this deliverance?**

**They forgot!!!**

But we do the same thing. We see God's hand in our lives, but the next crisis comes up and we forget. And we have Jesus!!! WE complain. We lose our trust and go back to doing things our own way.