**Exodus: God Sets His People Free**

**Exodus I Out of Egypt I Called My Son**

Exodus is part of the story of God and His People

Genesis 1: God creates the universe and it is very good.

Genesis 2: God creates humans in his image to live in an intimate relation with him.

Genesis 3-4(11) We chose to rebel from God and lost our place with him in the Garden.

Genesis 12-23 God chooses a man of faith through whom to save his people.

Abraham

Genesis 24-50 God creates a people through whom to save his people.

Abraham → Isaac → Jacob/Israel→ 12 sons

Jacob and 12 sons go down to Egypt A family went into Egypt. A nation of God came out of Egypt. Formed into a nation through suffering.

Exodus 1 God creates a people—Israel. But they are in captivity in Egypt.

Exodus 2-17 God sends Moses to set his people free from captivity.

Exodus 18-40 & Leviticus: God gives them a covenant at Mt. Sinai.

Numbers/Deuteronomy: We mess up and God protects us in the wilderness.

Joshua: God takes them into the Promised Land.

In a sense, this is the story of the entire Bible!

**Exodus I: Out of Egypt I Called My Son**

Hosea 11:1-4

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Hosea 11:2 Even as you were leaving Egypt, you were already looking back to Egypt.

Literally They (Israel) called to them (Egypt). That is how they (Israel) went from them (Egypt). In other words, even as Israel was being led out of Egypt, they were already looking back at Egypt, rather than trusting in God.

This is the Book of Numbers!!!!

Who did God call out of Egypt?

1. This is Joseph (who was called out of Egypt 400 years after he died!

Joseph prophesies in Gen 50:24-25

Joshua fulfills in Joshua 24:32 Bones buried at Shechem

2. This is Moses who was called out of Egypt to Midian In Exodus 2

3. This is Israel who was called out of Egypt into the Wilderness Exodus 3-18

4. This is Jesus Matthew 2:15 Who was carried into Egypt as an infant, and called out of Egypt after Herod died. (expanded on later in this sermon)

5. This is us as well!!!

Gal 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The story of Exodus is Israel’s story, but it is also our story.

God is calling you Out of Egypt. (joke: Kind of like Out of Africa, starring Streep and Redford)

Those students you see on campus.

Those fellow-workers.

Those people in your neighborhood. They are laboring under the harshest of conditions under Pharaoh.

Our job: To tell Pharaoh: “Let my people go.” (but I am getting ahead of myself)

We are, with God, calling them out of Egypt! They are enslaved! And Satan is their Pharaoh!

Our text:

Exodus 1:1-7 God turns a family of God (v. 1-5) into a nation of God.

v. 6-7 They are now called Israel.

Exodus 1:8-14 A new king… Pharaoh. He wants to use us for his benefit. (John 10:7-10 Pharaoh is a thief… who wants to steal from you and use you.

Pharaoh is Satan and we are Israel. Pharaoh is the “world” which wants to use you and hold you in captivity!

Pharaoh = Satan = the “world.”

Exodus 1:15-22 But… God providentialy intervenes to save his people from oppression and even death.

God turns Satan’s attempts to undermine us and to abuse us into an opportunity to bless us. Providence! “Multiplication accelerated in proportion to the oppression.” (Brevard Childs)

A very large family became a nation of God. God uses our faithful endurance of persecution and oppression to his favor.

v. 19 The ethics here is questionable. Is God approving of what they did?

v. 20 I guess so…. Why? v. 17, 21 They feared God.

v. 22 When God comes to save his people, Pharaoh/Satan is not necessarily on board with that! The real person Pharaoh comes out. Let’s kill them!

Satan/the world has taken off his gloves. Watch out!

This is a pogrom-a systematic oppression and genocide. One of many against the Jews over time.

Exodus 2:1-10 Moses ↔ Jesus

v. 1 An aside: Moses is a Levite. Amram and Jochebed his parents

v. 3-4 Such pathos as Moses’ mother places the baby in a fragile little papyrus boat.

v. 5-6 God’s amazing providence to save Moses.

v. 7 (his) Moses’ sister Miriam is watching.

v. 8-10 Moses adopted as a son of a great king, as are we!

Like Moses, you were drawn out of the water, adopted and saved.

God takes enormous risks to rely on two faithful midwives to save Israel, to rely on a fragile reed boat to save Israel, and for Moses to flee into the wilderness to save Israel. “A wonderfully unexpected rescue from a humanly impossible situation.”

But that is the story of Jesus as well. Joseph and Mary flee in a last-minute flight from an angry, murderous, jealous king into Egypt.

Both Moses and Jesus are not-yet-revealed Saviors whom God saves from a sure and immanent death.

The world seems so powerful, so invulnerable. Pharaoh and Herod are both totally in control (or so they think). God’s cause seems so weak.

In both cases, God’s salvation of Moses and Jesus includes much suffering and weeping, as a powerful king kills innocent children. The “world” is not fired up about God’s salvation! But God intervenes, and God saves!

That was you!!! You too were in a weak situation, but God drew you out of the water.

But God’s salvation is always a surprise and always unlikely.

Exodus 2:11-15 Moses flees Egypt (Out of Egypt I called my son)

Here Moses is acting out what Jesus did in his Incarnation.

Moses was in the palace of Pharaoh.

In Acts 7:22 Stephen tells us Moses “was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was powerful in speech and action.”

Moses was the adopted son of Pharaoh. He lived in luxury in the palace. He had everything going his way. He lived in luxury, with the best food, clothing, education, etc.

But, Moses left the palace to serve as Savior of his people, Israel.

This is Jesus, who was at God’s right hand.

But Jesus did not “consider equality with God a thing to be clung onto…” (Phil 2:6)

Like Moses, Jesus left the “palace” to live amongst his people, living in slavery.

Like Moses, Jesus offered his life to save his people.

As the Hebrew writer puts it: Hebrews 10:24-27 Moses refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, but chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt. Because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt...

But…

In this section, Moses the concerned Saviour of Israel is trying to act as the savior of his people.

Moses takes (unadvisable?) action. He tries to save his people, but he has no authority to do so. He does not yet have the imprimatur of his Father. He has no authority, which the bad Hebrew guy uses to his advantage.

Acts 7:25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.”

He needs 40 years of preparation.

Exodus 2:16-25 God’s providence one more time! Moses “left Egypt” for Midian. (on the Arabian peninsula)

This “priest of Midian” (v. 16), who is Reuel (v. 20) is also the Jethro (Exodus 3:1) in Numbers.

He is a priest of the one true God. He is a monotheistic God-worshipper.

There were others. Not just Abraham. Job, for example.

Moses acts to rescue (2:19) Jethro’s daughters. Moses is concerned with justice. Moses is always defending the weak and the defenseless from the oppressor. This is what Jesus does.

Moses saves the weak from those who oppress them.

Jesus saves the weak from the world which oppresses them.

Not surprisingly, Moses draws water from the well, and Moses gives them water. (As does Jesus who gives us (and the Samaritan woman) the water that springs up to eternal life John 4:14)

And John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

v. 19 They recognize him as an Egyptian. Moses will become a Jew while in Midian—at Mt. Horeb.

v. 21 Moses marries Zipporah—a Gentile—which leads a later problem. (Exodus 4:24-26) His son Gershom is, technically, not a Jew, as Jewish descent is decided through the mother, not the father. Zipporah circumcises Moses’ son, saving him from death!

Exodus 2:24 A key verse. God hears our groaning. God remembers his covenant with Abraham to bless his descendants and to bless the entire world through him. God’s promises never fail!!! God comes to save!!!

v. 25 God is concerned about his people. So, what does God do? God sends Moses. For us: God sends Jesus. God is concerned about your being oppressed by Satan/the world. He wants to set you free.

Summary:

The Book of Exodus is part of the story which is the Bible.

It is the story of God calling his people out of bondage to sin, to live a life in fellowship with Him.

If you are still in Egypt, God is calling you today.

If you have been called out, good! Let’s get through the wilderness into the Promised Land.

Exodus 3:1-15 Moses meets God. The calling and commissioning of Moses.

Moses given authority from God to go and save his people.

v. 1 Mt. Horeb Mt. Horeb is Mt. Sinai

There is significant debate about where Mt. Sinai is. Is it in the Sinai Peninsula or is it in NT Arabia? We will not settle this debate today.

v. 4 Moses! Moses!

Reminds me of Acts 9:4 Jesus says to Paul, “Saul, Saul.”

Jesus may be choosing you and saying to you, “Ryan, Ryan” or “Sephanie, Stephanie.”

Moses: Here I am

God: Hi! I AM God

Moses: I am in deep trouble! Hides his face.

God: I have seen the misery of my people, enslaved to sin. Suffering at the hands of their overseer Pharaoh/Satan. I want to set them free.

Moses: Great idea!

God: (v. 10) Yeah, but I am choosing you and sending you!

Moses: Uhhh…. Me? Who am I?

God: I will give you a sign. Some time way in the future, you will bring my people back to this mountain.

Moses: That does not help me!!! I need a sign right now! Who should I say sent me.

Moses is being quite unfaithful. It is interesting to note that this key moment in the entire Bible story—when God identifies himself to his people—is the result of a man being unfaithful!