

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 8: Exodus 1-2

Tuesday Night Bible Study, August 19, 2008

--OUTLINE

- ISRAEL BECOMES ENSLAVED IN EGYPT
- GOD CHOOSES MOSES TO DELIVER ISRAEL FROM SLAVERY
- GOD PREPARES MOSES

--ISRAEL BECOMES ENSLAVED IN EGYPT

--Jacob and his 12 sons made Egypt their home and their descendants flourished and multiplied...

--Exodus 1:6-7: "And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. 7 But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. "

--after Joseph's generation passed away a new king arose in Egypt who did not know about Joseph's history...

--Exodus 1:8: "Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph..."

--the king of Egypt became afraid of Israel's growing population and oppressed them...

--Exodus 1:9-14: "And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; 10 come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. 13 So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage — in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor."

--the king of Egypt then plotted to not only oppress Israel with hard labor but to reduce their population by murdering their newborn children. In spite of the persecution God preserved Israel and caused them to grow even stronger in number... much how it is with the church that has only grown stronger with persecution through the ages!

--Exodus 1:15-22: "Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiprah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. 18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" 19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them." 20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. 21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. 22 So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

--GOD CHOOSES MOSES TO DELIVER ISRAEL FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT

--Israel cries out for deliverance and God responds...

--Exodus 2:23-25: "Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them."

--God had promised that through Abraham's descendants He would fulfill His plan of salvation for the whole world.

--Genesis 12:2-3: God promised Abraham: "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great. ... 3 ... And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

--on one level the intense persecution and effort to exterminate Israel in Egypt is Satan trying to exterminate God's plan of salvation, but all the way back in the garden of Eden God declared that every scheme of Satan would ultimately fail...

--Genesis 3:15b: "He [the Messiah] shall bruise your [Satan's] head, And you shall bruise His heel."

--the Messiah will suffer a non-fatal wound (symbolized by the heel) but Satan will suffer a fatal wound (symbolized by his head)

--in The Living Bible it is translated "You will strike his heel, but he will crush your head."

--in the mystery of God's providence, the leader that God had chosen to deliver Israel was born just in time to be ready when Israel cried out for help.

--after the king of Egypt commanded all Hebrew male babies to be cast into the Nile river (probably as a sacrifice to their river god) three month old Moses was set in a floating basket...

--Exodus 2:1-6: "And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. 2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. 3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. 4 And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. 5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. 6 And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

--Pharaoh's daughter names the baby "Moses" and adopts him.

--rather than exterminating the Hebrew population, Pharaoh's scheme backfired and resulted in a strategic leader being raised up to one day lead Israel to freedom!

--and that is always how it is with Satan's schemes... God turns Satan's schemes around to advance His plan of salvation rather than ruin His plan of salvation.

--Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

--even the fall into which Satan plunged the entire human race will ultimately work out for the greater good... because of the fall those who are saved will come to know God's love better than they would if the fall had never happened... without the fall we wouldn't have experienced Jesus dying for us to save us from the fall.

--the picture of Israel crying out for deliverance from slavery in Egypt is another link in His plan of salvation – another detail in the emerging picture of God's plan of salvation...

--the symbolic covering God provided for Adam and Eve's nakedness after the fall

--God's unconditional covenant to defeat Satan

--God's unconditional covenant to preserve the world after the Flood

--God's unconditional covenant to establish a nation through Abraham

--God's unconditional covenant to bless all nations through Abraham's descendants (Christ entered through the nation of Israel to bless all nations with salvation)

--Abraham's righteous standing before God being based on faith (Genesis 15:6, which Paul used as a proof-text for his explanation of the gospel in Romans)

--in the picture of Israel crying out for deliverance from Egyptian slavery, we see that not only is God's plan of salvation based on our faith and His unconditional promise, but it is also based on us crying out to Him for salvation... Even though in His sovereignty He planned for our salvation before we were born, He waits for us to call upon Him for salvation.

--Psalm 86:5: "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You."

--Romans 10:12-13: "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'"

--through the mystery of His sovereignty, we arrive at the place where we call upon Him because He lovingly draws us there by His Spirit... Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him..." (John 6:44)

--beyond salvation, for everything in life God wants us to call upon Him in prayer...

--GOD PREPARES MOSES TO DELIVER ISRAEL

--Moses grows up in the courts of Egypt and God works in his heart and gives him compassion for the his fellow Hebrews suffering in slavery.

--Exodus 2:11-13: "Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand."

--Moses' murder of the Egyptian enraged the king of Egypt and Moses fled to the desert where he lived for many years while God prepared him to return to Egypt to lead Israel to freedom...

--Exodus 2:15-25: "When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. 16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock. 18 When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?" 19 They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock." 20 "And where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat." 21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22 Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become an alien in a foreign land." 23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. 24 God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. 25 So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them."

--the theme of all things working together for the good continues...

--God used the wrath of Pharaoh against Moses to move Moses to the place where God wanted him in order to prepare Moses for his ministry.

--the trouble that came upon the daughters of the priest of Midian gave opportunity for Moses to rescue them and find a home in the desert.

--next week we'll pick up in Exodus ch.3 where Moses encounters God at the burning bush.