

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 9: Exodus 3-12

Tuesday Night Bible Study, August 26, 2008

--OUTLINE

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH
MOSES RELAYS GOD'S MESSAGE TO PHAROH
GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO ALL EGYPT THROUGH THE 10 PLAGUES
ISRAEL'S DELIVERENCE FROM EGYPT IS A POWERFUL PICTURE OF SALVATION IN CHRIST

--INTRODUCTION:

--400 years after Jacob first went to Egypt his descendants, over 1million in number, are enslaved in Egypt.

--God led Moses out of Egypt into the wilderness to prepare him to lead Israel out of Egypt.

--Moses married, had children, and became a shepherd

--GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH

--Exodus 3:2-3: "So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed."

--the burning bush symbolizes the miraculous preservation of Israel...

--Israel not consumed by God's wrath...

--the fire represents the presence of God and the holiness of God...

--in our natural, sinful state we cannot enter God's presence.... like a tree is naturally consumed by fire so we, without God's grace, would be naturally consumed by God's holy presence.

--the word holy occurs 637 times in the Bible (NKJ translation) and the burning bush is the first time that the word holy is spoken!

--without revelation from God mankind is ignorant of God's holiness and our sinfulness...

--Exodus 3:5: "'Do not come any closer,' God said. [*as Moses approached the burning bush*] 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.'"

--one purpose of God's relationship with Israel was to teach the world about His holiness and His provision to make it possible for us to live in His presence through our sins being forgiven...

--during Israel's history forgiveness through the sacrificial system which foreshadowed the ultimate provision of sins being forgiven through the final sacrifice of Christ.

--Israel not consumed by enemies...

--the burning bush also symbolizes Israel's supernatural preservation in the midst of their enemies.

--Exodus 3:6: after God told Moses that the ground where he stood was holy... "Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'"

--because God made an unconditional promise to Abraham about his descendants Israel would miraculously survive the Egyptian bondage and persecution throughout all ages, even to this day.

--the name of God and His "memorial to all generations"...

--When Moses asked God who He is, God replied, "'I AM WHO I AM.'" And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you."' 15 Moreover God said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: "The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is **My memorial to all generations.**"'

--God's relationship with Israel is a memorial to all generations...

--a memorial to teach the world about His holiness and His provision for our sins, and a memorial to God's existence.

--in a sense, the nation of Israel is a burning bush in the middle of world history bearing witness to who God is!

--even in the 21st century... Israel's supernatural rebirth in 1948 and preservation today is just as supernatural a sight to the world as the burning bush was to Moses!

--God revealed His name to be "I AM"

--in other words, God is the self-existent one, the creator and sustainer, dependent on nobody and the one on whom everything and everybody is dependent

--in the Hebrew Bible the unpronounceable word YHWH represents God's revealed name and appears in our Bibles as simply "LORD" in all capitals.

--connection between the name "Jesus" and the name "I AM"

--Jesus' name, which was given to Joseph by an angel, means "the LORD is salvation" – the I AM is salvation.

--the LORD revealed Himself to Moses because He was putting together His master plan of salvation....there was much suffering leading to the fulfillment of that plan, but ultimately the LORD Himself would suffer the greatest!

--in the gospel of John, during a conversation with unbelieving Jews, Jesus makes a subtle remark identifying Himself as the "I AM"

--John 8:54-59: "Jesus replied, 'If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.' 57 'You are not yet fifty years old,' the Jews said to him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' 58 'I tell you the truth,' **Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'** 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."

--they sought to stone Him because they interpreted His words to be blasphemy which was punishable under the law by death.

MOSES APPEARS BEFORE PHAROH

--after God gives Moses instructions at the burning bush Moses expresses fear that he is insufficient for what God is calling him to do... Exodus 4:10-12: "Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." 11 So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? 12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

--God then calls Moses' brother Aaron to stand by his side before Pharaoh and be his spokesman to Israel.

--they first tell Israel what God had revealed to them and Israel responded in belief and worshipped the Lord.

--then Aaron and Moses tell Pharaoh... Exodus 5:1-9: "Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" 2 And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go." 3 So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword." 4 Then the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor." 5 And Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!" 6 So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, 7 "You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. 8 And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' 9 Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words."

--it appeared that the plan backfired... Israel's suffering grew worse and they became angry with Moses and Aaron... Exodus 5:22-6:1: "So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all." 6:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

--during the time that appeared to be a setback God was working a great purpose...

--and that is how it is in our lives too... sometimes when God calls us to do something hardship only increases...but He promises deliverance to fulfill His purpose.

--in Exodus 4:21 God had actually told Moses that Pharaoh would deny the request to let Israel go.

--Exodus 4:21-23: "I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. 22 Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, 23 and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'"

--one might ask why would God have Moses ask Pharaoh to let Israel go free if God was going to cause Pharaoh to not listen?

--on a deeper, by hardening Pharaoh's heart, He was simply answering Pharaoh's question, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?" (Exodus 5:2)

--by hardening Pharaoh's heart to not let Israel go God was setting the stage to make the answer to Pharaoh's question clear, not only to Pharaoh but to all of Egypt!

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO ALL EGYPT THROUGH THE TEN PLAGUES

--Egypt was immersed in idolatry.

--each plague that God brought upon Egypt in Exodus 7-12 was directed at an object that the Egyptians worshiped as a false god.

--thus revealing the power of the one true God and the uselessness of the false Egyptian gods.

--Exodus 12:12 points out that one purpose of the plagues is to judge the false God's of Egypt: "against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD."

--after everything that Pharaoh held dear was decimated he then knew the answer to his question, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?"

--He is the one true God that was offended by the idol worship in Egypt.

--if God didn't harden Pharaoh's heart then it wouldn't have been as clear who the Lord is and that He is above all the false gods of Egypt.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERENCE FROM EGYPT IS A POWERFUL PICTURE OF SALVATION IN CHRIST

--the final plague of the death of every firstborn in Egypt provides a powerful insight – another major link – in God's plan of salvation!

--the final plague that resulted in Israel being freed was the death of every firstborn in Egypt

--2000 years later the final sacrifice that resulted in all mankind being set free from sin was the death of God's firstborn!

--God's firstborn... "JESUS" whose name means THE LORD IS SALVATION ... THE I AM IS SALVATION!!

--the Passover instituted...

--before the final plague God instituted the Passover to illustrate how our sins are forgiven.

--Exodus 12:1-3: "The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.'"

--God first establishes a new calendar year... the dawn of a new era where people worship the Lord rather than false gods...

--final temporal fulfillment during Millennial Kingdom

--eternal fulfillment in the new creation

--God instructed every family in Israel to sacrifice a lamb and put some of its blood on the doorposts of their dwelling places.

--when the plague of death passed through the land those covered by the blood of the Passover sacrifice were protected.

--after all firstborn die, Pharaoh releases Israel... Ex 12:31-36: "Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also. ... Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. 36 And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested..."

--the Feast of Unleavened bread...

--after the Passover God instituted the Feast of Unleavened Bread where Israel was to eat no leavened bread for 7 days to commemorate their exodus from Egypt when they didn't have time to wait for leaven to cause their dough to rise.

--Exodus 13:8-10: "And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.' 9 It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. 10 You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.

--the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread point to Christ...

--1 Cor 5:7-8: "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."

--not only was protection from judgment through the shed blood of the Passover sacrifice symbolic of protection from judgment through shed blood of Christ, but the Feast of Unleavened Bread was symbolic of purging our lives of sin (of which leaven was symbolic) after our sins are forgiven!