

Israel's Deliverance from Egypt: Pictures of the Gospel (Part 3: Deliverance)

Key Principle: The ways in which God worked to deliver Israel from Egypt were meant to picture the gospel. And, not just the gospel itself, but the **WAYS** or **PRINCIPLES** in which God works in the Gospel. You see, all throughout the OT, God is progressively working out his plan that we now as Christians celebrate in the Gospel of Christ. And I believe there is no greater example in the OT, no greater picture, no greater type, no greater shadow, to display God's great deliverance of his people from the slavery of sin and death than the Exodus! I have 3 truths and a summary at the end that I hope will be helpful us to see the greatness of God in his plan to save his people from their sins! 1) Only God can deliver; 2) Deliverance must include judgment on those who oppose God; 3) There is no chance or uncertainty with God's plan to deliver.

1) Only God can deliver his people from slavery. The Hebrews in Egypt were in such peril, that if God did not work salvation, they would have perished. Recall: They loved the things of Egypt. They had grown rich and multiplied greatly. They served the gods of Egypt. They forgot how to worship God. God may have been on their lips, but the God of Abraham was far from their hearts. Look over to Deut. 32. This is the Song of Moses after the Deliverance. There is much here. But, in the first verses of the song Moses speaks of God's greatness and his care for his people. But then, in 15 ff., he speaks of how they turned from him. We read: **"But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; (this was during their time in Egypt) then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known . . ."**

But, God, in his mercy, raised up a king that did not know Joseph. This was the purpose of God to deliver them from Egypt and take them back to Caanan. God does not merely cooperate with a people who "love" Him. Instead, he shows mercy and grace to an idolatrous people. And he does it in such a way that **ONLY HE CAN DO!**

Just this week I read these words from the very end of the Book of Joshua. And these words show just what God did, beginning with Abraham and taking them all the way to Canaan in victory, is something that **ONLY** God could do. We read: **"Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out"** (Josh. 24:1-5). Brothers and sisters, God will do it! He alone will get the glory for your salvation. There is no other way!

Application: It is not by our works we are saved! (Eph. 2:8-9)

Application: The deliverance was designed so that God get all the glory. Everyone will say, “*What a great God!*” We worship God and say, “*what a great God we serve!*” “*There is none like you.*” We must give God the glory for EVERYTHING! We were just like Israel after almost 400 years in Egypt (idolatry, complacent, worldly, trusting the blessings of God and not God Himself, not knowing much about God.)

My quiet time this week. Ps. 80:17-19: “**But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**”

Application: Such is the Gospel of Christ. ONLY God can do such a thing as take on flesh. This is the incarnation. Such is the combination of heaven and earth. This means there is “**no other name . . .**” (Acts 4:12)

2) The deliverance must include judgment upon those who oppose God. As God delivers his people, there is always judgment against those who oppose Him. Deliverance and judgement always go hand in hand. Since the fall, they proceed together in the great plan of God. We see this as God used great plagues of judgment as he saved his people. The plagues are used as judgment upon Pharaoh and the people of Egypt. We know the story. There were 10 plagues, a picture of completeness. The first 9 were the prelude to the 10th, where we see all the firstborn of Egypt killed.

I read so much this week on the specifics of all the plagues, and all kinds of theories on how each plague correlates with all the false worship and idols of Egypt. This may be intriguing. But, the truth is that the plagues were judgment upon the very foundation of ALL the idolatry of Egypt. God will bring judgment upon all those who oppose Him. And it is never pretty! Can you imagine: From the Nile turning to blood, to overwhelming frogs, gnats, flies, the death of livestock, boils on your body, hailstones from the heavens, locusts eating all your crops, supernatural darkness over the land? And then, the worst judgment of all, death of the firstborn! These were not localized experiences. They were comprehensive over Pharaoh and the people of Egypt. And at the same time, God’s people were spared and delivered. So, what are some truths and applications pictured in this story?

Application: There will not be one enemy of God to stand, NOT ONE. There won’t be some rogue demon hanging around. There won’t be any person who opposes God and continues to have influence. There won’t be any institution. There won’t be any idols. Jesus will rule until “***ALL his enemies are made his footstool.***” ALL. Every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess! For the Christian, this means that if you are in Christ, your sins are judged. You have been reconciled, God’s wrath averted, your sins taken away, you have peace with God. Non-Christian - And if you do not find you and your sins under the blood of Christ, you will be judged. Time will run out!

Truth: Since the fall, salvation must come from judgment. Since the fall of man, judgment and salvation always go together. The greatest example is the cross of Christ. There we find judgment upon the son. Yet, there we find salvation.

Application: Consider the difference between judgment and discipline. As God was judging the Egyptians with the plagues, he was also disciplining his children, the Hebrews. Throughout history, God's people have found themselves in the context of judgment. Yet, God is working through this greater process of judgment to mold and make his people. This is the process of sanctification.

3) There is no chance or uncertainty to the plan of God to deliver his people. In other words, God's plan is certain! There is no option for God's plan NOT to go forward. God does not create the world and put things into place and then just let them play out as man desires. God will save his people! God will judge his enemies. How do we know this? What should settle this question for us concerning the Hebrews in Egypt? It is the promise of God to fulfill his covenant; to save his people from their sins. Now, I believe this covenant to save has existed since before the foundations of the world. Adam's sin and fall did not catch God by surprise! And he promises in Gen. 3:15 to send a deliverer one day. Later, this covenant is renewed with Noah, and then with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and then with Moses. Because of his covenant, his promise to be their God, there is no chance He will leave his people in Egypt, in the bondage of slavery!

Even though the Hebrews had become very idolatrous and comfortable in Egypt, and even had forgotten how to worship him correctly, God will not forsake his people whom He loves. And God confirms this truth in the burning bush. After many years of Moses being in the desert, what happens? When God is ready to deliver his people, what does he do? He appears to Moses in a bush that is not consumed.

Moses may have been content to live out his life as a shepherd, but God MUST fulfill his plan in the man he calls. And so Moses sees the burning bush and goes over to investigate. And what happens? We have the story in Exod. 3. The Angel of the Lord appeared to him in the flame and called out, "*Moses, Moses! Do not come near; take your sandals off, you are standing on holy ground.*" And Moses hid his face, he was afraid. And then God goes to tell Moses what He is about to do. Moses asks for his name. And God says, in essence, "*I AM WHO I AM!*" And he says, "*This is my name forever.*" There is so much here. But God is saying, "*I am God. I cannot change. I have promised and I will bring it to pass.*" There is no chance that I NOT deliver my people and judge my enemies!

(Oh the faithfulness of God to bring us back to his agenda! As I look out after 15 years as a pastor here, in almost every one of your lives I could recall the same in your life.)

Now fast forward many more than 1100 years to the end of the OT writings. As we see the same old themes, faithfulness, rebellion, faithfulness, rebellion, ups and downs, etc., . . . Malachi the Prophet preaches. And after him, there is 400 years of silence. Israel is still a nation, but is being ruled by the Roman Empire. We might even say concerning God's covenant with them, they were in the wilderness. But, God has not forsaken his people! Why? "*I AM WHO I AM!*" There is no chance he will leave them! And as the Angel of the Lord appeared in the bush . . . Gal. 4:4

says: **“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son . . .”** Eph. 1:9-10: He has made **“known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth . . .”** Brothers and sisters, this is no burning bush! This is the real deal! This is the incarnation of Christ, who says, **“If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father”** (John 14:9).

This is what we celebrate in our baptisms today! Our girls KNOW God has not forsaken them, but has saved them! This is what we celebrate when we take the Lord’s Supper! God is with us! There is NO CHANCE He will not save his people! I think of the picture of a nursing mother who says, “How can I leave my child?” God says, *“even if a mother does this, I will not.”* In Christ, God is with us.

Application: God is working ALL things to his end! Even your suffering! Rom. 8:28. And God’s timing is perfect.

Let me end with a summary statement. The Exodus from Egypt pictures a greater Exodus by a greater deliverer than Moses. In Isaiah 40:3-5 Isaiah tells of a future time when God will lead his people out of the wilderness, out of the dessert as a messenger (John the Baptist) comes before him. This is the language of the Exodus, which no Israelite could ever forget. The first calendar month of their year was formed by God at their deliverance from Egypt. In the Book of Acts, Paul and Stephen recall the event as a picture of the Gospel. It is a “type” of gospel of Christ. Now, turn with me to Luke 9:28-36, where we see the anti-type (fulfillment).

“Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.”

Brothers and sisters, today we LISTEN to the Son. We don’t follow Moses. We follow Jesus. The story of Moses and the deliverance the type. Jesus is the real deliverer. He is God in the flesh. And He has conquered sin and death as he laid down his life and rose again. And this is something that ONLY God can do. And now Jesus sits at the right hand of God as he waits for all his enemies to be made his footstool. And all of this was certainly not left to chance. This was the plan of God from before the foundations of the world!