

Israel's Deliverance from Egypt: Pictures of the Gospel (Part 2: Deliverer)

Today is part 2 of 4 sermons on Israel's deliverance from Egypt. We began with Israel's bondage in slavery, as it pictures our bondage to sin and the great mercy of God. And as God delivered Israel so He delivers us. Today, we will look at the deliverer. If there is a deliverance, there must be a deliverer! With Israel, it was Moses. But Moses, in the big scheme of God's plan to deliver his people, is only the precursor, the type, the picture, of the true deliverer Jesus Christ! Today, I have 2 ways the deliverer Moses pictures Jesus and the Gospel: 1) The Preparation of Moses, and 2) The Identity of Moses.

1. The Preparation of Moses. Here, we consider how God prepared Moses for his task. In his providence God raised up a king who did not know Joseph, a king who saw Israel as a threat. This king persecuted the Hebrews and made laws to oppress them and even destroy them, not knowing this was the plan of God to eventually deliver them and take them back to Canaan. And such is the time into which Moses was born. By faith, his mother and father hid him and eventually put him into a floating basket, where the daughter of Pharaoh found him, adopted him, and raised him as an Egyptian. In the house of Pharaoh he grew up, with all the learning, all the privileges, all the prestige, all the relationships, of a prince in the house of a king.

And then, when he had grown up (Ex. 2:11), Moses began to identify with the Hebrews. Later, in Acts 7, Stephen says that he was 40 years old and it came into his heart to "*visit his brothers.*" And he saw an Egyptian abusing a Hebrew. And what did he do? He killed the man and buried his body. The next day Moses went to his brethren and tried to break up a fight and give them instructions. Do you remember what happened? They did not accept him, asking, "**Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Are you going to kill us as you did the Egyptian?**" And then Moses, fearing what Egypt might do to him, fled into the Land of Midian. Moses tried to take things into his own hand, in his own timing. But, he was not ready! God still had many years of preparation left before he would ever become the one to deliver the Hebrews from slavery.

Now, back to Moses. Moses was not ready at 40 years of age. God must prepare him further. He must send him to the wilderness of life. So What happens next? Well, he becomes a shepherd, gets married, has two children, and lives a completely different life from his time in Egypt. You see, God must prepare him to be the deliverer. He must learn patience, humility, leadership skills in his family, and the many lessons of life needed to lead the Hebrews in the coming years. And most importantly, he must learn how to commune with God, he must learn through life's experiences the lessons of simple faith. God would not use a proud Egyptian, but instead, he would use a humble, meek, man. Num. 12:3 says: "*Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.*" Oh how far he had come from the proud Egyptian bred Hebrew who tried to take charge at the wrong time many years earlier!

And we know that Moses was a man of faith, even before the burning bush! How? Well, look at the names of his two boys. The first was Gershom, which means "*stranger in a strange land.*" I believe Moses knew his home was not Egypt, nor in the Land of Midian, but Canaan, and by faith, not Canaan, but heaven. His 2nd boy was called "Eliezer" which means "*the God of my Father is my help.*" In the desert Moses became a man who walked by faith. And then the time came as God appeared in the bush that did not burn. And there, he would reveal himself further,

as the great “I am,” the ONE who would keep his promise and appoint Moses deliverer of Israel. As we go to the schools of this world to learn skills, so Moses went to the school of God to become the deliverer. From a young, impatient, quick-tempered, impulsive man . . . to the most meek of the entire earth! He was finally ready!

Now, Moses pictures a greater truth for a greater deliverer. In the same kind of way Jesus was born and he lived 33 years on this earth . . . in the flesh. He was not ready at his birth. He was not ready at 12 years old. He was not ready at 25. He grew in wisdom and stature. And, at the right time, he was ready. I love these words from Heb. 5:7-10: **“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.”** Brothers and sisters, what a beautiful deliverer we have! Jesus took on flesh and he lived the same life we live. He was born. He grew up. He was tested in every way we are! He was tempted by the devil way beyond what we are (Matt. 4). When he died on the cross, it was at the appointed time. He was ready. He lived as we lived. He understands us. He was tempted/tested as we are in every way (and more). And through it all, he lived without sin. Until the time came and he said, *“It is finished.”* And he laid down his life as the true man, the true Son of God, the ONE and ONLY deliverer. And so we are redeemed! What a beautiful savior. What a beautiful deliverer! What a beautiful redeemer! Such is the beauty of the manhood of Jesus Christ.

Quick application: God’s timing is always best. God raised up Moses at the perfect time. And such is the case with every story in the Bible. Such was the case with Jesus and the Gospel. **“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son . . .”** (Gal. 4:4) **“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making 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”** (Eph. 1:7-10). And such is the case in your life. God is working *“all things for your good”* no matter what comes your way. And, we are in the school of God as He is preparing us for glory.

2. The Identity of Moses. Who was Moses? What was his identity? He was a Hebrew. Though raised as an Egyptian culturally, with all the benefits of Pharaoh’s house, his mother and father were Hebrews. No matter what he did as an Egyptian by citizenship, he was still a Hebrew by blood. Moses was one of them! Now, when he first made himself known to his brethren, they did not accept him as the deliverer, though he was their own “flesh and blood.” Many years later, when he was made ready by God, he would go back to Egypt and completely identify with the nation of slaves. In fact, in order for Moses to be their deliverer, he MUST identify completely with them, not just in the flesh, but also in their infirmities, their afflictions and sufferings. When Moses came to them after many years, he did not come to them as a proud powerful Egyptian, supposing he could be their savior from afar. But instead, he identified completely with them in every way. Heb. 11:24-25 says, **“By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”** What a picture of Christ!

He left his glory in heaven! The Son of God took on our flesh. And he didn't pretend to take it on. He did not merely "appear" to take it on. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. As all our children grow in the womb, so did Jesus. And He came through the birth canal. He was born. And he was no different in this regard than all of us.

Growing up playing sports as I played against better teams, teams with grand reputations, my dad would always say, "*Son, they put their pants on just like you do.*" Well, Jesus puts his pants on the same way we do. He COMPLETELY identifies with us. And not just in his birth! Also in his life! As we noted earlier, He was tested as we are. And the great difference between Him and us is what? . . . He was sinless! He was conceived by whom? The Holy Spirit! His father was not Adam the sinner, but God the Eternal Father. Yet, he was born of Mary. This is the incarnation!

Moses identified with the Hebrews in every way. So, Jesus identifies with us in every way, except in regard to sin. This had to be so, or there would be no deliverance from the bondage of sin. There must be an acceptable sacrifice! And think about it! Which son of Adam could ever lay down his life as a sacrifice that would be acceptable to God? Now, I do not think Adam and Eve understood this truth completely. All they knew was that God would send a deliverer, ONE born from the "seed of the woman," ONE that would crush the head of the serpent and make things right (Gen. 3:15). They had God's promise. And by faith, they knew God would do it! But, that's all they had. I THINK they may have thought with each child, "*Is this the one? Could it be Cain? Could it be Abel?*" And when Cain kills his brother and is cursed, they have another named Seth. And they think, "*Could it be Seth.*" I may be wrong here. But, I do know that they knew it would be a man . . . born into this world just like all of us.

But, which of Adam's children could ever be the savior? Could it be Enoch or Job or Abraham or even Moses, possibly one of the prophets or even David or Solomon? On and on we could go. And we will NEVER find the deliverer. There are none among the sons of Adam! **"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23). I think of the scene in heaven in John's Revelation. Listen to these words. **"Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe**

and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:1-10).

Brothers and sisters, which religion in this world can say, “*Worthy is the Lamb!?*” Can Judaism? No! There is no lamb or bull that can take away sins. They cannot deliver. Though they may be “spotless,” their blood cannot cover sins. Can Islam say, “*Worthy is the Lamb!?*” A million goats and lambs can be shed during their yearly sacrifices of Korban. But, they can keep doing this year after year for eternity to no avail. The blood of those sacrifices cannot atone for sins. They cannot deliver! Can JW’s or Mormons say, “*Worthy is the Lamb?!?*” NO! Why? Their sacrifice is not fully God, thereby forfeiting the power of the blood!

Brothers and sisters, God looks down upon sinful mankind and he says, “*Only I can do what is needed.*” Do you remember when God appeared to Abraham in Gen. 15? He told Abraham to kill and cut up the pieces of different animals. And he placed them in two parallel rows. And then a dreadful darkness fell upon Abraham. And then in a vision, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between the animals. Do you understand this vision? Well, this was a common practice for two parties that entered into a covenant with one another. By killing those animals and passing through them, they were saying, “*If I do not keep up my end of this promise, let me become like these animals.*” So, in this vision, God was saying to Abraham, “*I will establish my covenant with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you. I promise.*” And notice WHO does not pass between the animals. Abraham does not pass between them. Who is it? It is God who passes through. God was saying, “*Not only will I keep my promise, I will be the one who passes through the dead animals.*” This is a unilateral covenant! For God knows Abraham or his kin, or any son of Adam could ever uphold his part. This means ONLY God can deliver. And in order to do this, in order for justice to be served, God must fulfill his promise. This means that ONLY God can bring forth salvation.

Do you see the beauty of the incarnation? God took on flesh in the person of the Son, one person, two natures. Fully God and fully man. And this was necessary or there would be no deliverance. For there would be no acceptable sacrifice! This why Peter says in Acts 4:12, “**And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**” And this we remember in the Lord’s Supper today! We have a deliverer! And there is ONLY ONE. His name is not Moses. It is Jesus! Moses delivered Israel to Canaan. Jesus takes us all the way to heaven!

At the end of the day, all of this plan, all of this work, is from God. In the sending of the son, God is fulfilling his promise from Gen. 3:15, which makes its way to Abraham and then to Moses and finally to us This is God fulfilling his covenant that He began before the foundations of the world. We see it with Adam, with Noah, with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with David. And then we see its fulfillment in the New Covenant with Jesus. “This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood.” ALL of salvation is from God. Yet, he uses the things of this world to bring about this great plan of redemption. In the person of Christ God mysteriously knits together heaven and earth. In the Son, we have deity. In the Son, we have humanity (though without sin).

Therefore, all who look upon the Son, all those who by faith receive Him, are all delivered from their sins. So, if you are not a Christian, look unto Him. If you are Christian, by faith enjoy the

Lord's Supper. Be encouraged by the life and death and resurrection of the Son. Worship the God who came down and walked between the animals. And He didn't just walk between them. He laid down his life as a sacrifice. Justice was served. For those who look upon the Son by faith, the wrath of God is taken away. And our sins are removed, thrown as far as the east is from the west.