



HEBRON

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SUFFERING, SOVEREIGNTY, AND SALVATION

Exodus 1:1-22

Why are we studying Exodus?

- All Scripture is from our God and all Scripture is for our good (our maturing and our ministering). (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Exodus is recorded for our instruction and as an example for us. (1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Psalm 95:7-11)
 - So grateful we have Scripture in our language!
- Jude teaches us that it was Jesus who saved a people out of the land of Egypt. (Jude 5)
- Exodus will help us see God rightly so we may worship Him passionately. (Exodus 6:2-8; 15:1-18; 19:9-25)

While broccoli and Exodus may both be “good” for us – what makes Exodus relevant?

- The Sovereign God of Exodus is the same Sovereign God today and He is actively fulfilling His plan to have a people for His glory. God still reconciles for the purpose of relationship.
- God is still as holy today as He was during the Exodus.
- God used a guy who made excuses, lacked confidence (in God and himself), had speech problems, killed someone, and grew up in an adopted home to lead His people out of Egypt.
- God provided for the daily needs of wandering and often grumbling and ungrateful people for 40 years. He can certainly meet your needs.
- The Gospel is crystal clear in Exodus.

The Book of Exodus in a Sentence: The Sovereign God is a Saving God who reconciles us for relationship, which is for our good and for His glory.

Exodus 1 in a Sentence: While God may not save us from all suffering, He will, for the sake of His glory, ultimately save us from every enemy and even ourselves.

- I. **RECALLING GOD’S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST CAN HELP US BE FAITHFUL IN PRESENT STRUGGLES. (Exodus 1:1-7)**
 - a. Who is Israel?
 - i. He is Jacob.
 - ii. He is the son of Isaac.
 - iii. He is the grandson of Abraham.
 - iv. He had 12 sons through two wives (Leah and Rachel) and two handmaidens.
 - v. God does not act because Israel is good but because He is.
 - vi. What we learn in Exodus is not so much who Israel is and who Egypt is, but who God is.

- b. God worked through Joseph's faithfulness and his brother's wretchedness to place Joseph in the right place.
- c. God uses our obedience and even the evil that others do to us to move us into the positions of service that will be for our good and will bring Him the most glory.
- d. Having God's presence is far more important than having His full plan.
- e. Egypt was the land of provision for Israel, but it was not the land of promise.

II. WHEN WE ARE NOT SPARED FROM SUFFERING, WE CAN TRUST GOD WILL STRENGTHEN US AS HE WORKS OUT HIS SOVEREIGN PLAN. (Exodus 1:8-15)

- a. God never makes guesses. He makes plans and brings them about.
- b. Sometimes God's plan for advancing His Kingdom is right through our pain rather than around it.
- c. God determines both the reason and length of our suffering.
- d. Why are the Israelites still in Egypt and suffering?
 - i. God's patience
 - ii. God's proclamation
 - iii. God's provision
 - iv. Growth from God
 - v. Gospel of God
 - vi. Gratitude for God

III. GOD USES THE FAITHFULNESS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE TO FULFILL HIS EXTRAORDINARY PLANS. (Exodus 1:15-22)

- a. Our fear of God fuels our faithfulness to God.
- b. Ryken: There are times when Christians not only have the right but the also the responsibility to resist.

IV. WHAT CAN WE LEARN IN EXODUS 1?

- a. In the big story of redemption, God is creating and preserving a people for His name's sake, and no one will ever stop Him from doing so.
- b. God saves us for our good and His glory. (Exodus 6:7; 7:3-5; 8:10; 9:14; 9:15-16; 9:29; 10:1-2; 11:9; 14:4; 14:13; 14:17; 14:31; 15:11; 15:14-16; 18:8-11a)
- c. God is not just over our sufferings but present in them with us.

- d. Difficult circumstances do not mean that God has abandoned us, forgotten His promises, or is not active in sustaining us. We may even be led through difficult circumstances as a result of obedience and not sin.
 - i. Though they face starvation, slavery, and slaughter, God will sustain and strengthen His people to fulfill His plan.
 - ii. Motyer: We trust God and rest in the knowledge that beneath everything that happens to us is a secret, undeclared, providence at work, always providing, always purposeful, and always on the side of the people of God. (Romans 8:28)
- e. God uses our pain to make Himself known to us and to others.
- f. God can be trusted because He has the power to keep His promises.
- g. We should fear God more than we fear what anyone else may do to us.
- h. Obedience to God is blessed.