

The Strong and The Weak

Read Exodus 1

The Next Chapter in the Story

Ex 1:7 - people multiplied greatly

From 1:6 to the End of chapter 1 - 320 years
Chapter 2 is 80 years

Chapter 3 (burning bush) - at least 400 years after Joseph's death

Ex. 1:8 - new king over Egypt

Interestingly, it was God blessing and provision on Israel
that led them into slavery.

Ex. 1:13-14a - ruthless, made live bitter

Ex. 1:17 - Midwives Feared God

Ex. 1:20 - "God dealt well with them"

Ex. 1:21 - "gave them families"

Ex. 1:22 (Pharaoh's evil plan to kill Hebrew boys)

Is what leads Moses into the house of Pharaoh.

Moses is born

Put into the river

Found by Pharaoh's daughter

Raised in Pharaoh's house

One day, checks on his people... see oppression.

Kills an Egyptian.

Ex. 2:15

When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian.

Ex. 2:23-25

Israel groaned, cried out for help.

God heard their groaning

God remembered his covenant
 God saw his people
 God knew.

The Unfolding Progress of Redemption

Creation, Fall, Redemption, Glory

Creation, Fall, Redemption... Glory

ILL. Nike Swoosh

Covenant Promises

Abraham

Land (arrow pointing forward)
 People (arrow pointing forward)
 Micro Fulfillments (Isaac, Jacob, 12 Sons)
 Great Nation (arrow pointing forward)
 Blessing (arrow pointing forward)

One Story

(Gen. 12) Land, Seed, Blessing
 (Gen. 15) Promise of Abraham - 400 years
 Pay attention to what God says...
 It will certainly help.

Up, In, and Out

Look Up ("I am the Lord your God")
 Join In ("you are my people")
 Reach Out ("all the families of the earth will be blessed through you")

The Patterns of Redemption

"Redemption"

God is restoring things

God works in patterns.

Not necessarily a linear history.

Judgment and Salvation

Death and Resurrection

God is Faithful and He Uses the Weak
 Israel as a nation
 Moses as a leader

Their Story is Our Story

2) "Their Story is Our Story"

They are like us.
 We can relate
 This is how God redeemed us.

Since this is our story... Bible Reading

Month of March
 "From Joseph to the Ten Commandments"

Assumption Breakers

Assumption breakers:

God works quite slowly at times
 God works through people that hate him
 God works in spite of faithless people
 God uses bad circumstances for his purpose.
 God many times responds to wrongly motivated prayers.

God hears the cry of his people.

God still responds to the prayers of "wrongly motivated" prayers.

They wanted relief from their situation... thinking that relief would be there answer.

Then, when they are brought relief...
 they grumble b/c of another situation.

App. What we want for our kids?

We want hard-working, successful kids.

We desire comfort for them.

God uses all things:

- 1) Bad situations
- 2) Rebellion of his people

We can sign off on the first one...
 God can use bad things.

But we don't sign off on rebellion as a tool of God's ...
 We don't have hope when we see hardness in the hearts of people around us.

But couldn't it be that God will use rebellion in order to work in people's lives...
 For his glory and our good.

Exodus 1

Fruitful and increased greatly
 Multiplied and grew exceedingly strong

Yet, their lives were "made bitter with hard service"
 In the middle of it,
 they only see the oppression... not that God is fulfilling his plan.

ILL. Call of Moses

The call of Moses is an illustration of Exodus 1.

Uses the weak
 God is faithful.

God continues...

(v. 7-9) I am going to do something.

"I" used 5 times in these verses.
 "I will do these things..."

With each phrase,
 You can feel Moses nodding his head with every subsequent sentence.

"I have seen the misery of my people" (sense of relief)
 "I have heard them crying" ("yes")
 "I am concerned about their suffering" (nodding)
 "I have come down to rescue them" (Thank you)
 "I have seen the way Egypt has oppressed them" ("what we've been waiting for")

(v. 10) "So no, go. I am sending you for me"
 "What? That is not the picture I had in mind."

That sentence brings the story to a screeching halt.

"God, I thought you were going to rescue the people."

God says, "I will, but I'm sending you for that purpose."

(v. 11) "Who am I?"

He is completely insecure.

He is completely overwhelmed by the task set before him.

God Meets Our Insecurity with His Presence

(v. 12)

God's point here... I will back you.

You are not going alone.

(v. 13)

Moses is saying, "I don't have any credibility, no authority."

"They're not going to listen to me."

(v. 14)

"I AM"

He gives us his name,

because to go for him.

(v. 15)

"God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob"

"This is my name forever."

*** The God of the universe

Perfect, holy, completely set apart...

Takes on the name of those he loves.