

09. God rescues a people for himself

Exodus 1-15

1. INTRO
 - a. You are in the midst of an epic story
 - b. You should be excited about that - I am
 - i. Then again, I'm kind of a geek
 - c. But whether you like hunting, football, movies, or a good adventure love story, this should excite you too
2. WHAT DOES THE STORY SAY? Notes in addition to personal notes in columns
 - a. Joseph dies/forgotten, God protects Israel through sheer number (400 years)
 - i. Echoing the command in the Garden
 - b. Israel oppressed, babies killed, Moses floats, raised by Pharaoh's house
 - c. Moses tries to throw off the yoke of Egypt
 - d. Spends 40 years in the wilderness, until God speaks to him in the burning bush
 - i. "I AM THAT I AM" → I am the real God, not like these pagan gods of the X
 - e. Go and tell Pharaoh to let my people go that they may serve me...
 - i. Aaron (cousin) goes with him as mouthpiece of Moses...
 - f. Three triads of plagues using natural elements for supernatural purpose (we tend to ignore the natural, explain it away)
 - i. Prologue → Aaron's staff turns into a serpent, Sorcerers mimic the same, but aaron's staff swallowed theirs (there's only one God here, pal...)
 - ii. Triad 1: water to blood, swarms of frogs (magicians duplicate), swarms of gnats (The magicians can't duplicate b/c it is 8:19, finger of God)
 - iii. Triad 2: flies, livestock death, and boils
 1. God shows himself powerful yet intimate by only impacting Egyptians and not the Israelites
 - iv. Triad 3: hail, locusts, and darkness
 1. Pharaoh himself wrestles with God, the demigod king believes too much of his own press
 2. The darkness isn't just night, it is a "darkness that can be felt" → A direct attack against the sun-god Ra and Egypt's power structure
 - v. All this is to show Pharaoh, "my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth [and not these false gods]." (Exodus 9:16)
 - g. Passover → the first of two supernatural miracles
 - i. Exodus 15, Psalm 74:2 → God purchased his people out of Egypt w/ great deeds (redemption)
 - h. Red Sea → the deathknell to Egypt
 - i. A decisive break into a new creation
3. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT GOD?

- a. **God is who God is (I AM THAT I AM)**
 - i. He defines who he is, not us (c.f. Garden)
 - b. **God is a warrior and he has declared war**
 - i. Against false gods → all the things they worshipped, thought they could control, thought they understood, their worldview
 - 1. The Nile, the lifeblood of Egypt turns to blood
 - 2. Frogs (harvest time fertility and blessing)
 - 3. Gnats
 - 4. Flies → amulets worn for protection and blessing
 - 5. Animals → the deification of animals (think modern day hinduism)
 - 6. Boils → Sekhmet, Serapis → all the gods of disease, healing
 - 7. Hail → gods of the crops, gods of the weather
 - 8. And on and on
 - 9. The point: I AM THAT I AM. I am the ONLY God, and I will not be mocked
 - 10. Ultimately, people who think they are God (Garden of Eden), Pharaoh
 - a. Pharaoh redefines good and evil → kills babies and says that it is good to do so
 - ii. Against that which enslaves us → Sin
 - c. **God is a compassionate rescuer (Zephaniah 3:17)**
 - i. This isn't uncontrollable rage like the Hulk hoping you point him in the right direction.
 - ii. God is love, he must be stirred to wrath, and even his wrath is shaped by his love.
 - iii. There is purpose in it, "Let my people go that they may serve me"
 - iv. God is rescuing in order to create a new people, to start a new kingdom w/ him as the king and those who have been rescued as his subjects
 - d. **God is a redeemer**
 - i. The Hebrew people went from being slaves in Egypt to subjects of God
 - 1. Purchased w/ the blood that was spilt, mighty works and deeds
 - ii. God purchases our redemption as well, spiritually
 - 1. Not w/ the blood of animals, but w/ the precious blood of God
 - iii. No longer are we slaves to sin, but now we are slaves to righteousness
 - 1. We have a new master
4. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT MAN?
- a. **You need to be rescued**
 - i. What are you trusting in to save you after you die?
 - 1. That's what you worship, your false god
 - ii. What do you dream about?
 - 1. That's what you worship, your false god
 - iii. What do you depend on when life goes south?
 - 1. That's what you worship, your false god

- iv. What defines good and evil for you if not God in his word?
 - 1. That's your false god
 - v. And God came to execute and rescue you from your false gods, idols
 - b. You can't rescue yourself**
 - i. Moses couldn't do it in his own power
 - ii. Pharaoh's false faith and false repentance wasn't enough to save him
 - 1. Acknowledging the miracles occurred wasn't salvific
 - 2. "False contrition" in the moment wasn't salvific
 - iii. Only those who trusted in the Word of God and put the lamb's blood on the doorposts were redeemed/rescued
 - iv. You can be rescued through faith in the rescuer
 - 1. Trusting in him, surrendering to him, following him out of Egypt
 - c. Having been rescued, you belong to God - a new people w/ a job to do**
 - i. Purchased by God, recreated, to serve him
5. WHY TEACH ON THIS STORY?
- a. The exodus becomes the Bible's key picture for the whole Bible.
 - b. Through Moses God redeems his people from slavery in Egypt, Christ redeems them from slavery to sin
 - c. The Hebrew people suffered under bitter conditions, humanity is suffering under sin
 - d. Pharaoh refuses to recognize the true God despite miracles, the same way so many refuse to acknowledge God although he is apparent
 - e. Deliverance through the blood of a lamb prefigures the coming of the Lamb of God to obtain final salvation through his death (John 1:29).
 - f. 14:22 The people go down symbolically into death (dry Red Sea) and come up alive, prefiguring the reception of resurrection life through Christ
6. IF IT IS TRUE, WHAT DO I DO?
- a. Those who don't know Jesus: Zephaniah 3:17ff
 - i. The Lord is your warrior.
 - ii. The Lord loves you
 - 1. God is love, he needs to be stirred to wrath
 - 2. "I don't deserve it" → none of us do
 - iii. You don't need to earn anything, he has done everything to have a relationship with you (it is finished)
 - 1. Stop trying to be good enough, religious enough, do the right things
 - 2. Now he says, trust me, surrender to me, follow me.
 - 3. If you are ready to do that, let us know
 - b. Those who do know Jesus:
 - i. All this is to show Pharaoh, "my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth [and not these false gods]." (Exodus 9:16)
 - ii. What if we realized that we were truly in the midst of the most amazing story ever written - the Story of God?

1. An epic tale without compare
2. The seed of all other stories of heroes and villains (eternity on our hearts)
3. What if instead of living out the call to adventure on our lives vicariously through...
4. Video games, sports, traveling, social media narcissism, our kids, and everything else under the sun
5. We actually embraced this reality:
 - a. God is a warrior. The battle is won. Now he invites you...
 - b. To plunder the outposts of hell. To follow him as he wades through the enemy, broadsword swinging back and forth, to rescue other people from the grips of adversary
- iii. What if we truly realized this?! How different would you look at reality? At your days? At your resources?
- iv. You have been rescued by a warrior to be his people - to serve him
 1. Recruited for a great cause
- v. We've been redeemed to redeem. We've been rescued to go and proclaim the rescuer. We've been reconciled to embrace the ministry of reconciliation
- c. What would this look like:
 - i. As a community...
 - ii. As Discipleship Groups...
 - iii. As individuals...
- d. We like to look at the miracles in this story and be amazed. All those miracles are temporary, fading.
- e. Do you know what the greatest miracle is? God rescuing people from hell forever.
- f. And we are invited to be a part of that. Let's join him.