

“Freedom Takes Force ...and a Lamb”

Exodus

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Exodus 3 ...The Moment of Freedom Comes!

INTRO ...

...So, how do you read "The Exodus Story"

?? – When you pick up your Bible to read it and it unfolds the story of Abraham or Moses

...or the Exodus--What Guides Your "Use & Application" of What You're Reading?

"The Exodus of God's people out of Egypt is "the greatest redemptive event in the Old Testament," says Don Carson. ... if the world of publishing today talks about the cross-centered life, and the cross-centered church, it would seem that a fitting analogy would be to perhaps imagine Old Testament era saints to have been inspired to write and publish books on the Exodus-centered life and the Exodus-centered synagogue.

It is a major key to understand the Old Testament, and it is a major key to unlocking the meaning of the entire Biblical plotline. **Tony Reinke** (Desiring God)

"...the exodus controls a great deal of the discussion of the entire rest of the Old Testament. Think, for example, the way the Ten Commandments begin in Exodus 20. And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (verse 2). And then the commandments begin: "You shall have no other gods before me" (verse 3).

So, although the commandment to worship God and adhere to him is sometimes grounded in creation — God's sovereign, providential, kingly rule; he is their Maker and their Judge — here in this case it is grounded in their redemption; that is, their redemption from slavery. And that becomes the basis for a very large number of prophetic appeals for psalmic meditation and so on. **D.A. Carson**, Ask Pastor John — episode 913

"Exodus" (Webster) = *a mass departure* ...from the Greek word *Exodos*, which literally means "the road out."

- The Exodus story is an "Illustration" of Our Story! ...Humanity is dwelling in a house of slavery, until God's mighty hand and a lamb touch our lives and we come into a covenant relationship with God!

"Freedom Requires FORCE...and a Lamb!"

Ex 3:7-9 ... Intro to a Human Condition ...

...Exodus is a "Historical Story"—Handpicked by God as a Means of REVEALING the Bigger "Human Story"

(remember, "Egypt & Canaan are NOT the Ultimate Places ...Moses is NOT the Ultimate Deliverer

...Pharaoh is NOT the ultimate human oppressor ...the Passover Lamb is NOT the Ultimate Lamb —BUT, they all bring "Clarifying Insights" into the Human Story and into Our Personal Stories!

...v. 7-9 ...**the Human Condition => "affliction" ... "people crying out" ... "taskmasters" ... "sufferings" ... "oppression"** ...Ecc – describes a relentless “vanity”

...**Rom 8:21** “that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

-- If I'm reading my Bible carefully, these descriptive words "stick-to-me". ...They describe the "Human Condition"—and at Some Level—MY CONDITION!!

...This Vivid Description (bondage, oppression, affliction!)... PREPARES ME for This Ultimate Revelation—

Lk 4:16-19 ¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

...Everyone in That Synagogue on That Day Felt the SIGNIFICANCE of Such a Moment Being Described ...Because it was learned by the VIVID Description in Exodus 3!

Ex 3:10, 19-20 ... Freedom Requires FORCE! (A Helpful "Life-Lesson"!!)

...Freedom will require FORCE! ...The Enslaving Forces of This World are NOT COOPERATIVE Forces!
...THEIR Force requires Another Force to Overcome it!!

v. 20 "...I will stretch out my hand ...wonders that I will do in it"

- The Longed-for Day of Freedom! ...

...The Exodus is a "Hand-picked-Story" that reveals that there are "Forces in This Fallen World" that have the power to ENSLAVE Man!

...There comes a Day when "Power & Authority" need to Show Up and CAUSE a day of Freedom to Arrive

..."Power & Authority" = the N.T. Greek word '*exousia*' ...THAT's what God was demonstrating in the 10 Plagues! HIS "Right" as the Sovereign Creator to command creation to do whatever he chooses.

- ...the 10 Plagues Touched the Things Held "powerful & sacred & exalted" by the Egyptians
...God shows up and Commands them all!!—right down to the Progeny of the god Pharaoh!

...Jesus earthly ministry was one of "Demonstrating God's AUTHORITY/POWER Over Creation—Over all the Things that Man is Enslaved, Controlled, and Afraid of—disease, death, demons,

Rom 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

- **Moses ponders the right question, when it comes to Displacing Enslaving & Immovable Forces in This World –**

Ex 3:9-12 ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "But I will be with you, ..."

...Who am I that Pharaoh will YIELD to me??? ...THIS is the Right Question—as Humanity Stares at the FORCES of This World!!

The Exodus is the Biblical "Episode/Chapter" that Introduces, Features, and Clarifies humanity's RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY (Enslavement, control, forced labor, a human will that's chained!) ...and This "Captivity" is NOT merely about Powerful Pharaohs!

?? – How Many of Us Aren't Students of God Being Our Deliverer—Because We Think, "I've Got This!"
...my 'position' ...my 'power' ...my 'personality'—I got this!

?? – How many of us find little use for God's Deliverance--because we think the only "evil" is "out there"!!

- **Rom 6, 7 ...When freedom "ultimately" gets explained to us, it is about MUCH MORE than nations, tribes, people groups, governmental structures, and sunup to sundown labors!!**

Rom 7:21-24 ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

—there is an "inner force" that is actively in me and it is at war and keeping me captive! ...I've got my own "Pharaoh & an Army of Egyptians" INSIDE of Me!!

Eph 2:1-3 ¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

What Does it Take to Depart from the Controlling Powers of Sin, Satan, & Corruption? ...Who am I—that these forces should listen to me??

...FREEDOM Takes the Mighty Hand of God ...and a LAMB

Ex 6:1-6

...v. 1 ...Exodus is a "GOD-Centered Event!" ... "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh"

...v. 2-5 ...for "God-Motivated Reasons! ...Not because of man-centered performance

...v. 6 ... freedom from this enslavement and redemption requires JUDGMENT!

"Freedom" Doesn't Just Take FORCE—It Also Takes a LAMB!!

Ex 12:1-3, 5-6, 11-13

v. 1-2 ...This Marks a NEW Defining Moment For you!! ...v. 11 ...Be Ready to Live Your Life at a NEW ADDRESS!!

v. 3, 5-6 ...This moment of Freedom requires a LAMB!

v. 12 ...**WHY This Blood?** ...to protect you from Pharaoh? From Egyptian Soldiers? From a Natural Disaster?
From Yourself? ...NO! To Protect You From GOD!!

v. 13 ... "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy" ...BUT, the God of Love & Mercy is Also the God of
Righteousness & Justice—He Cannot Stop Being All of These!

...God has designed a MEANS to "Satisfy His Righteousness" (ie, "PROPITIATION")

**...But we all know—THIS Lamb is NOT the Point of the Story ...Neither is Pharaoh or the Egyptians or the
Israelites in Goshen! ...This is the story of God using FORCE to bring us FREEDOM ...and God Providing a
Lamb to Bring us MERCY!**