

helpless. Abraham's descendants would be enslaved by the greatest nation on earth. They would be weak and despised. These slaves are the ones God would chose to save for His glory.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God chose to send Abraham's descendants into slavery?
- Why is it encouraging that God chose slaves to be His chosen people? What does that mean for you?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When God prefaces the 10 Commandments He reminds the people who He is, who they are, and what God has done for them. He has redeemed them from slavery. Early in Exodus we read of the cry of the people in their distress in Egypt. Exodus 2:23-25 *During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.* In His love and mercy God heard the people cry out to Him. He heard and He acted to save them. God chose Moses, a Hebrew who was raised in Pharaoh's household, to be the deliver for Israel. After revealing Himself to Moses in the burning bush, God sent Moses to proclaim liberty to His people and judgement on Egypt. With many plagues God broke the strength of Egypt. Finally, God performed a miracle at the Red Sea. He parted the waters allowing Israel to walk across on dry ground. When Egypt attempted to follow, to claim back Israel as slaves, God caused the waters to rush back upon them. God judged Egypt and delivered Israel at the Red Sea. When God speaks to Israel out of the fire and smoke at Mount Sinai, He reminds them that they were once slaves. God had saved them.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God reminds the people that they were slaves?
- How does remembering your own slavery to sin make you think about God's salvation in Jesus?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, August 11th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #48

Q: What is the preface to the ten commandments?

A: *The preface to the ten commandments is in these words; I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 6:22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Sometimes when we write letters or start a conversation our first words are simple greetings to get things going. After a few light comments we get down to the real business we want to share. The next couple weeks we will be looking at the preface, or introduction, to the 10 Commandments. We shouldn't pass over these introductory words as unimportant. These are God's words. In fact, these words are the very first words that the people of Israel hear from the mouth of God himself. Exodus 20:1 *And God spoke all these words, saying.* While they have heard Moses speak many times they haven't heard God speak to them personally. From the mountain God thunders forth and speaks directly to the people! They mustn't miss a single word. We too must make sure to pay attention to the words God speaks. As God prepares to give the law in the form of 10 Commandments he introduces His law with these words. Exodus 20:2 *I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* Before God gives the law He wants the people of Israel to remember who He is. He wants them to remember who they are. Finally, he wants the people to remember what God has done for them. If we want to understand and follow God's law we too must remember these truths.

Discussion Question

- Do you ever glaze over certain parts of God's Word? Which parts are you more prone to skip or ignore?
- How would it change your practice of Bible reading if you were to imagine God speaking these words directly to you?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week we are looking at the preface to the 10 Commandments. Exodus 20:2 *I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* God prefaces His law by first reminding Israel of who He is. God says, "I am the LORD your God." He uses his personal covenant name. 'LORD' with all capital letters is how we translate the Hebrew name Yahweh or Jehovah. This is the name God gives to Moses when He appears to him in the burning bush. Exodus 3:14 *God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'*" What does it mean that God names himself, "I am?" This points to the fact that God is self-existent. He was not created by anyone. He does not need anyone else to make Him complete. God is all that God needs and He has always been. There was no time when God came into existence. In fact, God made time itself! For the people of Israel, they needed to know that their God was their creator. He was the one who spoke and brought all things into existence in the span of 6 days. He was the one who formed Adam from the dust of the ground and Eve from the rib of Adam. If God is the creator then He has every right to declare the law for His creatures to follow.

Discussion Questions

- How is God different from you or any other person?
- If God is your creator, how should you act toward Him? What do you owe Him?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we saw that God's preface to the 10 Commandments first reminded the people of Israel who He is. He says, "I am the LORD your God." This name "LORD" in all capital letters translates the Hebrew name Yahweh or Jehovah. The name means "I am" and speaks of God's self-existence. He is different than all others. He is the creator and all others are made by Him. The name Yahweh has another equally important meaning. This name is commonly called God's covenant name. We see why in as God continues to speak to Moses out of the burning bush. After giving His name we read in the next verse, Exodus 3:15 *God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.* When God identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He is reminding Moses that He is the God who made a covenant with these men. God made solemn promises that He would fulfill to Abraham and his offspring. The very reason that God has appeared to Moses, and the very reason He would rescue the people from Egypt, is because He had promised to do it. Even more than Israel, we must remember that our God is the one who keeps His covenant promises!

Discussion Questions

- What covenant did God give on Mount Sinai? Is that the same covenant we are a part of or not?
- Why is important to you that God keeps His covenant promises?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When God prefaces the 10 Commandments He reminds the people of who He is. He is Yahweh, the self-existent and covenant-keeping God. Secondly, He reminds them of who they are. They are the ones God saved from slavery in Egypt. Exodus 20:2 *I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* The story of the Exodus didn't start with slavery, it actually started years ago when God made a covenant with Abraham. In the very place where God promised Abraham a great multitude of offspring He made a promise of suffering for those same offspring. Genesis 15:13-14 *Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.* One might think that the people God chose would be powerful. They should be kings and rulers over the earth. Surely if they are God's people they would be represent His greatness by being great themselves. God did not chose a people who were great to represent His greatness. He chose a people who were weak and