

**Key Passage: Exodus 6:5-8**

**Key Thought: God delivers His people out of slavery, into His presence, and enters into covenant with them**

**1. What Do We Learn About God & His Spirit (that tells the gospel)?**

God is the main actor and the initiator (Ex 6:5-8; 20:2; 29:46)

1<sup>st</sup> half of Exodus: God redeems & rescues his people (Ex 1-19)

2<sup>nd</sup> half of Exodus: Call to act like redeemed & rescued people (Ex 20-40)

God hears our present struggles (2:23-25) and remembers His promise to deliver. All good things come from God's promise. Hence, the "promised" land.

God is slow to anger. He wants to save, not destroy. He gives warnings before any death comes, and the plagues increase in severity.

God is the anchor in the past, present, and future (see Ex 19:3-6)

The only reason Israel survives is because God goes with them. His presence is what guides, delivers, and shapes them.

## 2. What Do We Learn About Christ (that tells the gospel)?

Moses's birth reminds us of Jesus (ruler seeking to murder babies; escape; Egypt; etc.; see Matt 1-2)

Burning Bush: "I Am"

Baptism of Jesus: "He is/ You are"

God picks a deliverer who shows he is God's deliverer through signs and wonders

Moses and Jesus discuss Jesus' "Exodus" in the transfiguration (Luke 9:31)

God provides manna from heaven. Jesus said he is the "bread from heaven." Paul says the rock that followed the Israelites in the wilderness was "Christ" (1 Cor 10:3).

Moses meets God "on the third day" after arriving at Sinai. Compare the "third day" in the gospels.

The Tabernacle is where God would meet with his people inside a tent of skin. The goal was for God to dwell with his people. Since this is where atonement would take place, it was crucially important that the tabernacle be built according to very precise specifications. The goal was for this tent to visually remind us (later) of Jesus Christ—where we truly meet God in skin (Jn 1:14), and where atonement is made for us continually. The cross is the altar (Ex 27:1-7), Jesus' blood provides our washing (Ex 30:17-21), Jesus is the bread of God's presence (Ex 25:23-30), Jesus is the light of the world (Ex 25:31-40), and Jesus' death continually serves as our atonement (Ex 30:1-10).

## 3. What Do We Learn About Faith, Forgiveness & Hope (that tells the gospel)?

God's love & promise is the catalyst for any deliverance and redemption.

In trouble...leads to slavery...leads to calling upon the Lord...leads blood of the lamb to rescue from death...leads to redemption from slavery through water (compare to Romans 6; 1 Cor 10:1-2; 12:12-13). There is, however, a wilderness to be experienced before the promised land; but God promises to be with his people as they live in hope.

The blood of a sacrificed lamb on the wood of the doorposts reminds us of the cross.

Any commandments, any rules, any deal begins with God's promise and God's deliverance (Ex 20:2).

#### **4. What Do We Learn About Being the People of God (that tells the gospel)?**

God chooses Israel. Paul says we were adopted as sons when we had nothing to offer God, simply because of the good pleasure of His grace (Ephesians 1-2).

They enact a meal to remember their redemption from slavery. Reminds us of the Lord's supper.

God provides guidelines for sustaining a community in the shape and image of God. He has always wanted a people that would look and act like the images of God that we were called to be.

Keeping Covenant with God is for our benefit. God's commands are given to protect us. But we are not God's people because we keep his law; we keep his law because we are God's people. (Even if perpetual failure to keep his law leads to the curses he warns about and declares our desire to no longer be treated as His people). God is always willing to pull us out of our troubles because He keeps his covenant even when we do not.

The 10 Commandments can be summarized by Jesus: Love God (Commandments 1-4) & Love Neighbor (Commandments 5-10).

The Golden calf (Ex 32-34) is a reminder that idolatry will continue to be a problem. God delivered the Israelites from external threats (slavery in Egypt). But constant care and awareness is needed to avoid internal threats. Similarly, we have been delivered from the power of sin. But our internal nature (the desire to sin) continues to need molding by God; thus, we are given his Spirit to sanctify us.

## 5. Hook Questions:<sup>1</sup>

1. Does the fact that you are a Christian feel like a burden (something to be delivered from) or deliverance? Are your eyes open to the wonders of the presence of God into which you have been brought, or are you still focused on the features of your life in captivity? What could you do to change your perspective? What could you do to help others change their perspective?
2. Do you feel as if you're in the grip of God, or of sin? On whose strength are you relying to free yourself from sin's power?
3. What can you do to make others aware of the freedom from their captivity to sin and its horrible effects that is available to them in Christ? Can they see evidence of that freedom in you? What can you do to make others aware of the rich life of fellowship with God himself that is available to them in Christ? Can they see evidence of that rich life of fellowship with God in you?

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Williams, *How to Read the Bible through the Jesus Lens* (Zondervan, 2012), p.20.