

“Lessons Learned from Exodus about God and man”

Exodus 1-15

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October 1, 2021

Exodus 15:11. *“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you? Majestic in holiness! Awesome in glorious deeds! Doing wonders! ...”*

King David’s summary of what the LORD did in the Exodus. *“... who is like your people Israel -- the one nation on earth that God went out (1) to redeem as a people for Himself, and (2) to make a name for Himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt?”* 2 Samuel 7:23.

1. Promise made. *“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country ... to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”* Genesis 12:1-3.

a. **Promise continued.** Genesis 46:2-4. *“God spoke to Israel ... ³ ‘I am God, the God of your father ... Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. ⁴ I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again.’”*

b. **Promise thwarted?** Exodus 1:8, 11-13. *“Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt ... ¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor ... ¹⁴ in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.”*

i. Life can turn on a dime: *“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.’”* Genesis 34:41-44.

c. **Promise kept.** Life may be going down the tubes, but God had made his promises to his people. *“God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of (Egypt) to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”* Genesis 50:24.

2. “Who am I?” Exodus 3:11-12. **The Three Great questions: Who is God? Who am I? What does God want of me?**

i. **“Who is God?”** Exodus 5:2. *“Who is the Lord that I should obey him?”*

1) *“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you? Exodus 15:11.*

2) *“Who is like you, Lord? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them.” Ps 35:10*

3) *“Who is like you, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.” Psalm 89:8*

4) *“When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’” Matthew 21:10*

5) *“They were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!’” Mark 4:41*

6) *“Who is this who even forgives sins?” Luke 7:49*

7) *“Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” John 5:12*

ii. **“Who am I?”** God tells Moses who he is. *“God said, ‘I will be with you ...’”*

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- iii. **“What does God want of me?”** God tells Moses what he wants him to do. *“When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you (all) will worship God on this mountain.”*
3. **Exodus 5:1-23. Moving from the Upper Story to the Lower Story ... and back again.**
- a. **Exodus 5:1, 3.** *“Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go ... The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God...’”*
- i. The Lower Story: relentless bad news!
- 5:4. *“Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor?”*
 - 5:7. *“...let them gather their own straw.”*
 - 5:8. *“Require them to make the same number of bricks as before ...”*
 - 5:9. *“Make the work harder.”*
 - 5:13 & 14. *“The slave drivers kept pressing them ... and beat (them)...”*
 - 5:17 & 18. *“Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy!”*
- ii. 5:20-21. The People of God ... God’s firstborn take on ... believe ... the Lower Story: *“May the Lord look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”*
- iii. 5:22-23. Moses takes embraces the Lower Story. *“Moses returned to the Lord ... ‘Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me?’”*
- iv. Remember Psalm 71:19, 20! *“Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things. Who is like you, God? Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again ...”*
- b. **Return to the Upper Story: Exodus 14:13-14.** *“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”*

What does the Lord do? What am I commanded to do?

4. **The LORD always acts for His glory and the good of his people.** Exodus 14:1-9.
- a. **For His Glory** ... Ex 14:17, 18. *“I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army ... The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory”*
- i. For what purpose does the Lord act for his glory?
- b. ... **and Our Good**. Moses and Aaron were representatives of God Almighty. Pharaoh treated them ... and God’s chosen people ... with contempt and thereby treated God with contempt.
- i. Exodus 7:1. *“The Lord said to Moses, ‘See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh .’”*
- ii. Exodus 5:2. *“Pharaoh said ... ‘I do not know the LORD ...’”*
- iii. When the world treats God’s chosen people with contempt ... how does the LORD always act for our good? Isaiah 50:7-10 prophecies of Jesus ... and you and me!