

WEEK SIX INTRODUCTION

The exodus event provides a template to understand God’s overall work of redemption. If in Genesis 12 God demonstrates that He will further His plan, His story, by calling a specific people to be His chosen people, Exodus reveals what *sort* of people God would have to be His own. His people are the *delivered* people. The gracious purpose and profound power of the Lord converge in Israel’s deliverance from slavery in Egypt. This week’s reading contains patterns and imagery which appear throughout the rest of the Bible. As Geerhardus Vos states, “The exodus from Egypt *is* the Old Testament Redemption.” When seen in that light, Exodus illuminates *the* Redeemer, Jesus Christ who frees us from the tyranny of the devil, brings us into His presence, walks with us through the wilderness of this world, and brings us into our eternal home.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Say therefore to the people of Israel, “I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.”

– Exodus 6:6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do a brief recap. Where are we in God’s story? How did Israel get into this predicament? Why is Moses confronting Pharaoh? What is Pharaoh’s consistent reply? Why does he reply that way?

Take some time looking at Exodus 6:2-8. How does God describe Himself in 6:2-3? What does God “remember” that prompts Him to act on behalf of His people Israel? In 6:6-8, notice first the bookends in verse 6 and 8, “I am the LORD.” Everything between these two bookends connects and flows from the reality of *who* God is and *what* He promises in His covenant. Count how many times the Lord says “I will” in these verses. Who is the hero of the rescue? There are no “I will...if you will” scenarios here. These promises flow from *grace*. How do these promises point ahead to what God does in Jesus Christ?

Exodus 6:7 contains the essence of God's word and work of redemption. What is the goal of redemption? What prize does God graciously give which is greater than all else? Read Revelation 21:1-3 and compare that passage with Exodus 6:7.

Exodus 12:12 ends, "and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD." The Egyptians were pantheists. Douglas Stuart defines pantheism as "a belief system in which all nature is thought to partake of the divine: anything that exists is a manifestation of, or a part of, or an extension of, a god." The Egyptians were also polytheists meaning they believed in many gods. Seen in this light, how do you understand the plagues God unleashes upon Egypt differently? As the Lord (Yahweh) demonstrates control over all of creation through the plagues He showcases that He *alone* is God and He *alone* can save. In this He also displays the inability of idols to save.

The first command of the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 explicitly prohibits idolatry of any kind. How would you define an idol? While the Egyptians made gods out of the elements of Creation and even of Pharaoh, what idols are prevalent in the world around us? What idols carve out the affections of your heart? Timothy Keller writes, "What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give."

Read Matthew 12:28-35. What is the most important commandment according to Jesus? What is the second? Can you see these two commandments in the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:3-17?

Exodus 24:8 states, "Moses took the blood, splattered it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you concerning all these words.'" Think back to the covenant ceremonies we've seen so far in our reading of the Bible. Look at Genesis 8:20-22 and Genesis 15:10-21. What do these covenant ceremonies share in common? Why do you think that the presence of blood is

significant? Consider Luke 22:20. How do all of these previous covenants point to and find fulfillment in the New Covenant Jesus institutes?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” -**John 14:15**

Love toward God takes shape in obedience, but arises from who God is in His love toward us in Christ. Meditate on the gospel of Jesus Christ. How will God’s love for you stir you to obey Him this week?