

"Departure from Egypt"

Part 1

Exodus 12-14

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the life of Moses we are going to begin to follow Israel out of Egypt and into the wilderness. Before we get to the wilderness however there are several details for us to consider and therefore, we shall take some time to get to the crossing of the Red Sea.

The night of the tenth plague was a night that neither Israel nor the Egyptians would forget for quite some time. It was a night of great sorrow for the Egyptians and it was a night of great anticipation and celebration for the children of Israel. There would be many unknowns that would wait for them in the future. There would be times that would greatly challenge their faith, there would be times when all hope would seem to be gone. The journey that was ahead would be like a rollercoaster ride. There would be many ups and downs but through it all God would prove to be True to His promises.

Application:

There is something here in all of this that we need to see. What happened in Egypt is a picture of what happens when a sinner repents and trusts in the finished work of Jesus Christ for salvation.

Israel's freedom started with the death of the firstborn. Before this they were enslaved to the Egyptians but after the death of the firstborn, they were free. No more were they slaves to the Egyptians but now they were free to follow God. They were free to worship and to serve Him. Before we were saved, we too were slaves. We were slaves to sin and we were not able in our own power to get free. But when we turned to Jesus Christ and placed our faith in Him something happened.

Romans 6:6-8

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

Our old man was crucified with Christ. This means our "FIRSTBORN" died. You see our old man is our sin nature and it is the "FIRSTBORN". Then when we were saved, we were born again and now we are alive. But the point I want you to see is that until the firstborn/old

man died/was crucified we were enslaved but now that our firstborn/old man was crucified with Christ we are free to follow and to serve God. Let me show you another picture of this in the life of Abram.

Genesis 12:1-5

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

⁴ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

There is something else that happened in Haran which we do not see here.

Acts 7:2-4

² And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

³ And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

⁴ Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

It was not until Abram's father died that he could enter into the land of Canaan. We could also say that after the "old man" died Abram was free to go to the land of blessing. We could also look at Abram's father and correctly say that out of the two he was the firstborn.

From the day we were saved we now have two natures. The sin nature/the firstborn and the Divine nature/the result of being born again. Let us notice one more example:

Genesis 25:21-23

²¹ And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

The two children in Rebekah are a picture of the two natures in the believer. Notice that the elder was to serve the younger. It is the same in the believer's life. Our sin nature is to be in submission to the Divine nature. The point we need to see here is that the firstborn/Esau represented the sin nature/the old man in the believer. Getting back to Exodus and the application, we are not free until the firstborn is crucified with Jesus Christ. Now let us get to the departure.

A. The Moment of Departure

There are two major points in Scripture concerning the moment of departure.

1. It was a promised moment.

God had foretold to Abraham about Israel's departure from the land of Egypt.

Genesis 15:13-14

¹³ And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance

Notice Exodus 12:40-41, 51

Israel came out of Egypt on the very day in which God had planned for them to come out.

Application:

In all of this we can see the certainty of God's promises. When God promises something, we can be sure that He will also fulfill His promise no matter the circumstances. For everything God has a set time and He will bring everything to pass at the appointed time.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

³ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

There is a specific time for Jesus to return at the end of the Tribulation.

Matthew 25:13

¹³ Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

There is an appointed day and hour for His return. The promises of God will all be fulfilled and the fulfillment rests upon the faithfulness of God and not upon the circumstances which occur. God had a certain day to bring Israel out of Egypt and on the SELFSAME day they came out. They were not too early, and they were not late. Now there are times when it looks as though God is late but that is never the case.

John 11:

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

⁶ When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

⁷ Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

¹¹ These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

¹² Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

¹³ Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

¹⁴ Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

¹⁵ And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

²⁰ Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

²¹ Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

From the perspective of the disciples and from the perspective of Martha it looked as though Jesus showed up too late. But this was all in the plan of God.

John 11:4

⁴ When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

The death and the resurrection of Lazarus was all for the glory of God. Let me refresh our minds concerning something we looked at in Romans.

Romans 11:33-36

³³ O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

³⁴ For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

³⁵ Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

³⁶ For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

ALL THINGS are to the glory of the Lord. There may be times when it appears that He is late, but it is all in His plan. Somehow and in some way God will be glorified in the situation and He will work in His appointed time. So, getting back to our point this was a promised moment.

2. It was a prominent moment.

Notice Exodus 12:42, 13:3

Israel was never to forget this event and to be sure they didn't God commanded them to keep the annual Passover. If they forgot their forgetfulness would be a contributing factor in departing from the Lord. God had warned Israel to guard against forgetting.

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

¹¹ *Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:*

¹² *Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;*

¹³ *And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;*

¹⁴ *Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;*

When Israel did depart from the Lord the Bible often points to their forgetfulness.

Psalm 106:13-22

¹³ *They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:*

¹⁴ *But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.*

¹⁵ *And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.*

¹⁶ *They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD.*

¹⁷ *The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan and covered the company of Abiram.*

¹⁸ *And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.*

¹⁹ *They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image.*

²⁰ *Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.*

²¹ *They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;*

²² *Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.*

Application:

God cares that we remember history. In our day today there are many who are doing their best to erase history and to keep our young people from learning the history of our nation. They have taken down many statues and memorials that represent our history. As believers we need to know that God cares about memorials. They are to be used for teaching purposes.

Joshua 4:1-3, 6-7

And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,

² Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,

³ And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.

⁶ That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?

*⁷ Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and **these stones shall be for a memorial** unto the children of Israel for ever.*

Conclusion:

Just as God had given to Israel the Passover to remember what He did to set them free so we are given the Lord's Table to remember back to the cross so that we don't forget what our Lord did to set us free.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25

*²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me.***

*²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.***