**The Gospel According to Moses**

**God Prepare His Deliverer**

**Exodus 1:8-2:25**

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We just started called the Gospel According to Moses, looking at the book of Exodus. I chose that title because as we will see, Exodus is a picture of the gospel. The first half of Exodus (1-18) describe God’s gracious redemption of his people by making himself known in mercy and judgment. My Big Idea is this, God is preparing to deliver us even before we come to him.

**Israel’s Need for a Deliverer (1:1-22)**

Exodus opens four hundred years after Genesis closes, with Israel now a nation in Egypt. God has blessed them; they have grown large and strong. Their growth is tied to both the creation mandate, to be fruitful and multiply and the blessing of God to fulfill the Abrahamic promise. But this blessing brings bitterness. Pharoah is threatened by Israel’s size and seeks to control their population growth by enslaving them, which did not work; by demanding that the midwives kill all baby boys yet they refused. Finally, he makes an edict that all Egyptians must throw every Jewish newborn boy into the Nile river to drown (1:8-22). Israel is a picture of humanity in exile because of human sin, ruled by an evil taskmaster, and in need of a deliverer.

**The Deliverer in Egypt (2:1-15)**

Chapter 2 describes the birth of Israel’s deliverer. A Levite man married a Levite woman and she bore a son. He is described as a fine child which probably means vigorous. That is important since the mortality rate was high, especially among children. Hebrews tells us that by faith his parents hid him for three months until they could no longer could (11:23). Seeking to save his life she puts him in a basket and put it among the reeds in the Nile river as his sister watched at a distance (Ex 2:3-4). The word for basket is the same word to describe Noah’s ark and points us backwards and forwards. It points us back to God’s saving his people in an ark through the flood waters of judgement and it points us forward to God saving his people through the waters of judgement in the Exodus. Faith is obeying God when the forces of culture are against you.

Pharaoh’s daughter came to the river with her entourage of young women, her servants, to bath. She saw the basket and had a servant bring it to her. Opening it, she finds the baby crying and recognizes it is a Hebrew child and is moved by compassion. His sister now acts and offers to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the child and her mother to nurse and raise the boy until he was weaned, about three or four years of age. Pharoah’s daughter names him Moses, because he was taken out of the water. Notice three women, two God’s people and one not, who are living their lives and making choices, unknowingly fulfilling God’s purposes, bless his people so they bless the nations, ultimately through the gospel. We will only know in eternity living our ordinary lives of faith impacts the lives of others.

Fast forward, Moses is 40 years old. He has been raised as an Egyptian, with privilege and prosperity, but he identifies with his people. He is watching them with their burdens, enslaved by his Egyptian family. They are described as his people (2:11; see Hebrews 11:24-26). He sees an Egyptian beating one of his people, so he looks around to make sure no one is watching and kills the man and buries him in the sand. He goes out again the next day to look upon the burdens of his people and this time he sees two Hebrews fighting. He confronts the aggressor, now listen to his response, “Who made you prince and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you did the Egyptian (Exod 2:13-14)? In one day, word has gotten out that he murdered an Egyptian and now he fears that Pharoah is going to come after him for treason. He is now alienated from his own people and his own Egyptian family.

God’s plan is not to deliver his people through human or political power. God usually works through human weakness and inadequacy to display his power and grace. His ways are often despised by the world, like a suffering Messiah. We cannot save ourselves although we are always trying.

**The Deliverer in Midian (2:15-25**

Moses flees to Midian and sat down by a well to rest (Exodus 2:15). A Midianite priest, Reuel also called Jethro, had seven daughters who came to water their father’s flocks, but some shepherds came and sought to drive them off. Moses intervenes, rescuing them and even watered their flocks for them. Moses is a tough guy but also a pretty smart guy, there were seven women to impress.

The daughters return home to tell their father how this Egyptian had rescued them. Incredulous, he wonders why they had not invited him for a meal! Hospitality was a big deal back then. In harsh environments it was helpful to offer someone a meal. But for this father, it was also strategic. It was odd for an Egyptian to be in Midian, yet he seemed to be of good character. To eat together meant that he could check Moses out. As a father of seven daughters, it was his responsibility to find husbands for all of them and Moses sounded like a good prospect. Evidently the meal went well because Moses stayed and Reuel/Jethro gaves his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage and they had a son named Gershom, because Moses is sojourner in a foreign land. Moses has been alienated from his people by birth and his people by adoption. God is preparing Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt with forty years in a place of prominence and now he will spend forty hears in place of insignificance; both are necessary and important.

Chapter two closes with a reminder that although God is often hidden in times of suffering, he is never absent (2:23-25). These verses remind us what Exodus and the gospel is about. While the Pharaoh who sought Moses is dead so he can return to Egypt there is still no relief for Israel. The people began to pray, crying out to God. There are four verbs here for us to notice. The first is that God heard. Others may not hear you or may ignore you but God hears. Second, God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He mentions all three patriarchs because God renewed the covenant with each successive generation. Every new generation must come to know and trust God. God remembered is a way of saying God is ready to act (Gen 15:13-14). Third, God saw. This tells us that our suffering never goes unnoticed by God. Others may not notice but God notices. Hebrews tells us we have great High Priest in Jesus Christ who can sympathize with us because he was tempted just like us (Hebrews 4:14-16). Finally, God knew is a way of saying that that God knows his people personally by covenant. He knew you before the foundation of the world, he set his affections on you, and he saved you. Just as Israel, you are not defined by your circumstances but by your covenant relationship to God. In answer to their prayer God is responding, already preparing their deliverance. He protected his deliverer in birth and is preparing him to lead Israel out of Egypt. God is preparing to deliver us even before we come to him.

Life Group Questions:

1. How does Exodus fit the storyline of the bible?
2. How does Israel represent all humanity?
3. What is Exodus chapter two about? Can you describe it in a sentence?
4. How can blessing and bitterness go hand in hand?
5. How do we rest in and enjoy God’s blessing when bitterness seems so hard?
6. Why do you think God did not want Moses to deliver Israel from a place of power within Egypt?
7. How is Jesus Christ the better Moses?
8. What does this teach us about following Jesus?
9. How is God asking me to respond to this passage?