

SESSION 2

BECOMING EXODUS PEOPLE CH. 1-17

A. THE SETTING CH.1-2

The story continues where Genesis left off. Circumstances have changed in Egypt and things have turned nasty! Pharaoh decrees the murder of all first born male babies. Israel cries for help in the midst of its oppression and genocide.

God's plan is a man (actually a baby, Moses). Moses is like a type of Jesus - a rescuer - but unlike him in many other ways!

B. RECOGNIZING EVERYDAY GLORY CH.3-4

The Burning Bush (3:1-6) - What's going on?

The manifestation of fire became almost a routine event in the Exodus story (cloud by day/fire by night, fire and lightning on Mt Sinai, the burning bush). It is telling us that God is near. Our God is a consuming fire (Dt.4:24, Heb.12:29). In such passages, heaven is never thought of as far away.

A Pattern for Interacting with God and Recognising His Glory:

1. Keep your eyes open v.2-3
2. Listen for the personal v.4
3. Be sensitive to the preparation v.5
4. Let the revelation come v.6

Note - the revelation of the divine name, I AM. It means that God is a being that exists totally from his own resources. The Father has life in himself (Jn. 5:26). Nothing other than God has this character of total self-sufficient being. Further, Ex. 6:6 says, "Therefore say to the Israelites I am the I am and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians" carrying the idea of unleashing events, becoming present, God entering the situation.

5. Hear God's purpose and plan v.7-10

6. Ask questions to get clarity v.11-14

C. THE EXODUS EVENT CH.5-17

The Exodus reveals early pictures and an understanding of God's Kingdom, about which Jesus would speak so much. God's Kingdom consists of a king who reigns, a people who have become his subjects and a place where that rule is acknowledged. The song of liberation following the Exodus Event declares that, "the LORD will reign forever and ever" (15:18).

1. The Clash of Powers CH.5-11

The confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh is a collision between two kingdoms: the power of God against the power of darkness. The account of the snakes (7:10-12) epitomises the spiritual battle.

The ten plagues (ch.7-11) were a carefully devised way of saying your gods are defeated. Each of the plagues was actually an assault on one or more of the Egyptian gods. The God of Israel was revealing himself to be sovereign King over nature and over all the gods of Egypt (12:12). The ten plagues of judgement on the gods of Egypt are contrasted with the ten commands of blessing on God's people.

For Thought: *What of the hardening of Pharaoh's heart?*

2. The Passover and Red Sea Crossing CH.12-15

The Passover 12:21-23

The lamb becomes a substitute for the Israelite first born and entire family as the angel passes over that household (divine protection, "The Lord kept watch all night" 12:42).

The Passover is a sketch of the gospel, which is the new Passover, the centre of the whole story being Jesus and his death on the cross. The shocking reality of the new Passover is that God himself becomes the sacrificed Lamb taking our judgement (Jn. 1:29). The new Passover would not mean simply liberation from an enslaving human power, but liberation from sin and Satan which had caused a far greater enslavement. Jesus speaks of coming to bind the strongman, Satan, and plunder his house (Mk. 3:23-27 cf 1 Jn. 3:8).

The Red Sea Crossing 14:13-16

Now it's time for the people to walk out of Egypt, experience a new birth by going through the Red Sea and on towards the freedom of the Promised Land.

The NT pictures this as baptism - a life from death experience (Rom. 6:3-5): to die and rise, to leave behind the old life and be reborn into a new one.

The Song of Liberation (ch.15)

The crossing concludes with a song of praise. The first recorded in the Bible. The reign of God (v.18) is not a place but an event. The event is a breakthrough into human lives to save and liberate and to bring them into God's good presence. Through such song we participate in Jesus' ongoing defeat of the powers of darkness until its final completion.

3. Walking the Way of the Wilderness CH. 15:22-17:16

Hot on the heels of the miraculous deliverance are four episodes about which the people surprisingly complain and grumble. However, on each occasion God faithfully makes miraculous provision:

(1) 12 springs of water and 70 palm trees at Elim replace Marah's bitter water. 15:22-27

(2) Morning bread and evening quail transforms the hunger of the Desert of Sin. 16:1-36

(3) Water from a rock flows in Rephidim, a place of no water. 17:1-7

(4) The Lord is my Banner defeats the attacking Amalekites. 17:8-16

There are things to learn in the wilderness which, it seems, can't be learnt anywhere else.

Manna Lessons 16:13-23:

(1) Not recognizing God's provision. v.15 cf.7

(2) Gather enough for everyone in your tent. v16

(3) Those who gathered more had no extra and those who gathered less had no lack. v.17-18

(4) Today's bread will be no use tomorrow. V.19-20

(5) Gather God's gift daily, its daily bread. V.21

(6) Gather twice as much on Saturday so that Sunday can be different. V.22f

(7) Learn the lesson well because it is the way of life until we arrive in the Land. v.35

D. JOURNEYING TOWARDS GOD'S PROPHETIC WORD

Applying wilderness lessons for personal growth.

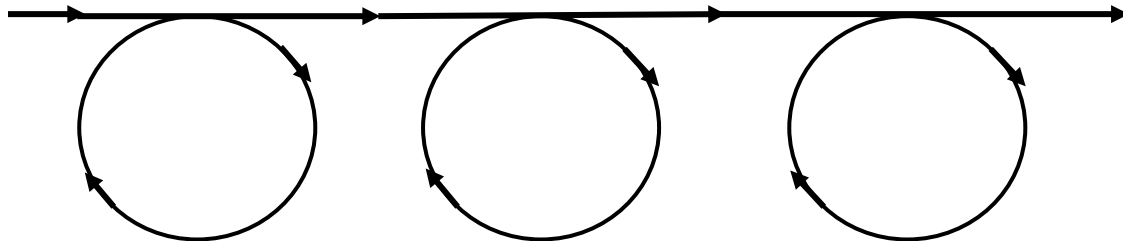
Prophetic words, dreams, visions, about a future destiny. Why does it both excite and frustrate us?

Confusing the future with the present.

Testing Patterns

We respond broadly in one of two ways:

a) Positively - Christ's way



b) Negatively - my way

