

060312
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The Exodus

Last week we introduced a series that I wanted to begin by talking about understanding the Old Testament. If you'll recall we discussed how all of the Old Testament was a testimony of the reality of Christ. The reality of being in Him.

Everything written, everything recorded, was divinely purposed, divinely recorded to testify in the earth of something that would be a spiritual reality in Christ. Something that would be "yes and amen in Christ."

Paul says in Ephesians 1:6 that we have received every spiritual blessing in Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says that "in Him all of the promises that God ever made are yes and amen". You see, everything that God ever promised was fulfilled in Christ. Everything that he purposed, came to fullness in Christ.

Now, he certainly fulfilled things in the natural as well, but even all of that pointed to Christ. For instance, he promised Abraham a land. He fulfilled that promise to Abraham with a literal Land. But Christ is the spiritual reality of that, and it is ours in Him. He promised Noah salvation through the ark, he delivered that salvation to Noah. But Christ is the spiritual reality of that salvation, and it is ours in Him.

And that is what Paul is referring to there in 2nd Corinthians. Everything that God ever promised, we have gained the spiritual reality of it in Christ. For us, in Him, it is yes and amen.

Ok...well, we talked about how the Old Testament functions and how it points to Christ because we were going to begin a series dealing with the book of Exodus. Dealing with the Passover and then the Exodus and the wilderness.

Today I just want to give somewhat of an overview of what we're going to be dealing with. I want to look at the purpose for why we're looking at this. I'm not preaching from Exodus because I want to teach the history of Israel. Paul the Apostle, I don't believe, ever preached history from the book of Exodus. He preached the reality of being in Christ. He preached the cross. And that's what I want to do.

Here's the story. Here's what happened. And we'll look at more of the details in times to come.

God has a purpose, He has a plan. His purpose, His plan governs all that He does. His purpose is not a reaction to what He sees going on in the earth. His plan is not a response

to human activity. He's not trying to make this mess into something good. He has something good that he's trying to bring this mess into.

He has an eternal purpose and an eternal plan. And what he purposes to do is to take a people (the Israelites, the seed of Abraham) out of death, out of Egypt (Egypt represents death, and slavery to it, bondage to it), and bring them into their eternal purpose. And what that eternal purpose is – is to become a manifestation of God's reality, God's glory, God's heart, his purpose, his wisdom, his thought, his knowledge, his expression, in the earth.

You have to see this. This is their eternal purpose. Their eternal purpose was not just to get out of Egypt. Their eternal purpose was not just to get free from something. Their eternal purpose was to come into something – was to BECOME something. And then to manifest that reality in the earth. That was their purpose.

I want to say this again. Their purpose was not just to get free from a bad situation. Their purpose was not just to get free from Egypt. Free from death. Free from Hell. Their purpose was to become something, and then to become a manifestation of that something in the earth.

And what that something was, again, was the expression of God. His reality, his relationship, his salvation, his purpose, his wisdom. All of this can be summed up in the word "glory". His expression in the earth. The purpose of taking this people out of Egypt was for the glory of the Lord. That they would become an expression of that glory. In fact, that the glory of the Lord would fill up a specific land.

And he keeps telling them things like that. I've taken you out for the praise of my glory. You will become my glory in the earth. This isn't because of your righteousness, but because of my glory. And then he tells them that His glory will fill up the Land that he promises Abraham. In other words, in a particular land, Palestine, the world could see something of Him – his heart, his purpose, his thought, his way, his truth, his life.

Now, come on...you have to see this. God had already promised to Abraham a specific land. He promised that Land to Abraham. And he promises, in fact he swears by his own life, that that Land would be filled with the glory of God as the waters fill the sea. Now some of our Bibles translate the word "land" as "earth" in those passages. But it is a Hebrew word that can be used for both land and earth. And clearly in the context it is the word "land". I can say that very confidently because of the context.

Let me just prove that to you very quickly. It's not tangential to my point. In fact, you have to understand this to get a hold of eternal purpose. Turn to numbers chapter 14. God is talking to Moses about wiping out this entire generation of Israelites and starting over with Him. Moses says "no, if you do that, then the people in the "LAND" (Hebrew *eretz* – eh-rets) you promised to bring us into will say that you couldn't do it". That's verse 16. And Moses asks God to pardon their iniquity. Then God says "Look, I'll pardon their iniquity, but truly as I live, all of that "Land" (Hebrew *eretz*) will be filled

with the glory of the Lord”. That’s verse 21 where some of our Bibles have translated it earth. Then look down to verse 23 – speaking of the rebellious generation, God then says “but none of them will see the “LAND” (Hebrew *eretz*) that I promised to the fathers”.

The entire line of conversation is about the Land promised to Abraham. Its about the Land that they were to come into and be an expression of His glory. And though this one rebellious generation would not enter that land and become an expression of that glory, God doesn’t say “oh well...there goes my plan to have a manifestation of my glory in that land...”. No, he says “well, then they’ll die...but I swear, by my own life, that my expression, my glory, will fill this Land”. Not the globe. That’s not in view here. Not that God couldn’t do that. But his purpose is according to the Land promised to Abraham. His purpose is to take a particular piece of the globe – the promised land – and turn it into a place where the rest of the world could see His glory. Turn it into a unique manifestation of a unique reality, a unique relationship.

And so it is with Christ. This is exactly the purpose you see Jesus talking about in John 17 as He prays to the Father before going to the cross. He says - “I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given me out of the world. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified IN THEM”. Then vs. 20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave me I have given them”

Ok...so back to the overview. So God has a purpose for this people. Not just to get them free from something. But to bring them into a certain kind of relationship that would manifest His glory in the earth. In the Land promised to Abraham. Everything that God is doing is according to eternal purpose. Its not reactionary to mans whims. Its according to predestined ultimate intention.

His people are in bondage to Egypt. In bondage to death. And he begins to tell them that the only way that Pharaoh, the one who held the keys of death, the one who had the power of death, the authority of death, would release them, is if there was a death. Only if there was the death of a firstborn. My Lord, this is so important. We need to get ahold of this.

The only way that you’re getting out of this land is through the death of the firstborn. In other words, the only way out of this death is by death.

And so he tells Moses (and this is my paraphrase) – “Moses, I’m bringing a death of the firstborn on all the land of Egypt” Moses says “uh oh...we live in the Land of Egypt”. God says “yep, there will be death in your area too...except the death in your people will be the death of a Lamb. All of the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die...but as for those who are in Goshen...you will die in the Lamb. The lamb will die as you. He will become your death. You will be gathered up in His death. You will escape death through death.”

Do you see that? Its not that the firstborn of Israel didn't die. Its just that they died in Him. He died their death. They died in the Lamb. And that is why the very first thing that God says the next day is "the firstborn that opens the womb in mine!". Why? Because they claimed the Lambs death as their own, and now they live by His life. Now they walk in the newness of His life. You can't claim his death and then continue to walk in your life life. Nope. Now the firstborn is His! Now you're his son. Israel is my son, even my firstborn.

On the other side of that death, only One lives. I've been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ. Now its not I, but Christ. The Father says - the firstborn is mine. Israel is My Son, even my firstborn. We'll look more at that later. Its just hard for me to stay away from.

But here's what we need to look at now. Israel escaped the destruction of the firstborn by coming through a blood covered door, into a dwelling place, and eating a lamb. That was their salvation. Its like they stepped out of Egypt, by stepping through that door into that dwelling place.

How did you escape death? I walked into that door. What was your salvation? It was walking through the blood, into a dwelling place, and eating a lamb. How did you get out? By coming in. By coming into Him through the death of a Lamb. How did you get out of Egypt? I just walked right into this door – and then all the work was over. It was finished. After that, it was just a matter of walking out of Egypt. Walking out into a new day. A new place. A new creation. After that, the Egyptians even gave us their gold and silver and precious items on our way out. We plundered them. We were more than conquerors. After that, early in the morning, in the resurrection, we just walked right out of that dead place. That place of slavery.

He did the work through death. We just walked into that death. We were just gathered up in that death – into that slain Lamb. And then we walked out in the morning. That's how we were delivered.

Do you see that? That's enough to make me dance! You can see this. If you don't see it this morning, you'll see it. Hang in there – you'll see it.

You see, when you get saved what you came to is the very life of God. That's what salvation is. How did you get out? You came in. Came into what? Came into Him. I'm in you and you're in Me – Jesus says. There's the way out.

This door was not a way out, it was a way in. And the way in was the way out. Most people believe that salvation is your way out. Your way out of hell. Your way out of sin. Your way out of bad consequences. But over 230 times in your New Testament you'll find that salvation is an "in". Its "in Christ". Its in this door. Jesus said "I am the door". I'm the real door. Your only way out of anything is coming in.

Much of religion, I'm afraid, sees salvation as first a getting out of something – and then one day we'll get to some place. Well, where does that leave you now? Well, as religion will tell you, that leaves you somewhere between getting out and getting in.

Well, there is a biblical word for this – where you think that salvation is getting out, but your not really out, and your not really in. Its called “the wilderness”. We're going to get to this and spend a lot of time on it. I just want to introduce it to you today. The wilderness is what happened when they wouldn't see where they were. And so it is with us.

And for far too many of us, salvation is like a big getting out. Its like somebody opened up a prison door and we all ran free. That's the way we teach it. But see...imagine that scenario for a minute. A giant prison break. Everyone running free...but after a little while looking around at each other and saying “well, now what”. You're free...but unto what? And suddenly life becomes not what you came out of, but where you are.

Man, I'm free from prison...but I'm still the same person I was when I was locked up. Not much has changed. Well...now what do I do. And somebody says “well, now you just have to wait until you die and then go to heaven”. And you say “but I'm only 18 years old! What do I do til then? And somebody says “church programs”.

My point is just that there is nothing like this either in the reality spoken of in the New Testament, or in the types and shadows of the old. The reality of salvation for us is a New Life. It is coming into Christ. Christ in us the hope of glory. I in you, you in me. There is the reality. There is the reality of salvation.

And then it is just a matter of walking out in the morning. Then it is a matter of walking in the light of that established, finished, relationship. Then it is walking out in the newness of His life – Romans 6. Then it is plundering the enemy, and manifesting that relationship in the earth. But not if you don't see what you came in to.

So salvation, for us today in Christ, and in type and shadow in Exodus chapter 12, was a coming in. It was coming into the death of the Lamb, so that you could walk out in the newness of His life. Now they didn't remain in that actual physical house forever. But they did remain in the relationship that was established that day. However, very few of them understood that reality. Very few of them comprehended that relationship. If they could have understood that, they would have been able to pass right through into the promised Land.

Ok, well...now that they went through the door – what do you have? You have sons. You have “Israel is My Son, even My firstborn”. Exodus chapter 4 verse 22 – God says to Moses “Hey Moses, go tell Pharaoh something for me. Go tell him that I'm taking my firstborn out of his death. Go tell him that I'm going to raise up my firstborn out of slavery to death. That's the way I'm seeing this Moses”.

Moses says “ok...I’ll say it, but I don’t get it.” God says “don’t worry Moses, I’ll bring you to share my view. I’ll be the author and finisher of your view of this salvation. You just go tell Pharaoh that out of this death, I’m going to bring my firstborn. Israel is my son. “

So what do you have when you walk through this door? When you come into the death of this Lamb? What do you have? You have adoption. You have a people seated in Him. Seated with Him in the heavens. You have a new relationship. “I’m in the Father, you’re in Me, I’m in you”. That’s what comes out in the morning. That’s what walks right out of Egypt. That’s what walks right out of death!

Ok, so here we go, out in the morning. Here we go out from death. Now that we’ve been brought in. Now, Israel, I’ll dwell in your midst. Lets go. Where are we going, God? Well, Joshua and Caleb know where they’re going. The others are a bit confused.

You see – what was the next step from God’s perspective? What was his next step? Was it the 40 years of wasted wandering in the wilderness? Was that God’s next step? Heavens no! That wasn’t his plan. His plan was to take the reality of this firstborn son and fill up the promised land with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. That was his plan. That was his next step.

Where are we going God? We’re going to the Land I promised Abraham. Why? To fill up the land with the knowledge of the glory of God. The knowledge of what you just became. The knowledge of this relationship. The knowledge of my eternal plan, my eternal purpose, the knowledge of my heart for creation, my greatest thought, my greatest plan, my greatest wisdom. We’re going to go and manifest it in the earth. I’m going to bring you into Canaan where you will manifest my way, my truth, and my life.

We’re going to conquer the enemies of this plan. We’re going to push out all of that which stands opposed to this Seed. This Lamb. We’re going to manifest the reality of this salvation throughout the fulness of this Land. City by City. We’re going to take it and manifest this glory in it. The knowledge of this glory. We’re going to Canaan.

We’re running out of time – so we’re going to have to get further with this next week. But here is where the problem happens. God has done something incredible. God has done something huge. He has brought them out of death, through death, into a new reality – Israel is my son, even my firstborn. Now, keep in mind that this is in type and shadow. But it is a perfect type. A perfect shadow. And they could have comprehended it and walked in the understanding of it. Moses, Joshua, and Caleb did.

But something huge has transpired. Its not just God figuring out a way to get them out of a bad place. If God just wanted to get them out of a bad place, he could have just picked them up and plopped them down in Canaan. He could have just killed Pharaoh. No, there was so much more happening here than just a national declaration of independence. Something larger than life – larger than death – has just happened.

Israel walks out of Egypt that next morning, plundering Egypt of all its gold, and sees nothing of it. The gospel was just demonstrated right before their eyes. Coming into the Father's house, through death, through the bloody door, unto a feasting on the Lamb, a feast where there is no leaven. And then they are walking out in the morning, plundering Egypt, more than conquerors. Walking out unto the manifestation of God's glory. And they didn't see anything.

They didn't see the reality of the **gospel** demonstrated. . The gospel was just preached to them. And that is exactly what Hebrews chapter 4 states. It says of that people "For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it".

Not mixed with faith. Not seeing. In other words, they watched it happen, but they didn't see it. They didn't share his view of it. And so they wandered for forty years and died.

We need to stop there. But let me just tell you where I'm going with this. I'm certainly not doing a survey of Israel's history. I'm talking about this because the exact same reality happens with you and I. We come out of death, through death, through his death, we come into the Father's house, we come into a union of life with the Lamb, freedom from the old man, the old creation, we walk out into the newness of life, the resurrection, and we don't even know what happened.

And so failing to share His view. Failing to see what has happened – that we have become sons. Israel is my son, even my firstborn. We fail to experience or express his glory in the earth...and failing to know even as we are known, we wander in blindness, and fall in the wilderness. We'll pick it up next week.