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## The Exodus pt. 2

Last week we started looking at the story of the Exodus in the Old Testament. And, once again, the reason we're looking at this story is because it was purposely recorded by God into this Bible in order to teach us something about the reality of being in Christ. It was a written, historically true, account of the people of Israel that, in type and shadow, testified to the reality of salvation in Christ. **And** it testifies to the reality of what happens when we who walk into salvation fail to comprehend where we have come.

And this is what we began to look at last week. We saw that God began dealing with Israel according to his eternal purpose for them. God wasn't just responding to their situation, (though he did hear their cries and groans and care)...but he was doing something in and with them that he had never done before with any other people. He was going to help them, but in helping them, he was going to make them into a living testimony of salvation in His Son.

I'm sure that God heard a lot of cries and groans from people in nations over the span of thousands of years. And I'm sure that he has done things that have alleviated their problems. I'm sure he has helped many people. But why isn't the story of God's dealings with prehistoric China or North Africa recorded in this book? Because God was doing something in and through this people that was worthy of being recorded for all time. God was doing something in this particular salvation from Egypt that was a perfect testimony of a coming salvation in His Son. There was never before such a salvation in the earth.

Think about this for a minute. If God was just trying to save a people from a mean Pharaoh, why didn't he just pick them up and put them in the promised land? Why didn't he just kill Pharaoh with a bolt of lightening. Why all of these judgments? Why the firstborn killed? What's up with the lamb? The blood on the door? The unleavened bread? Eating with sandals on and a staff in the hand? What's up with leaving in the morning, plundering Egypt's gold. What are all of these accessories to this salvation...if, in fact, it is just getting them out of a hard situation?

These accessories ARE the salvation. They are the picture of true salvation. Because this isn't just a national declaration of independence. This isn't just God reacting to a sad situation. This isn't God trying to get people out of a jam. This salvation is forever a picture of the spiritual, eternal, and real salvation that we have come to in Christ. That's why you can't just skip the lamb part and nail Pharaoh with a bolt of lightening. The lamb part is pretty important. The lamb part is the salvation. The morning part is the resurrection. The firstborn death is that death. The firstborn is the Lords because it is His Son.

I'm just trying to get across the reality that everything in this story is only happening and being recorded so that you and I can better understand the actual spiritual, eternal, reality that we have come to in Christ.

My hope and my prayer is that, as we study this Exodus story, that you and I will understand, and then walk in, and then become a manifestation of all that truly happened when we walked through that blood covered door and started feasting on the Lamb. When we become those who live in the Firstborn from among the dead.

So, we talked last week about how God killed all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt. And how those who were the Israelites had to come into death too...but their death was coming into the death of the Lamb. Their death was claiming the Lamb's death as their own.

And we talked about how, when they came into that death, God then reckoned them as dead (like the Egyptians) – having no life but the One who came out of that death.

And this is exactly as it is with us. We have been crucified with Christ. We have claimed his death as our own. All of Adam has been put away by that death. That is the death of all of the firstborn of Egypt. But now we have come out of that death by taking his death as our own. We are now passing through that death into life by taking his death as our own. But now that I have claimed his death as my death, I cannot return to my life. I can't go back and say "I live". You have to then say "nevertheless I live, **yet not I**, but Christ".

Do you see that? You can't claim His death as your death and then say "I'm back". Galatians 2:20 doesn't say "I've been crucified with Christ, but look...I'm back!". It says "I've been crucified with Christ, but look there's life in me, but its not mine, it's Christ's! Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ. There is all the difference in the world there.

If you are going to be baptized into His death, and then try to go back to living your life, then all you're going to find there is death. Because now only one lives. There's one life. There's one resurrection. Martha, I am the resurrection and the life. Now, if you're known as Israel, then you've come to the reality that Israel is my Son, even my firstborn.

Can you see that? If you can't...go back and listen to it again. Give it some time. Give the Spirit of God some time to make this real in your soul. This is so important. All that we are seeing here in this story of the Israelites can be said in one sentence. "I've been crucified, and he's now my life".

They are walking out the testimony of this. They are demonstrating this to us. They are helping us out by living out a parable of this – a foreshadow of the reality that we've come to.

We came into Him by baptism into his death. That's Romans chapter 6. Colossians chapter 3. Galatians chapter 2. Now, in Him, we walk in the newness of His life. Not our forgiven imitation. Not claiming our life back and trying to give it to Him. Not saying "Thanks for killing me in the Lamb, but I'm back to live for you". You can't do that!

Do you see how wrong that is? Its not "thanks for killing me in your Son, but now I'm the resurrection. I'm the life. I'm the one who lives now. Israel is Jason, and Tim, and Bud, and Duane, and Jack. No. Israel is now my Son. You've come to into His death, now you live by his life. That's the salvation that you've entered into.

That's what happened at that door. This door is His cross. Its where he dies as the Lamb – yes. But its where you died in Him. And its where the Son, the firstborn comes out in the morning. And God now sees you in Him. God now sees everything according to the reality of that death, His death, and that life, His life.

And that is what you are going to find every where you look in the New Testament. What death is working in you? His death. Who's death are you being conformed to? His death. What are you bearing about in your body? The dying of Jesus. Who's sufferings are you experiencing? His. Well, who's life comes out of that death? A renovated, modernized, reformed you? Wrong. His life. Now you live by Him. Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me.

Now I am a branch to His vine. Now I am the temple of His Spirit. Now I am the kingdom of His throne. Now I am the body of His resurrected life. Now I am bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh.

All of this happened in when they walked through this door. All of this happened when they came into this dwelling place and ate this lamb. In type and shadow, but in perfect type and shadow, all of this happened during the night of this Passover. The night of the cross.

And God's view of this people changed forever that night. Immediately, it was "Israel is my Son, even my firstborn". You'll see as you read on past this event that God immediately begins to give them the laws and rules concerning the firstborn. He immediately begins to deal with them according to His understanding of the firstborn. Why? Because they have now stepped into the reality of this relationship.

I used to read all of this and wonder – what is all this hubbub about the firstborn? And why right now? I mean – God can't you wait to talk about this firstborn stuff until after Pharaoh stops chasing them? They weren't even to the Red Sea before the Lord starts testifying of the firstborn.

Well, the firstborn wasn't something that they were going to become after the Red Sea. It wasn't something they were going to become if they proved themselves in the wilderness. The firstborn was how he saw them the moment that came through His death into His life. And God immediately begins to deal with them according to His understanding of them.

We have to see this. Their identification with the Son wasn't something that they were now working towards. It wasn't the goal of the wilderness. It wasn't their spiritual destiny that they were responsible for walking out. Please see this. Sonship wasn't something that, now that they were free from Egypt, they had to figure out how to walk into, or had to read a book on how to be part of the firstborn. How to be viewed by God as sons. Seven steps toward reaching your spiritual potential. No, they had reached it.

This wasn't something that they needed to work towards. It was already finished. It was already known of God. It was already comprehended by the Father. Yes it was their eternal purpose, but God did everything to bring them into it. He completed it. He finished it. **All that was left for them was to come to know as they were already known.**

Do you understand what I'm saying. This is how it is for us in Christ. Your spiritual potential, your destiny, your value, your identity was established forever the moment you walked through that door. There is nothing for you to establish. The only thing that is left for you to do is to come to know even as you are known. The only thing that is at stake is the extent to which you will experience and become an expression of what you already are since walking through that door.

In the Father's view, all is finished the moment you come through that door into Him. And immediately God begins to deal with you according to His view of you. God begins to deal with you according to an eternal relationship with His Son that He has brought you into.

However, if you fail to see as you are seen, know as you are known, walk in His understanding of this relationship, walk in the Light as He is in the light...then you walk in the darkness of your own comprehension of this finished work. And, in fact, you don't even see it finished. You see yourself. And you seek to establish what He has already established. You seek to establish your relationship with Him, when He already has His relationship with you in Son. You seek to establish what He has already established.

And so you continue to relate to God as though nothing has happened. You continue to relate to God as though he just gave you a deliverance from Hell...but its still you that lives for Him. Does that sound familiar?! You continue to relate to God as though you are somewhere between getting out and getting in.

And that is exactly what happened to the Israelites! That is the exact same reality. They got out, but could not, WOULD NOT, comprehend where they came into. Who they came into. They would not have faith – they would not see that they came into His death and now could become a manifestation of His life. And so they wandered in unbelief. They wandered in carnal mind comprehension. They wandered and died in the wilderness.

They were like a group of people who went into His death, but then said "hey I'm back to live for you!". " Now tell me what to do...and by the way, I can't stand this manna. By the way, where's the water around here? Moses go up that mountain, get the instruction book from God, and tell us what he wants us to do. And if you're gone too long, we might build a golden cow. " "Moses, what was that bloody door all about anyway? I'm glad I'm out of Egypt...as long as I can still get quail. I've always liked quail".

Do you see that is how we live? Do you see that we come by faith unto His cross claiming His death as ours? And then, not comprehending what happens at that Door, the Door that He is, we think that **we** step through to the other side. We think that **we** come out. And, now its "boy, I'm glad I'm free from Hell...but why won't God fix all of my circumstances? Pastor, go up that mountain and tell me what God wants me to do. Now Lord, bless me...I've always wanted to be great"

All of this comes out of a total failure to comprehend our salvation. All of this is a living out of a small and errant view of this door, this cross. In a word, failing to know as we are known. See as we are seen. Coming to share His mind. His view. Here's a better way to say it. All of the Israelites problems, all of our problems, come directly out of failing to comprehend the specific relationship that was

established by Him through His death and His resurrection. A relationship that was established and finished.

**And to whatever extent that we fail to see the relationship as it was established and finished – to that extent we create and establish a relationship with Him that is the figment of our own imagination.**

This could not be more important. Somebody was telling me a couple weeks ago that they were listening to a CD that was teaching this. They listened to it 4 or 5 times before the weight of this finally dawned on them. It is incredibly weighty. It is incredibly important.

If you do not see the relationship as it is IN HIM that was established before the foundation of the world, a relationship that He has brought you into, a relationship that existed between the Father and the Son before you or your world was ever created – if you don't see that relationship, **you're going to try to establish your own relationship with God. And friends, there is no other relationship with God other than the one that He established in Christ.**

Diagram

Salvation is a specific relationship. What we call salvation, God calls an eternal relationship between Himself and His eternal Son. A relationship that we have come into with the Father by being IN His Son. That is the relationship that we have been brought into. Salvation is coming into THAT relationship. That is the only kind of relationship that man has with God. **Every other conception of relationship is the creation of human mind, will, and sentiment.** Something we've heard, something we've read, something we've wanted.

But is it the actual reality of relationship that was established forever by God when you walked through that door?

Let me linger on this for a few minutes. Salvation is a specific and exclusive relationship. It is not any old relationship that you think you've created with God. Again, it is a relationship that is established and finished and you have been brought into it. It is called "in Christ". It is called "in the beloved, in the Son of His love". It is coming into Him and sharing His life and therefore His relatedness to the Father.

"I am in the Father, you are in Me, and I am in you." Or Romans 8 "the Spirit of Christ in our hearts by which we can say 'Abba Father'. The firstborn of many brethren. This is the specific relationship. You can't decide the nature of it. You can't establish the nature of it. You must come to see it as it is.

You are not on this earth trying to establish your relationship with God. I know that almost sounds funny to our religious ears, but nothing could be further from the truth. If you are in Christ, if you are born again, that relationship is established. The only thing that is in question is the extent to which you understand and therefore experience the relationship as it is.

Everything of salvation, everything of experiencing salvation, is coming to a spiritual understanding of a relationship that already exists in Christ. That is why Christ must be revealed in you. The person, the life, the nature of this relationship must be revealed in you OR you are missing the true relationship and creating your own.

So you are not on earth trying to establish a relationship with God. And if you fail to see the relationship that exists, all of your working on that relationship does nothing but work against you – because, in effect, the relationship then becomes more and more a product of your own thought, will, and sentiment.

What does this have to do with the exodus? Friends, **this is** the story of the exodus. This is exactly what happened in the exodus. A people entered into a relationship. A people came into the death of the Lamb and were seen as “Israel is my Son, even my firstborn”. But they would not, did not, comprehend the nature of the relationship. They would not come to know as they were known. And so, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, they could not become a manifestation of that relationship in the earth. They could not come to experience and express what they had already become. We’re going to look at that in more detail in the weeks to come. But for now, let me bring this to a close with another analogy.

I mentioned this briefly last week when I was getting ahead of myself. I have a son named Ezra. Ezra is my son, even my firstborn. But long before Ezra understood that he was my son, or even my child, **I understood that**. I knew it before he could crawl or walk or eat solid food, etc. I understood the nature of our relationship.

That relationship wasn’t up for debate. It wasn’t up for interpretation. It was established through birth. It was established through blood. It was established through life. Ezra didn’t have to try to make himself my son. Ezra didn’t have to try to become the firstborn. He was by birth. The only thing that is variable is the extent to which he grows up into the knowledge and the enjoyment of that established relationship.

But as for me, the father, I understood the relationship immediately. I knew it long before he comprehended it. I knew all of the benefits that he would enjoy if he could comprehend this relationship. I knew that he would benefit from love and protection and instruction and finances, etc. I knew the nature of this relationship.

My understanding of our relationship determines how I deal with Ezra. It doesn’t determine how **he** reacts, or how he sees himself. It only determines how I deal with him. But in all things, I am faithful to my view, my understanding of our relationship. I’m not going to stoop to his level of comprehension. In other words, I’m not going to consider him less than my son, my firstborn, just because he doesn’t know who he is. I’m going to deal with him according to the relationship that exists.

God’s understanding of this relationship in Christ determines how He deals with you. It doesn’t determine how you react or respond, or whether you share his view of the reality of that relationship. IT just determines how he relates to you. YOUR understanding, YOUR comprehension, YOUR view (in other words, your faith) determines how you react or respond. The extent to which you share His view.

And in most cases with Ezra, as a baby, before he understood who he was, who I was, what was reality...in most cases he responded in a way that was far different than what I knew him to be.

Now, no parent in their right mind is going to encourage a child to act contrary to the reality of sonship. You're going to deal with him according to who you know him to be. You're going to do your best to bring him into sharing your view of the nature of your relationship. Ezra is my son.

Like I said last week, if Ezra, when he was six months old, saw a Veggie-Tales movie and thought he was Larry the Cucumber and I was Bob the Tomato, that is not going to change the way that I dealt with Him. I would still deal with him according to who I knew him to be. I would do all that I could to bring him to a comprehension of the relationship that exists by birth.

I'm going to take this analogy further next week. But let me just close by saying that the whole purpose of the Spirit of God in your life is to bring you to the same understanding of the relationship that God has. The purpose of God in your growth is to get you to know and act out from the reality of the relationship that you are in. If you will read 1 Corinthians chapter 2, Paul will tell you this explicitly. Amen.