

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (February 6) – Exodus 1

There are two overarching purposes to the Book of Exodus. First, God shows how He is faithful to keep His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by preserving their family line from which the Messiah will come. Second, God demonstrates his mercy by saving a group of undeserving and sinful people. Exodus 1 takes place 430 years after Jacob (Israel) and his family entered Egypt. During this time there was a dynasty change of some kind with a new king who did not remember how God saved Egypt through Joseph. God is the one in charge of the rising and falling of kings and empires. With the rise of a new dynasty in Egypt, God plans its ultimate destruction with the future plagues and Exodus. Remember that Jesus is ultimately in control of the future of politics, governments, and kings/presidents.

Pharaoh is a picture of all godless tyrants who hate Christ and God's people. He enslaves the Hebrews (Israelites) to build store cities, but the plan backfires, and God blesses them instead. Pharaoh then orders all Hebrew male children to be murdered. This is infanticide and is no different than abortion. God loves life, but the Devil loves death. Thankfully, in Jesus and in His death, there is forgiveness and life eternal for all who repent of their sins. In the New Testament, Herod, another godless tyrant, tries the same evil trick on God's people by murdering all the male babies around Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18). But God frustrates the plans of evil men and both Pharaoh and Herod fail to destroy God's people. Remember, even if you are martyred for Christ, your inheritance in heaven cannot be taken away from you.

Lastly, notice the example of the Hebrew midwives. They fear God (the fear of God is reverence and faith in Him). They directly lie to Pharaoh in order to protect the babies. God is pleased with their disobedience to Pharaoh and blesses them (vs. 20-21). Disobeying earthly authorities when they go against God's Word is not really disobedience, but is actually obedience to Jesus who is King of kings. Jesus says in Matthew 28 that He has all authority in heaven and earth, including authority over earthly kings. Jesus outranks Pharaoh just as a general outranks a sergeant. Disobeying Pharaoh's evil law is obedience to Jesus and His Word.

Tuesday (February 7) – Exodus 2, 3

In Exodus 2 God shows His sense of humor. He has Pharaoh's daughter save Moses and Moses' mom is even paid to care for her own baby! God wants Moses to be raised in Pharaoh's household in order to receive the best education of his day (Acts 7:22). This is part of God's seminary preparation for Moses, who would later be called as God's prophet. Our pastors also need the best education for service to Christ. Moses murders an Egyptian and has to flee from Egypt to Midian, where he meets his future wife. The Book of Hebrews tells us that Moses did this action (even though it was rash) because by faith he chose to suffer with Christ and the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin (Heb. 11:24-27).

In Exodus 3 the Angel of the Lord, who is the Son of God, appears in the burning bush (vs. 2). The Son tells Moses that His name is "I AM WHO I AM," or in the Hebrew, "Yahweh." In the Old Testament, whenever you see LORD in all caps, it is Yahweh. In John

8:58 Jesus tells His enemies that before Abraham was “I AM,” meaning that He is Yahweh. The name I AM means God is eternal, unchanging, and is essence or being (i.e., He is the ultimate essence or being who gives life and existence to all of creation). Jesus is the source of our life (both physical and spiritual), and He upholds the existence of creation by His power!

Wednesday (February 8) – Exodus 4

Exodus 4 continues the account of Moses’ call to be a prophet and his fear of returning to Egypt. We have two chapters dedicated to Moses’ call, emphasizing that no one should publicly preach or teach unless he is called (i.e., “sent”) by God (Romans 10:15).

As Moses is going back to Egypt, God comes to kill Moses because he has not circumcised his sons. Moses’ lack of spiritual leadership forces Zipporah to do an emergency circumcision, thus saving Moses’ life. Circumcision was an Old Testament sacrament whereby an Israelite became part of God’s people. The New Testament equivalent is baptism. Moses could not be God’s prophet while despising God’s covenant of circumcision, just as a man cannot be a pastor while despising baptism (John 3:1-10).

Thursday (February 9) – Exodus 5, 6

In Exodus 5 Pharaoh heightens his oppression of the Israelites. This is a test of their faith. God must first humble His people before He can exalt them. In Exodus 6 God strengthens the faith of Moses and the people with His promises of deliverance. In the same way, God’s Word strengthens our faith in times of crisis. The genealogy of Moses and Aaron (tribe of Levi) shows up in Jesus’ genealogy (Matthew 1:4). Jesus has roots from both the tribe of Judah (our King) and the tribe of Levi (our High Priest).

Friday (February 10) – Exodus 7

In this chapter God predicts how He will harden Pharaoh’s heart. This, however, happens only after Pharaoh first hardens his own heart, as we shall see later. By the power of the devil, the Egyptian sorcerers manage to copy some of God’s miracles. (The devil, a fallen angel, does have some power.) Therefore sorcery, fortune telling, and the like is forbidden in Scripture.

Saturday (February 11) – Exodus 8

Notice how Pharaoh hardens his own heart after each plague. God wants Pharaoh to repent, but Pharaoh refuses. Don’t be like Pharaoh. When God calls you to repent, do not harden your heart against His call. The Egyptian magicians could not duplicate any of the plagues starting with the gnats. Do not fear the devil, for Christ is stronger than he!

Sunday (February 12) – Exodus 9

Pharaoh keeps hardening his heart until finally God hardens Pharaoh (vs. 12). God does not desire the death of the sinner (Ezek. 33:11), but He can punish people with hardness of heart if they continue to reject His Word. We, therefore, put ourselves into the merciful hands of Christ who overcomes hardened hearts with His Word and by the power of His Holy Spirit.