

## Exodus 1-10 Introduction

### Questions:

*Describe what God is like in Genesis?*

(This is just a short list)- Goal: To think about what they have learned about God so far, and how God relates to them now

- Eternality
- Goodness
- Grace
- Holiness
- Justice
- Love
- Mercy
- Sovereignty
- Righteousness
- Faithfulness

*Read Exodus 1:1-22*

### Summary

- Another Pharaoh has ascended the throne, doesn't know Joseph
  - o Not sure of time frame of how long after Joseph has died
- Worried about how strong and populated the Israelites are
  - o Enslaves Israelites
- Pharaoh initiates a genocide to control Israel's population
  - o *Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live." ~v.22*

### Questions:

*Why might Pharaoh seem more threatening as an enemy than God does? Since God did not intervene for his people in Exodus 1, does this mean that God is powerless against Pharaoh? How would you describe God's control over human affairs?*

*Read Chapter 2:1-25*

### Summary of 2:1-2:25

- Moses' born is a Levite
  - o God will later prequalify this peoples for the service of God
  - o Placed here that Moses was prequalified to lead
- Moses was hidden in reeds where he was found by the daughter of Pharaoh
- Moses sees one his people being afflicted, and he strikes down the Egyptian
- Afterward, he sees two of his kinsman fighting
  - o And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" 14 He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." ~v.13-14

- o This is a general attitude that the leaders of Israel have towards Moses, who is damaging their interests, in spite of the fact that Moses would intend it as deliverance
- Pharaoh hears of it, seeks to kill Moses. Moses flees to the land of Midian
- Shepherds harass the seven daughters of Reuel, a priest of Midian
  - o Moses drives them away
- The priest receives Moses, gives his daughter Zipporah to him, and she gives birth to Gershom
  - o Meaning "I have been a sojourner[d] in a foreign land." ~ v.22
- The king of Egypt dies, and the people of Israel groan because of their slavery
- God heard their groaning, and remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

### Questions:

*In v.24, it mentions that God "remembered" his covenant with the patriarchs. Why do you think this is significant? Did He forget? How are Christians connected with the Israelites from thousands of years ago?*

- Refers to Abrahamic Covenant
- The names are in reference to an ongoing covenant fully applicable to the generations that followed Abraham
- God had revealed to Abraham that his descendants would be enslaved for 400 years (Gen. 15:13-16); God's time was now at hand to deliver them from that slavery
- The Israelite history is Christian history, we have a faith that is not formed during Jesus' time, but one that begins from Genesis
  - o Abraham is our spiritual father (Galatians 3:29)
  - o Anyone not interested in what God is doing in the past, is missing the bigger picture

### Lesson:

- Pharaoh is seen as a figure that stands opposed to God
- Moses' is powerless to make change even though he realizes the issue

### Moses Call, Commission, Challenge

Exodus 3:1-7:7

*Read Exodus 3:1-22*

- The Burning Bush
  - o God's holiness is revealed
    - Taking off your sandals
    - Burning bush

### Questions:

*What does it mean for God to be holy?*

- "set apart"; idea of absolute perfection & purity - cannot be approached by anyone/anything that is defiled

What is the significance of God's name, as revealed in 3:14?

- "I am" (YHWH - "He is") (most often translated as "the LORD" - one of the frequently used names of God in the OT)
- names in the OT often reveal something about the person
- speaks to the self-existence and eternity of God - He exists in Himself; "I AM" speaks possibly also to His relation to time
- taken on by Jesus to refer to Himself (John 8:58-59)

Read Exodus 4:29-5:9; 5:19-6:12

Summary

- Revelation of the name of Yahweh
- God commissions Moses to go to the Elders
- God tells Moses that it won't be so easy to persuade Pharaoh
- Moses is afraid that no one will listen to him or believe him
  - o God gives him powerful signs
  - o Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." 13 But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." 14 Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. 16 He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. 17 And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs." ~v.4:11-17
- Moses returns to Egypt with Aaron, and his family, and meet the elders.
  - o *Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped. 4:30-31*
- Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh
  - o *But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go." v5:2*
  - o Increased the Israelite's burden by making them create bricks without straw, without a decrease in output

Lesson

- The hearts of the Israelites are fickle

- o *and they said to them, "The Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us." V.5:21*
- Moses often lacks faith in the midst of trial
  - o *Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."v5:22*
- God is faithful to his covenant, even when his people are uncertain

Questions:

*What makes the Israelites worthy of being God's special people?*

*Has there been a time in your life where you started to praise God, until the circumstances changed, and you became bitter, share that story*

Summary (continued)

- The Lord tells Moses his plan for deliverance
  - o Pharaoh will send them out
  - o Reminds Moses what he has already done for his Fathers
  - o Reminds Moses of the promises of Canaan
  - o I have seen the Israelite affliction and He is acting
  - o Great acts of judgement are to come
- Moses shares this with the people, and they respond
  - o Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.~v6:9
- God commissions Moses again to speak to Pharaoh
  - o Moses is worried about not being heard
  - o But Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?" 6:30
  - o Lord will make Moses seem like a god to Pharaoh and his brother Aaron his prophet
  - o Lord also shares how Pharaoh will respond, with a hardened heart, and yet in spite of this, God will deliver his people out of Egypt
  - o Egypt will respond: The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."v.7:5

**Judgement Begins**

Read Exodus 7:1-10:29

- Begins with a demonstration of God's power
  - o Moses stretching out the staff and produces a snake that swallows up the magician's snake

- To show Pharaoh and the Egyptians that Yahweh is superior to them and their gods
- Many of the plagues strike at the heart of Egyptian gods, the Sun god Ra (darkness), The Nile where water was turned into blood was worshipped
- Pharaoh's heart is still hardened
- God displays his sovereignty, power, and superiority over them through the plagues
  - Water into blood (Exodus 7:14–24)
  - Frogs (Exodus 7:25–8:15)
  - Lice (Exodus 8:16–19)
  - Flies (Exodus 8:20–32)
  - Diseased livestock (Exodus 9:1–7)
  - Boils (Exodus 9:8–12)
  - Thunderstorm of hail and fire (Exodus 9:13–35)
  - Locusts (Exodus 10:1–20)
  - Darkness for three days (Exodus 10:21–29)
  - Death of firstborn (Exodus 11:1–12:36) (next week)
- God wishes his people to be released that they may worship Him
- Pharaoh will not listen

#### Lessons:

- We should marvel at God
  - We should marvel of a God who can make the heavens and earth do his bidding
- God is Lord of all and over all
- God has a measure of grace even for Pharaoh
- God loves his covenant people intensely

#### Questions:

*What does worshipping God mean?*

-attributing worth to / praising / delighting in Him

- Romans 12:1-2 is a great passage for how Christians should worship

- *“by the mercies of God “ – There is a recognition of who God is, and what he has done*

- *“present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable, or well pleasing and perfect.”*

- Worshipping is a response to our understanding of God
- Our response is aligning our very lives with God - He is worthy of nothing less
- To no longer be like the world, but to be like God

*Why is God so serious about His people worshipping?*

- Worshipping God is why Israelites were made
  - the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise~ Isaiah 43:21
- God is out for his glory
  - Isaiah 43:1-7
- Worshipping God is man's greatest need
  - But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, ea lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And ha second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” ~Matthew 22:34-40
- Worshipping God is man's greatest happiness
  - Fulfills the purpose for which we were created
  - How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts! My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. ~Psalm 84:1-2
- Worshipping God brings about sanctified living
  - Romans 12:1-2

*How can you be living out a life of worship, on a day-to-day basis?*