

**Class 4:** The Purpose of this study is to understand the purpose for the revelation of God's sovereignty in the book of Exodus. God has condescended to reveal Himself to us. This revelation of Himself is not haphazard. God reveals Himself to for a purpose. Ultimately, that purpose is to bring glory to Himself. In the book of Exodus, the Lord has Moses make several statements, which explain the purposes behind the revelation of God's sovereignty to Israel, Egypt, and the nations.

## I. Pharaoh

- Pharaoh is a significant character in Exodus. He represents the ultimate power of man on earth. In fact, Pharaoh can be considered the most powerful man on the earth. Like with most men, pride comes with power. When Moses confronts Pharaoh for the first time, Pharaoh does not acknowledge God as a significant being. He asks Moses and Aaron to prove themselves with miracles. Pharaoh's problem is that he believes that he is sovereign and that he does not recognize another higher authority. (Ex 9:17)
- In Exodus 9:14-16, God reveals his purpose for engaging Pharaoh in this demonstration of power. First, God revealed His power to Pharaoh so that Pharaoh would see God for who He really is. Pharaoh seems to think that the God of Moses is just like every other so-called god in his kingdom. Second, God used Pharaoh to demonstrate His power to all the earth. The goal of God was to have all of the earth worship Him for His glory. God used Pharaoh for His glory like He used the blind man in John 9.

## II. Egypt and the Nations of the Earth

- God used the plagues and the separation of waters in the Red Sea to reveal Himself to the people in Egypt also. In Exodus 7:5, God told Moses that He would use the plagues and the Exodus to reveal to the Egyptians that He is LORD. In Ex 14:4, the Lord revealed that He would get glory over Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea event. The purpose was to show the Egyptians the same truth. He is the Lord. The Egyptians got the point. There is probably a long-term affect of this demonstration of God's power over Egypt. The Lord may have been placing a fear of Israel and their God in the hearts of Egypt because Egypt will continue to be a power that could defeat Israel in a head to head fight.

## III. The Covenant People

### Believe that Yahweh is the LORD

- God demonstrated His power over creation in the plagues so Israel may know that God has chosen them over Egypt and that God is Israel's Lord. (Ex 10:2 and 11:7)

### Believe that Salvation is of the LORD

- The Red Sea crossing taught Israel that the LORD *alone* is their savior. (Ex 14:13-14, 31)

### Believe that the LORD Provides

- The Lord sent manna and quail to test Israel, but He also commanded Aaron to save an *omer* of manna in the Ark of the Covenant as a reminder that the LORD provided for Israel in the wilderness (Ex 16:35).

### Believe The Word of the LORD

- In Exodus 4:5 & 8-9, the Lord gave powerful signs to Moses in order to demonstrate that Moses was the Lord's prophet. The cost of following Moses was great.
- In Ex 19:9, the Lord explained one purpose that He had for the Theophony at Sinai. God revealed Himself in a terrifying demonstration of His glory so that the people would pay attention to what God says through Moses and believe Him.

### Worship the LORD

- The Song of Moses expresses of the worship that God intended to produce from His people (Ex 15).

## **Obey the LORD**

- The Preface to the 10 Commandments (Ex 20:2) is a very important and climactic statement. It sits upon the pinnacle of every act that God has done up to it and beyond. The preface brings to focus the full purpose of the Lord's revelation of Himself to Israel. Since God is Lord and Israel's God, Israel needs to obey Him. God redeemed Israel out of slavery by His sovereign power alone. They are no longer slaves in Egypt. Now, they are subjects of the triune God, yet they are more than mere servants. According Ex 4:23, Israel is God's son.  
The few words of the Preface communicate God's covenant love and commitment to Israel. The right response to these words is reciprocal love for the LORD. How could they not love the God that redeemed them and now preserves them? The Preface reminds Israel to both fear and love the LORD. The response that Israel must have is a thankful obedience to His law.
- In Ex 23:20-33 and Ex 34:10ff, the Lord promised to do even more great wonders in order to give to Israel the inheritance of the Land of Canaan. All of God's previous demonstrations of sovereign power and love for Israel are meant to make Israel believe these promises of future help. Israel will need faith that the LORD is their sovereign covenant-keeping God as they face entering into the Promised Land and conquering all of the nations who live there.

**Application:** Why do we get discouraged? Why do we lose hope? The core reason is that we do not believe or understand what God reveals about Himself. Philippians 4:4-7 instructs us to rejoice in the Lord and lift up your fears to the Lord, who alone is able to help us... We lose hope because we do not believe that Jesus' death and resurrection is effectual to save us. Why do we sin? We forget or don't believe that God has sovereignly united us to Christ and we are dead to sin...