

Class 8: In a previous study, we examined the historical details of the Exodus event in Ex 1-14. This study will focus upon theological nature of the Exodus. The Exodus of Israel from the slavery in Egypt is what we call the Old Testament *redemption*. As such, the Exodus was a model for salvation, but it was also salvation itself. In the Exodus, redemption is revealed through the acts of God for Israel. The principles established by the Exodus are true for the redemption in Jesus Christ. Though the OT and NT redemptions are revealed in different forms, they are one principle. We are going to examine seven principles of the Exodus redemption, which teach us about the nature of the redemption in Jesus Christ.¹

1. A Deliverance from Foreign Bondage

- Israel was held in bondage by Pharaoh in Egypt. The slavery was ruthless. (Ex 1:13-14) The harsh bondage was escalated by Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh (Ex 5:6-10). The harsh slavery in Egypt prefigures the slavery to sin.
- Pharaoh was a bad man who did bad things. He typified the mind of sin in the world that enslaves us. Pharaoh has no regard for The Lord. (Ex 5:2) Since Pharaoh hardened his heart toward God, God judges Pharaoh by giving him over to the judgment for his sin. God does punish sin by abandoning people to sin (Rom 1:18-32, 8:1-11).
- The Plagues show that the Egyptian gods are mixed into this conflict. The plagues turned the Egyptian gods on their own worshippers. (Ex 12:12)
- Prior to coming to Jesus Christ we were enslaved to the foreign power Satan (Eph 2:1-2; Heb 2:14-15)

2. A Deliverance from sin

- The Exodus redemption had a subjective aspect also. We need to ask how the people of Israel were affected by the sinful degradation of the Egyptian society.
 - We know that Israel had retained some portion of true religion. They believed Moses' initial report from Moses and they worshipped God (Ex 4:30-31). The faith of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had not been totally lost.
 - We know that Israel had embraced some portion of Egyptian religion. In Joshua 24:14-15 and exek 23:1-10, 19, and 21, we learn that Israel had served idols in Egypt. The evidence of Israel's sin is the building of the idol of the Golden Calf and worshipping it (Ex 32).
- The redemption in Christ includes redemption from slavery to sin (John 8:34-36)

3. A Demonstration of Divine Omnipotence

- We have already studied the demonstration of God's sovereignty in the Exodus. Now, we need to emphasize that God's omnipotence brought about the Exodus redemption. God communicates that He will redeem Israel by His hand (Ex 7:5). God's omnipotence in redemption is remembered in the *Song of Moses* (Ex 15:1-18).
- We are redeemed by God's omnipotence through Christ. (Rom 1:16, John 6:27-40, 10:29; Rom 8:31-39)

4. A Demonstration of Sovereign Grace

- What was the difference between the Israelites and the Egyptians? What accounts for God separating the Israelites from the Egyptians? Both Egypt and Israel was involved in idolatry. So, why was Egypt judged and Israel redeemed?
- The answer is found in Deut 7:7-8 and 9:4-7. The source of Israel's privilege was none other than

¹ The material for this study was came from *Biblical Theology* by Geerhardus Vos and *The Whole Counsel of God* by Richard Gamble.

God's divine, free grace.

- Christ came to redeem us while we were still sinners (Rom 5:8)

5. A Foreordained Act

- God had promised to redeem Israel from Egypt roughly 400 years before the Exodus (Gen 15:13)
- God had chosen us to be redeemed in Christ since before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3-9)

6. An Act of Adoption

- God commanded Moses to demand that Pharaoh to release Israel, *God's firstborn son* (Ex 4:22-23).
- The redemption in Christ also includes our adoption as sons of God (Eph 1:5; Rom 8:2, 15-16)

7. A Sacrifice of Expiation

- God commanded that each household in Israel take a lamb, without blemish, a male a year old. The lamb was killed. Then, some of the blood was placed upon the doorpost of the house, and the lamb was to be consumed. When the Lord passed through the land, He killed the firstborn son of every household with one exception. He spared the firstborn of every household, which had the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts. Israel's firstborn sons were saved by the sacrifice of the blood of the lamb. (Ex 12:7-13, **27**)
- The redemption purchased by Jesus Christ also required a sacrifice of expiation. Israel was ultimately saved through the blood of Jesus Christ, which was symbolized by the Passover lamb. John the Baptist declared Jesus to be *Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!* (John 1:29, see also Rom 3:3-35, 2 Cor 5:21,)

Conclusion:

The Apostle Paul gives us a rule for interpreting the Old Testament. *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* (Rom 15:4). So, we cannot see the Exodus simply as a story about who lived people 2400 years ago. The Exodus reveals to us the nature of redemption, the salvation that we have in Jesus Christ.