**Escaping Your Egypt**

*Exodus 3-12*

Good morning everyone! I am excited to continue our story of the bible series today. It has been amazing to see how the message of the Gospel is written all throughout the old testament and especially in Genesis. You will be happy to know that today we have finally traveled out of Genesis and will be staying in Exodus for a little while.

Where we will see how God’s people have been living in slavery, being locked down in Egypt, suffering under quarantine by the hands of Pharaoh. The good news is, that God always has a **rescue mission plan** for his people in the midst of our suffering and our sins. This exodus escape will take place in chapter 12 during a big event called **the** **Passover**. But before we dive into the Passover, I want to catch you up on the story so far.

Exodus take place right after Jacob, whose name is now Israel, moved his whole family to Egypt. 400 years later, God’s people, the Israelites have been enslaved and mistreated by a new Pharaoh that rose to power. He ordered all Hebrew males to be killed. But baby Moses survived through God’s grace by the hands of the daughter of the very man who wanted to kill him. And by God’s providence, He was raised by his own mother. And I’m sure she told him all about God’s promises of deliverance. Moses probably believed at one point, that he was chosen by God for something great. Maybe he believed that he was the savior promised by God in the Garden of Eden. And now it’s up to him to deliver his people out of Egypt.

So when Moses was about 40 years old, he took justice in his own hands and murdered an Egyptian guard. And when people figured out, he fled from Egypt to Midian for another 40 years. Now at age 80, while Moses was in Midian tending sheep, chapter 3, God called him through a burning bush, to go back to Egypt on a **rescue mission**.

I don’t want you to miss this. God wanted to free his people from the **oppression of Egypt**, but through that process, he wants to free his people from the **oppression of Sin**.

You see, sin can keep you shacked down in the bondage of slavery, but sin can also cause you to be on the run from your calling. Both the Israelites and Moses needed to escape their personal Egypt. So from chapter 3. God begin to lay out his **rescue mission plan**, to free his people and to free Moses from captivity. And I promise you, this is also God’s plan of deliverance to free you, from your bondage of sin, suffering, and slavery. I will show you 8 steps of how through God, you can escape your Egypt.

*God’s 8 step rescue mission plan from captivity;*

1. **The Place of His Promise [Exodus 3:4-6]**

This was where Moses encounter God in a burning bush.

4 “…God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” 5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the **place** where you are standing is **holy ground**.” 6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.”

Moses knew this was God, he knew of the promise that God made with **Abraham**, “13 …for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.” (Genesis 15:13-14)

Moses also knew of the promises God made with **Isaac**, “2 …Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. 4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.” Gen 26:2-4

Moses also knew of the promises God made with **Jacob**, 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Gen 28:15

At this point Moses was 80 years old, he had already given up on this promise. He felt like it was too late for him, he had made too many mistakes, and was just not qualified for the mission. Moses tried to come up with many excuses. But God remined Moses, “*This calling was not the result of your qualifications, or eloquence, or behavior, or even devotion. This wasn’t about you Moses; this is about me! This is about the promised I’ve made, and I will not leave you until I have finished what I have promised.*”

verse 7, “The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out … and I am concerned about their suffering. **8**So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians…10 So now, go. I am sending **you** to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Listen, I don’t care how far gone you think you are from God; he is still pursuing you! He is calling you back, back in relationship with him, back on missions, back on track. Moses was an 80-year-old murderer on the run. It’s never too late for you to submit back to our king.

 Moses was told that the place he is standing right now is holy ground, but he will soon see, his calling has been anointed with purpose and promise. 40 years in the palace was to prepare him to face Pharaoh, and 40 years in Median tending sheep, was to prepare him for 40 years in the wilderness tending God’s people.

That’s why it’s not just our time in ministry that God has ordained, but our time in **Egypt**, our time in the **wilderness**, our time **tending sheep**, our time going through the **motions**. God is working through the waiting. Leading us to the **place of promised**. The place where you are in life right now, has been anointed as holy ground. In the book of Acts at the day of Pancoast, fire came down on the disciples, but they did not burn, because the HS has anointed them as holy ground. So don’t missed out on the purpose and promises of God, but accept your calling, because you are standing in the place of promised, on holy ground.

1. **The Appearance of His Assurance [Exodus 4:1-5]**

Because if you are called, he is going to give you a sign, Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?” 2 Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied. 3 The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. 4 Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. 5 “This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has **appeared** to you.”

**This is the appearance of his assurance**. See how Moses was worried about “**What if’s**” God reassured with “**What is**”. God can use what’s in our hands to give assurance to what’s in our heart. I think a lot of times, like Moses, we run from his signs, because it may have an appearance of something scary. But surprisingly, God is teaching Moses how to handle snakes, because he wanted to make sure, Moses is ready to handle serpents in the palace and later in the wilderness. Sometime the very snakes you are running from, are the very staff God can use to split the red sea. So what kind of signs are you running from? Who is it that you trying to avoid? what is it that you are scared of, that God has called you to pick up?

Let me give you assurance that Jesus our better Moses, has crushed the head of the serpent the devil on the cross, as Jesus was killed by him. On that day, fear and suffering and sin was nailed to that tree, so that now whatever it is that you are scared of handling, may be the appearance of is assurance. “5 This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has **appeared** to you.”

So Moses returned to Egypt with this simple message, and this message is exactly what we need to hear today.

1. **The Songs of His Salvation [Exodus 5:1]**

Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’”

Notice, God wants to deliver his people FROM the bondage of slavery - but he wants to deliver them TO worship him. Freedom should always lead us to worship. Is there a song God has laid on your heart to sing? Well then sing a new song to the Lord. **God desires not just to free us from something, he desires to free us to someone**.

God’s ultimate answer to all the brokenness, the pain, the suffering, the disappointment, our sins - IS HIMSELF – to worship him.

The Gospel is much richer than just going to heaven and avoiding hell. It’s even deeper than finding salvation, it’s that you have been found by the Savoir, the person, Jesus Christ, who desires to have a relationship with you. So that we can sing, “*You stepped into my Egypt, You took me by the hand, You marched me out in freedom, Into the promised land, I’ll sing of all You’ve done, Death is swallowed up forever, By the fury of Your love.”*

That’s why God says to Pharaoh, Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’”

His mission plan involves us singing the **songs of his salvation**.

1. **The Supply of His Strength [Exodus 6:6-9]**

Unfortunate when Moses told his people the rescue plan, they didn’t want anything to do with it. They were so deep in bondage to slavery that they have given up on themselves and on God. 6 “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.’” 9 Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their *discouragement and harsh labor*.

Can I speak to some of you today, whose spirit is broken, and the burden of what’s going on around you have drowned out the spirit of God, dried up his words, and drove out people he had place in your life to help you escape Egypt.

I understand how it seems like 2020 have been a devastating, and depressing year and it feels like all hope is gone. But know that his strength is made perfect through our weaknesses. God is definitely on the move and doing something great in this time. If anything, he is showing us how foolish our own strengths are, he is teaching us how to step aside and let Him lift us up with his mighty hand. He says, “I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians, I will free you from being slaves, I will redeem you with mighty acts of judgment, I will take you as my own people, I will be your God.

He will **supply us his strength** so that we will know, this is who brought us up out of Egypt.

This leads us to step 5 of his rescue plans

1. **The Orchestration of His Omnipotent [Exodus 7:4]**

This point in the story, God will get the attention of Pharaoh and his people through 10 plagues, each one more devastating than the last. This is to demonstrate his omnipotent, meaning to show that he is an all-powerful God.

4 Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out… my people the Israelites.

Blood in the Nile • Frogs everywhere • Gnats • Flies (bigger gnats) • Death of livestock • Boils broke out diseased • Hail • Locusts consumed all that the hail didn’t destroy • Darkness –for 3 entire days• and then death of the first born.

These plagues are the judgment of God on the Egyptians, but they are also signs for people to turn back to Him. Really any sign of judgment before the final judgment is a sign of mercy. In each sign God gave Pharaoh the opportunity to repent.

Plagues, pestilence, diseased, disasters all of it is to get our attention, for us to recognized that he is a powerful God.

 A lot of people are asking right now, what is God doing through the corona viruses? John Piper wrote a free book called “**Coronavirus and Christ”** answering this question, I will give you three of his answers because it is also found here in Exodus. he says;

*1.“God is giving the world in the coronavirus outbreak, a physical picture of the moral horror and spiritual ugliness of sin*.” We see that kind of bondage to sin in Egypt

*2. “Some people will be infected with the corona- virus as a specific judgment from God because of their sinful attitudes and actions.”* And we affirm, that’s what God did with Pharaoh.

*3. “The coronavirus is a God-given wake-up call to be ready for the second coming of Christ.”* In other words, this is the time we should be prepared for our Exodus from Egypt.

God has once again shown us the **Orchestration of His Omnipotent** over our country, our nation, and our world, to get our attention.

Like the Israelites we are not exempt from Judgment. John piper says, “Yes, even his own children—those whom he “predestined . . . for adoption” (Eph. 1:5), redeemed by the blood of his Son (Eph. 1:7), and appointed for eternal life (Eph. 1:18)— even we suffer and die because of God’s judgment in the fall. *Christians* get swept away in tsunamis. *Christians* are killed in terrorist attacks. *Christians* get the coronavirus.

I will explain why in the next step.

1. **The Vindication for His Visit [Exodus 12:12-13]**

Vindication, meaning clearing someone of blame or their crimes. So here is something, we all must remember. The judgment (death) is coming for all of us. We all have sinned and fallen short of God’s standard. We stand before him, with the heart of Pharaoh, guilty as charged. And btw that is what makes him a Good Judge, because he will not let guilty people get off free.

But instead, we need **vindication**, we need someone else to clear us of our crimes, to take the place of the judgment for our sins.

In chapter 12 of Exodus, God gave instructions for his rescue plan, this involves a substitutionary perfect lamb. They were to EAT IT and PLACE its blood over their doorframe as a sign. 12 “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

This rescue mission plan was called the **Passover**. An innocent lamb had to die for their sins. Someone had to pay. That someone for us, was Jesus our innocent, substation. The lamb in exodus gave temporary salvation, Jesus the Lamb of God, gives us eternal salvation. Notice in vs.13 when I see the blood, I will pass over you It was the blood that God saw, not the people. not our money, not our education, not our failures or sins, or achievements. NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS. So what does God see over the doorpost of your heart? You or the blood of his son?

*Piper says, “Christians can get the coronavirus, but the difference for Christians… is that our experience of this corruption is not condemnation. The pain for us is purifying, not punishment. We die of disease and disaster like all humans. But for those who are in Christ, the “sting” of death has been removed*”

So have you embrace Christ as your lamb that vindicated you for the visit of God?

The Israelites didn’t just put the blood on the doorframe they also ate the lamb.

1. **The Eating as His Example [Exodus 12:7,11]**

I know this one sounds odd, but let me read the passage, “7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 11 … Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.”

The Passover lamb was a sign of deliverance, but it was also a meal. The lamb’s blood saved them, but it’s body provided them with the nourishment they needed to make the journey into the wilderness.

Jesus is called the Lamb of God, and he is also the Bread of Life. He rescues us from our SINS to himself, then SUSTAINS us as he SENDS us out! Later in the wilderness, God reinforce this message through daily manna. Reminding his people that they need the bread of life, which is his words daily.

In the last supper, Jesus also broke bread for his disciples to **eat as his example**, of how his body will be broken in order that we can be **sustained**. And today as we take communion together, remember how it was through his **body** that we are rescued, and his **blood** that death has pass over.

1. **The Remembrance of His Redemption [Exodus 12:14;26-27]**

God wanted his people to never forget what happened in Exodus.

14 “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. 26 And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ 27 then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped.

 The response to his redemption is always worship. That’s the first thing they did once they crossed the red sea, was to worship. I mean, that’s the only logical response to a God that has held the waters back for your release, so that you can escape your Egypt. A God that delivered you from the bondage of sin and slavery to suffering.

You see, the Israelites saw freedom from their physical bondage, but they were blinded to an even deeper slavery that God would deal with later in the wilderness– the slavery of sin.

 Israel thought their greatest problem was Egypt, but God knew their greatest problem was in their hearts. The Israelites were supposed to spend 40 days in the wilderness and it turned into 40 years – What took one day to free them FROM physical slavery - took an entire generation to free them from idolatry.

None of us here are slaves in the literal sense, but we all wrestle with idols that desire to control us... to become our masters.

Jesus is not just trying to move us from **bad** to **good**, or **sinful** to **sinless**. He is taking **dead** people and making them **alive**. He is taking **sinful** people and gifting them **righteousness**. He is freeing people into freedom, from hatred, addictions, lies, oppression, and sin and suffering.

The **Passover** is a picture of God’s rescue mission plan for your life. To free you from your Egypt.

* 1. **The Place of His Promise [Exodus 3:1-10]**
	2. **The Appearance of His Assurance [Exodus 4:1-5]**
	3. **The Songs of His Salvation [Exodus 5:1]**
	4. **The Supply of His Strength [Exodus 6:6-9]**
	5. **The Orchestration of His Omnipotent [Exodus 7:4]**
	6. **The Vindication for His Visit [Exodus 12:12:13]**
	7. **The Eating as His Example [Exodus 12:7,11]**
	8. **The Remembrance of His Redemption [Exodus 12:14;26-27]**

This Passover Plan has been given to us, so that whoever the son sets free, is free indeed. It spells out PASSOVER because this Gospel can really be summed up in that word.

 Because we are in Christ, **darkness** has pass over, **pain** has pass over, **affliction** has pass over, **Egypt** has pass over, **death** has lost its sting. **Christ has overcome**.

 If you are in desperate need of freedom right now from your situation, I would like to read you what Moses said to his people as they were about to cross the red sea.

13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Jesus is our victory, Let’s turn to him in this time in worship.