

Freedom and Worship





► Let My People Go

- Pope Benedict XVI (when he was still Cardinal Ratzinger) wrote, 'The only goal of the Exodus is shown to be *worship*... The land is given to the people to be a place for *worship* of the true God... *the freedom to give right worship* to God, appears, in the encounter with Pharaoh, to be the *sole purpose* of the Exodus, indeed, its very *essence*.' (BiOY Day 42)

► The oppression of sin itself!

- Exodus 3:7-10 Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. 9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."
- "All sin promises to serve and please but dominates and enslaves" Ed Cole
- Sin brings a curse and separation! Genesis 3

► **The real source of slavery and oppression.**

► Let my people go!

► **Exodus 5:1-5** After this presentation to Israel's leaders, Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: **Let my people go** so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness." 2 "Is that so?" retorted Pharaoh. "And who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don't know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go." 3 But Aaron and Moses persisted. "The God of the Hebrews has met with us," they declared. "So let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness so we can offer sacrifices to the Lord our God. If we don't, he will kill us with a plague or with the sword." 4 Pharaoh replied, "Moses and Aaron, why are you distracting the people from their tasks? Get back to work! 5 Look, there are many of your people in the land, and you are stopping them from their work." NLT

- Who is the Lord?
- Why should I listen to Him?
- You are distracting people from their task!
- Get back to work!

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- ▶ The world may understand your ‘good works’ but does not see the importance of your *worship*. Pharaoh accuses them of being lazy and sees worship as an alternative to work (5:17–18). But worship is your supreme purpose and work – in fact, the Hebrew word for ‘worship’ in this passage (*‘avad’*), can be translated as both worship and work.

▶ **Freed for a Purpose**

- ▶ One verse “hold a festival in My honor” 6 Times “so they can go worship me”
- ▶ Why was God freeing Israel? (so that they could worship Him)

► Purpose in Deliverance and Worship

- Exodus 7:2-5 **Tell Aaron everything I command you, and Aaron must command Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his country.** 3 But I will make Pharaoh's heart stubborn so I can multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 Even then Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you. So I will bring down my fist on Egypt. Then I will rescue my forces—my people, the Israelites—from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. 5 When I raise my powerful hand and bring out the Israelites, **the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.**" NLT
- Exodus 6:28-30 When the Lord spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 he said to him, "I am the Lord! **Tell Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, everything I am telling you.**" 30 But Moses argued with the Lord, saying, "I can't do it! I'm such a clumsy speaker! Why should Pharaoh listen to me?"

➤ What are we telling people?

➤ **Gospel - GOOD NEWS**

➤ I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God.

➤ I have repented of my sins.

➤ I have confessed that Jesus Christ is now my Lord and Savior.

➤ I have been baptized in water and have risen from that water to live in the newness of Life in Christ Jesus!

➤ It isn't just what you speak it is who you are!

➤ Do people see us as a changed person?

➤ Exodus 7:8-9 Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 9 "Pharaoh will demand, 'Show me a miracle.'

➤ Greatest Miracle people could witness is a truly changed life!

➤ Jesus came to Free us, He came to free me! He came to free you!

➤ **You and I are delivered and freed so people will know that God Is God!**



➤ Let's Make a Deal – 3 Day Journey in the Wilderness

- #1 – Water Turned to Blood

- #2 – Frogs

- #3 – Gnats

- #4 – Flies

- Exodus 8:25 Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. "All right! Go ahead and offer sacrifices to your God," he said. "But do it here in this land."

- Exodus 8:28 "All right, go ahead," Pharaoh replied. "I will let you go into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God. But don't go too far away. Now hurry and pray for me."

- Go and Worship God ... But don't go too far.

- Don't get too involved in this God thing.

- Don't take this faith thing too seriously!



- ▶ #5 - Egyptian Livestock Dies

- ▶ #6 – Boils

- ▶ #7 – Hail

- ▶ **Exodus 10:7-11** Pharaoh's officials now came to Pharaoh and appealed to him. "How long will you let this man hold us hostage? Let the men go to worship the Lord their God! Don't you realize that Egypt lies in ruins?" 8 So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "All right," he told them, "go and worship the Lord your God. **But who exactly will be going with you?**" 9 Moses replied. "**We will all go**—young and old, our sons and daughters, and our flocks and herds. We must all join together in celebrating a festival to the Lord." 10 Pharaoh retorted, "The Lord will certainly need to be with you if I let you take your little ones! I can see through your evil plan. 11 Never! Only the men may go and worship the Lord, since that is what you requested." And Pharaoh threw them out of the palace.

- ▶ Don't take others with you!

- ▶ Leave the family where they are!

- ▶ You just go and worship by yourself!

- #8 – Locust
- #9 – Darkness
- **Exodus 10:24** Finally, Pharaoh called for Moses. "Go and worship the Lord," he said. "But leave your flocks and herds here. You may even take your little ones with you." NLT
- You can go worship God as long as you leave your stuff at home.
- The whole purpose of the journey was to offer sacrifice! Can you really worship if we leave our stuff at home? Are we leaving our stuff at Home?
 - What are we sacrificing?
 - How much of my time am I giving to the Lord?
 - How much of my talent have I used for the Lord?
 - How much of my treasure have I offered to God?
- The Passover and the Final Plague – Death of the First Born – Exodus – **GOOD NEWS**

➤ Conclusion – Thoughts to Ponder:

- When you serve the gods of this world you set yourself up for disaster. The Israelite's had become slaves because they had forgotten who God was. They had forgotten God's plan for their lives.
- Looking over the history of the nation of Israel in the Bible can we see that who or what they worshiped determined their future?
- What they worshipped they gave their time to. What they worshiped they placed as number one in their priorities. What the nation of Israel worshiped was an indicator of where their hearts were at. It was an indicator of their relationship with God.
- A lot of times we hear the story of the exodus and we think that the climax was entering the Promised Land. But God says, you will come to this mountain and worship. **God intended that the pinnacle of the journey would be a worship experience at Mount Sinai.** Exodus 3:1-2; 3:12; 19:1-6

