


# 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)

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- **Exodus 5:1** 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."
  - **Exodus 7:2-3** Tell Aaron everything I command you, and Aaron must command Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his country.
  - **Exodus 7:16-17** Then announce to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to tell you, "Let my people go, so they can worship me in the wilderness." Until now, you have refused to listen to him.
  - **Exodus 8:1-2** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go back to Pharaoh and announce to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, so they can worship me.
  - **Exodus 8:20-21** Then the Lord told Moses, "Get up early in the morning and stand in Pharaoh's way as he goes down to the river. Say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, so they can worship me.

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- **Exodus 9:1-2** "Go back to Pharaoh," the Lord commanded Moses. "Tell him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so they can worship me."
  - **Exodus 9:13-14** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh. Tell him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so they can worship me."
  - **Exodus 10:3-4** So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: How long will you refuse to submit to me? Let my people go, so they can worship me."
  - **Exodus 10:24-26** 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." 25 "No," Moses said, "you must provide us with animals for sacrifices and burnt offerings to the Lord our God. 26 All our livestock must go with us, too; not a hoof can be left behind. We must choose our sacrifices for the Lord our God from among these animals. And we won't know how we are to worship the Lord until we get there."



► You and I have the account from beginning to the end.

### Observations:

- But Moses knew they weren't coming back.
- And Pharaoh knew they weren't coming back.
- And you've read the story before... and YOU know they weren't coming back.

► The account has some powerful dynamics for us today!

- There was something in that message that Pharaoh needed to hear and see.
- There was something in that message Israel needed to hear and see.
- There was something in that message you and I needed to hear see.

## ► 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.



King Tut


- ❖ Who else do we know in the scriptures symbolized by a snake?
  - Garden of Eden in the beginning of the Bible!
  - Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world— ESV
- ❖ He was, is and always will be a deceiver whose purpose in scripture is clear!
  - John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. NLT

# ► 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! (Will come back to this later)



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- **Exodus 6:1-8** Then the Lord told Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. When he feels the force of my strong hand, he will let the people go. In fact, he will force them to leave his land!" 2 And God said to Moses, "I am Yahweh—'the Lord.' 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—'God Almighty'—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them. 4 And I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners. 5 You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them. 6 "Therefore, say to the people of Israel: '**I am the Lord. I will free you from your oppression** and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. **I will redeem you** with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. 7 **I will claim you as my own people,** and **I will be your God.** Then you will know that I am the Lord your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. 8 **I will bring you into the land** I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **I will give it to you as your very own possession.** I am the Lord!" NLT



- God wanted them to know, **“I am the Lord”**

- Notice all the “I Wills”

- I will free you

- I will redeem you

- I will claim you as my own people

- I will be your God

- I will bring you into the land

- I will give it to you as your own possession

- **I am the Lord**

- Moses is the liberator of God’s people in the Old Testament. He foreshadows Jesus – the supreme liberator. As Moses set God’s people free from slavery, so Jesus sets you free from slavery to sin.


- ‘Freedom’ is probably the best contemporary word to define what the Bible means by ‘salvation’. The whole Bible could be summed up as the ‘history of salvation’. It is the story of God’s desire and purpose to free his people. You are set free. (BiOY Day 42)

## ► Side note for us to ponder

- "... let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God"
- Exodus 3:18, 5:3, 8:27

## ► Three days and the foreshadow of Christ;

- When God told Abraham to sacrifice his ONLY son to God, you know how many days it took him to journey to Mt. Moriah where the sacrifice was to be made?" (3) Genesis 22:4
- And in the book of Joshua, when they're about to cross the Jordan River (that Scripture has equated with death) into the Promised Land (presenting Heaven) an angel told Joshua to tell the people: "Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'" Joshua 1:11
- How many days was Jonah in the belly of the fish? (3) Jonah 1:17
- Jesus said: "as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40
- How many days was Jesus in the tomb? (3)



► John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”


► Do we really understand what we are set free from?

► John 8:34-36 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. 35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. NLT

## ► **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)



➤ When God led Israel out of slavery, He brought them to Mt. Sinai where He gave them His law. There was thunder and lightning and sounds so terrifying that people were afraid. And God thundered down his 10 commandments, and first few words said this: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”  
Exodus 20:2-3


➤ Essentially God was telling them:

➤ You belong to me.

➤ I brought you out of bondage.

➤ You were bought with a price.

➤ You are My people and you belong to ME now.



► And God says the same thing to us: “... do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” I Corinthians 6:19-20

► **The people of Israel were being brought out of slavery to be a people who belonged to God.**

► They were leaving Egypt to **WORSHIP God!**

► **And that is also why God freed us Christians from our chains of bondage as well.**

► **TO WORSHIP GOD, THE I AM**

