

Exodus: Redeemed for the Glory of God

Chapters 5-11: Let My People Go

1. Where are we in Redemptive History?
2. What does the word “Exodus” mean?
3. Why is the exodus such an important story to understand?
4. In what ways does this book point to Christ?
5. What happened in Chapters 5-11?
6. What phrase do we hear over and over concerning Pharaoh? What does it mean for God to harden someone’s heart?

“God doesn’t harden people by putting evil in their hearts. All that God must do to harden anyone’s heart is to withhold His own grace; that is, He gives a person over to himself.” (Martin Luther)

The Response to God’s Command

Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" ² But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go..." ⁶ The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, ⁷ "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. ⁸ But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle..." ²⁰ They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; ²¹ and they said to them, "The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us." ²² Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O LORD, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? ²³ For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

7. What happened after Moses confronted Pharaoh the first time? What was Pharaoh’s response? How did the Israelites respond?
8. How does Moses respond to this? Who is he concerned for? Does this remind you of any particular response you’ve had to a situation?
9. What does a response like this reveal about our hearts?
10. What is good about Moses’ response?

God’s Response

But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." ² God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, ¹ but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am

the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'"

11. How does God respond to Moses? What does this teach us about who God is?

"God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass." (WCF 3.1)

12. What is God's response through the next 5 chapters of Exodus? What was this designed to show the Egyptians and Israelites about God?

13. What was the Egyptians' worldview?

14. What is the underlying meaning of the plagues? (Are they actually called plagues in the bible? see 7:3)

15. What is the first showdown between God and the gods of Egypt? How is it representative of the plagues to come?

16. How did the other plagues show God's power?

17. What is the final plague threatened at the end of Chapter 11? What is the significance of this plague? (see Ex. 4:22)

18. What are some of Pharaoh's responses to the plagues?

Exodus 7²² *But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.* ²³ *Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.*

Exodus 8:15 *But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.*

Exodus 9:7 *But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.*

Exodus 9:27-35²⁷ *Then Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, "This time I have sinned; the LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong." ²⁸ Plead with the LORD, for there has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer...." But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵ So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.*

19. Is any of this a surprise to God (see Exodus 7:3-4)? What does this teach us about who God is?

20. In what ways do we see the world's heart hardened toward God? What does this teach us about what our response/view should be to the world's denial of who God is?

O Father, You are sovereign in all affairs of man,
No pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart your perfect plan
All chance and change transcending, supreme in time and space,
You hold your trusting children secure in your embrace

-Margaret Clarkson