

Week 6. The Exodus. Class Notes

[A] THE MOTIVATION FOR THE EXODUS - THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- See 2:24; 6:4, 5. The Exodus happened because God ‘remembered’ his covenant with Abraham. God remembered = God went into action for the sake of (See also Genesis 8:1), here, in order to press the covenant promises forward towards fulfilment.
- The covenant promises can be summed up under three headings: (i) posterity; (ii) relationship with God; and (iii) land. **(i) Posterity** - fulfilled by the end of Exodus 1, despite significant opposition from Pharaoh (see his various plans in Ex 1:11-11; 13-14; 16; and 22). Ex 1:12: ‘*But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread*’. At the time of the Exodus, the Israelites were nation-sized (Ex 12:37).’ Modern equivalent – China since the Cultural Revolution. **(ii) Relationship with God** - fulfilled in the covenant at **Mount Sinai**, but see already. Ex 6:7. **(iii) Land**. Ex 6:8.

[B] THE NATURE OF THE EXODUS

(a) A God-enabled Departure.

Ex 6:6: ‘*I will bring you out – literally, *I will cause you to go out*’. Our English word ‘exodus’ from Greek for ‘out from’ and ‘a way’; exodus = a ‘way out from’, a departure. Here, Israelites’ departure from Egypt. Causative verb - God had to bring this about; they couldn’t do it themselves. (See also Ex 20:2).*

(b) Liberation Movement/ Rescue Mission

- Ex 6:6: ‘*I will free you from being slaves...*’ (For verb see also Gen 37:21f; Ex 2:19; 18:4, 9), but most of all used of God’s rescuing Israel from Egypt (3:8; 6:6; 12:27; 18:8).
- The position or condition from which the Israelites needed to be rescued/ liberated was that of slavery (Ex 6:6; 13:3, 14; 20:2), with all its attendant misery: toil (1:14; 5:9, 11) without any rest. Given impossible targets (6:7); screws turned when they complained (ch 5). Physically maltreated (1:13f), beaten (2:11; 5:15, 16), so that their lives were ‘bitter’ (1:14). ‘Misery’ (3:7; 17; 4:31); ‘pain’/ sorrow/ suffering (3:7). They (2:23) groaned/ sighed; and (2:23; 3:7, 9) cried out for help. God heard (2:24f; 3:7f).
- Israelites were intended by God to have learned lessons to be applied in their own relationships. Example, the fourth commandment (see Ex 20:8-11; Deut 5:12ff). So our need to be concerned about slavery, apartheid, discrimination in any form.
- Exodus was release from a life of idolatry, and from the spiritual powers that lay behind Egypt’s worship. See Ezekiel 20:1-8. See also Ex 12:12 - Exodus was judgement on the

gods of Egypt. See also Ex 15:11 (and 18:11). In the NT, 2 Cor 4:4 - '*the god of this world*', Eph 2:2 - '*the ruler of the kingdom of the air*'; 1 Jn 5:19 - '*the evil one*.' Christians today - rescued and liberated from power and guilt of sin, from curse of the law; also from the greater than Pharaoh, from the power of the evil one, the god of this world.

(c) Redemptive Activity

- See Ex 6:6: '*I will redeem you ...*'; Ex 15:13 '*the people you [Lord] have redeemed.*'
- From Leviticus 25 redemption associated with two ideas: (i) family/ kinsmanship – the kinsman-redeemer who redeems a family member or his property; (ii) the cost: the ransom price, the redemption money [see, e.g., Lev 25:25ff]. Here, in terms of (i) the Kinsman-Redeemer Lord redeems his son (Ex 4:22). (ii) No specific mention of a ransom price paid – perhaps costliness of the Passover lamb for each Hebrew family? Points forward to Jesus (1 Pe 1:18f).

[C] THE GOAL OF THE EXODUS

- Just the land? No more, the worship! See 3:12, 18; 4:22 (also 5:1, 3; 7:16; 8:20, 27; 9:13; 10:9, 26). Worship happened firstly at Mt Sinai (Ex 19ff), then at tabernacle (Ex 25-40). See 40:34) '*the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle*'. The worship begun at Sinai continued until they settled in the Promised Land and built a more permanent temple (Solomon). See Ex 15:13, 17.
- Same words used of service and work of the Tabernacle (27:19; 30:16; 35:21, 24; 36:1, 3, 5; 38:21; 39:32, 40, 42) as for slave work for Pharaoh. Liberation/ redemption brings about a change of master. To serve Pharaoh is a living death; to serve the Lord is liberation and life. So with us. Saved to serve and worship the Lord; saved to serve our neighbour. See Rev 22:3 - THE goal of the Exodus.

[D] THE EXODUS AS PARADIGM/ PATTERN FOR GOD'S SAVING ACTIVITY

- Abraham - compare Gen 15:7 with Ex 20:2; Repeatedly in Judges (2:16, 18; 3:9; etc)
- Exodus from exile in Babylon. See Is 35:10, but especially Isaiah 40ff. See 43:1-3; 52:11-12; 55:12f, etc). Happened in 538 BC.
- True fulfilment of these OT prophecies Jesus: greater than Moses; the Passover Lamb; the One who has overcome the Strong Man; etc. See Luke 9:31 '*Jesus' departure ... fulfilment at Jerusalem.*' Greek = *exodos*; his 'departure' from this world, but also its significance – bringing about THE great Exodus. Took the thief home to paradise – a kind of firstfruits of all the rest of the harvest of humanity.