



PALMA CEIA

Presbyterian Church

The God of Exodus (Ex. 1-20)

Gathering Together Around God's Word

*Sunday, January 16th 2022
10:05am in EM 307/308 & Zoom*

Background

Exodus continues the story, begun in Genesis, of the people of Israel in Egypt. However, the text begins generations after the death of Joseph. The Israelites are growing in numbers and no longer have a close relationship with Egypt. A new Pharaoh begins to oppress the Israelites through forced labor, infanticide, and more. Out of this oppression God calls Moses to liberate his people. This leads to their escape from Egypt and deliverance from bondage. On their wilderness journey, the Israelites arrive at Mt. Sinai. It is here where the 10 Commandments are delivered, and a covenant is made between God and Israel.

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| 1:1-2:25 | Growth & Oppression of Israel in Egypt |
| 3:1-6:27 | The Call and Commission of Moses |
| 6:28-15:21 | The Miraculous Deliverance from Bondage |
| 15:22-18:27 | The Journey to Mt. Sinai |
| 19:1-24:11 | The Covenant at Sinai |

The God of Genesis

Genesis is the first book of the Bible and our first introduction to God. The God of Genesis is shown through various prisms. For example, Genesis 1-2 gives a description of God as Creator. Even within the two Creation stories we get

different focuses. Genesis 1 portrays God ordering the world out of chaos, focusing on the daily structure of creation. On the other hand, Genesis 2 focuses on the “earthliness” of God and the intimacy of creation.

As Genesis continues, we get front row seats to the ups and downs of humanity and God’s response. These stories include: banishment from the Garden of Eden, Noah and the Great Flood, and the Tower of Babel. In many ways, the relationship between God and humanity throughout these stories is one of judgement.

Beginning in chapter 12, God reaches out to begin an intentional relationship through Abraham. God calls Abraham to leave the land of his ancestors and begin a new life in the land God will show him (12:1). God promises to make of Abraham “a great nation” and bless “all the peoples on earth” through Abraham (12:2-3). This promise comes amid the reality of Abraham and Sarah having no children. But nothing is too wonderful for God (18:14)!

These stories continue through the families of Isaac and Jacob. Genesis ends with the extended story of Jacob’s second youngest son, Joseph. Though God is referenced little throughout the story, God’s providential hand is present throughout and made explicit toward the end. The salvation of Jacob and his family was initiated years before through his sons’ betrayal of their brother Joseph. As Joseph says toward the end of Genesis, “Even though you intended to harm me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today” (50:20).

The God of Exodus

- Exodus 2:23-25
 - v. 23 - The Israelites “groaned under their slavery”
 - v. 24 - God hears their cries and remembers “his covenant”

- Exodus 3
 - Moses and the burning bush
 - God responds to the cries of Israel
 - vv. 6, 15, 16 - “The God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”
 - v. 14 - “I AM WHO I AM”

- Exodus 11:4-8

- v. 7 - "...so you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."
- Exodus 12:43-51
 - Directions for the Passover
 - Instructions for foreigners (*lo ben nekar*, lit. "son of a stranger") and aliens/sojourners (*tosab*)
- Exodus 13:1-10
 - vv. 8-9 - "You shall tell your child on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' It shall serve for you as a sign on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead, so that the teaching of Lord may be on your lips; for with a strong hand the Lord brought you out of Egypt."
- Exodus 17:1-7
 - The Israelites complain in the wilderness
 - God, through Moses, brings water from the rock
- Exodus 19
 - Arrival at Mt. Sinai
 - The People are consecrated
- Exodus 20
 - The Ten Commandments

Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

1. ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

2. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep

my commandments.

3. ⁷ *You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.*
4. ⁸ *Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.*
5. ¹² *Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*
6. ¹³ *You shall not murder.*
7. ¹⁴ *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. ¹⁵ *You shall not steal.*
9. ¹⁶ *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. ¹⁷ *You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*



