

So far in our sermon series we have discovered Jesus in the prophecy of Isaiah 53 as he wrote of God’s Servant who was “pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our sins.” And we discovered Jesus in Psalms 22, 23 and 24 as David wrote about the Messiah’s anguish in suffering, blessing in shepherding and glory in reigning. Last week we discovered Jesus as our kinsman redeemer through the type of Boaz in the book of Ruth.

So Jesus can be discovered in prophesy, in songs and in character types. But He can also be discovered in ancient events that mirror His earthly accomplishments, as we will see today from the account of the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt, as related in Exodus 14.

Just as Calvary is the marker and standard for God great work of salvation recounted in the New Testament, so the exodus from Egypt is the marker and standard for God’s great work of salvation recounted in the Old Testament. This monumental event is referred to time and time again in Scripture. For example:

Psalm 106:7-12 *Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; they did not remember Your abundant kindnesses, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. Nevertheless, He saved them for the sake of His name, that He might make His power known. Thus He rebuked the Red Sea and it dried up, and He led them through the deeps, as through the wilderness. So He saved them from the hand of the one who hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. The waters coved their adversaries; not one of them was left. Then they believed His works and sang His praise.*

And in Micah 7:15, God is speaking and says:

Micah 7:15 *As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles.*

This sets up the exodus miracle as the “standard” of miracles – the height of God’s earthly miracles up to that point – the salvation of the nation Israel from slavery. But have you ever stopped to think that this extraordinary ancient miracle is also typifying and explaining the penultimate miracle of Christ’s saving of the world from the slavery of sin? In the exodus we learn of Jesus and his saving of the world.

So today, let me show you Jesus in the exodus, as we learn the exodus “by numbers.” I will show you **10 key events** in the exodus account. And as we see these, we will find that each of these is duplicated in the miracle of Calvary. We will again discover Jesus, B.C. !

The Exodus/our Calvary: 10 Key Events

1. The Passover Lamb

In Exodus 12, preceding the miracle of the release from bondage, God commanded the provision of an unblemished lamb to be slain and eaten by each Israelite as an annual remembrance of what God was about to do. And the blood of that lamb was to be sprinkled on the doorpost of each household so that the angel of death, the tenth plague on Egypt, would not strike the inhabitants of that household.

In like manner, long before the time of our decision to receive Christ as our Savior, God commanded the provision of Jesus as the Lamb of God to be slain for the sins of the world. And each who would receive that salvation was to “consume” that body as spiritual food, and “drink” that blood shed as spiritual drink for the forgiveness of sin.

2. “Turning back” = Repentance

Exodus 14:2-3 *“Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’”*

When the Israelites had fled to the sea (in their own efforts), God told them to “turn back,” literally “repent” that they may face their enemy. And repenting – turning from our own efforts to save ourselves and turning to God alone to change our ways – is exactly what God asks of those who would be saved of sin. Have you ever realized before that the first step in the exodus story is a “retreat” or “repentance”?

3. Chased by the enemy

Exodus 14:6-7 *So [Pharaoh] made his chariot ready and took his people with him; and he took 600 select chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them ... and he chased after the sons of Israel ...*

The exodus story tells us that Pharaoh and his armies chased after the departing Israelites. In the same way, when we personally approach the moment of salvation, Satan and his demons “chase” after you, for they are not happy about your pending decision to trust in Jesus. That is why so many at the moment of decision feel “torn” with the arm of God pulling one way and the forces of darkness pulling the other way.

4. “Second thoughts” and fear

Exodus 14:10 *As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so, the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord.*

I remember having “second thoughts” when I was considering receiving Jesus as my Savior, and I remember feeling a fear for making a wrong decision. All this, of course, was confusion tactics by the enemy.

5. The Lord fights for you

Exodus 14:13-14 *But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.*

Exodus 14:19 *The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.*

At every moment of spiritual battle, at every moment of prayer, at every moment of trusting in God, God fights for us. And especially so at the moment of decision as to whether to receive Jesus as Lord. And who do you think the “angel of God” is who had been leading Israel and who would defend Israel and who would continue to lead Israel through the Red Sea and the wilderness? Isaiah knew the answer. “Hang onto your hats” for this one:

Isaiah 63:7-9 *I shall make mention of the loving kindnesses of the Lord... for He said, “Surely, they are My people, sons who will not deal falsely.” So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them. In His love and mercy, He redeemed them, and He lifted them and carried them all the days of old... v. 12 [He] caused His glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for Himself an everlasting name.*

Yes, Isaiah knew that it was the Savior-Messiah who was the angel of God’s presence who guided the Israelites through the Red Sea and beyond. And we know His name as Jesus!

6. Miracle provision of crossing from death to life

Exodus 14:21-22 *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*

Miracle of miracles, the children of Israel were brought from certain death to life. Dry ocean floor, no less. And walls of water on both sides well above their heads. Some two million are thought to have crossed that day in complete safety. And miracle of miracles, the moment we take that step of faith into the arms of Jesus, trusting in Him as Savior and Lord, we are miraculously transported into the eternal life of God.

7. God confuses the enemy

Exodus 14:25 *[The Lord] caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “let us flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them ...”*

I find it humorous as well as reassuring that God “put his finger” on the chariot wheels, making them swerve. When we put our trust in God, you can be sure He make the enemy flounder in their attempts to confound and recapture. God is truly on the side of those who have made Him captain of their souls.

8. God defeats the enemy

Exodus 14:28 *The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained.*

Gone – every horse, chariot and rider, including Pharaoh. Why? The people now feared the Lord (v. 31) and the Lord was honored through Pharaoh's complete defeat. (Read Moses' song in chapter 15).

And this is prophetic of what God will do ultimately in completely destroying Satan and his powers of darkness in the last days (Revelation 20). But for now, his "stinger" has been removed and we are protected as we draw near to God, for he will flee from us.

9. Salvation is accomplished

Exodus 14:30 *Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians...*

- a. **A new life** - God changed the calendar of the Israelites with their new year beginning at the time of the exodus to remind them of their new life of freedom from slavery. And when we are saved we are given a new life in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

- b. **A new freedom** – freedom from the power and penalty of sin
- c. **A new relationship** – a close communion with God now made possible with "God in us"

10. Rejoicing in what God has done

Exodus 14:31 *When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.*

And be sure to read Exodus 15, the song of Moses and Israel in response to this miracle. It begins:

Exodus 15:1-2 *I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; the horse and rider He has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise Him.*

So I ask – have you seen Jesus in the exodus? I trust so.

I see 3 key elements in the complete exodus story, and each speak loudly of Jesus.

3 KEY ELEMENTS IN THE EXODUS ACCOUNT

1. LAMB

The memorial of both exodus and Calvary

2. LIBERTY

The miracle of both exodus and Calvary

3. LAND

The mission of both exodus and Calvary

Jesus is the Lamb of God, given by God the Father as an offering to pay for all our sin. And we are called for forever "remember" – both in the partaking of communion, but more in the "eating" of Christ's person and "drinking" of Christ's blood for forgiveness of our everyday sins.

Jesus is also our liberty. When on the earth he said "if the Son has set you free, you are free indeed." (John 8:36).

And Jesus is our "land." He is the goal we are seeking and our hope of eternal rest. He said in John 14: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again that where I am, there you may be also." He is our ultimate destination! He is the promised land of promised lands!

In the Exodus story we find the prominence of the LAMB, the LIBERTY and the LAND pursued.

In Jesus we find the same. And we again see Jesus, B.C.