Good morning, Family. Please pray with me. This morning, we begin a series on the book of Exodus. Exodus is a continuation of the Genesis. It begins with the word, “Now” or, in some translations, “And,” as if to say, “Now that you know the story of the beginning of Creation and the introduction of Adam and Eve to evil, here’s what happens next.” This is the story of the journey of mankind from slavery to freedom. “How long are we going to be in Exodus, Pastor Chris?” you may be thinking. Well, it took the Israelites forty years to traverse the desert into the promised land, but we shouldn’t take that long. Listen, Family. Moses’ leading the Hebrew nation out of Egypt is the greatest redemptive even in the Old Testament, and it surely points us to the greatest redemptive event of all history, the empty tomb—the rising of Christ from the grave to redeem all for all time. Exodus literally means “coming out of.” It is our story , in that we desperately need rescuing from the bondage of sin and death, and the risen Christ rescues us. The message of Exodus is simple: We are saved by God’s goodness for God’s glory. And God keeps His promises!!

 In Exodus 1 when the story picks up from the end of Genesis, we find the Israelites in slavery in Egypt. They fled to Egypt from famine that affected the land in Canaan. Joseph, one of their own, takes care of them until his death. Now, however, a new pharaoh knows nothing of Joseph and his faithful service to Egypt. From the original 70 persons of the Jewish faith, the Hebrews have prospered and grown in number to a point that the pharaoh fears their potential power. To confront this perceived problem, he moves against them, trying to reduce their number by enforcing infanticide of male Jewish children. His efforts will be thwarted by the God of the Israelites, who has made this promise, recorded in Genesis 12:1-3:

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household, to the land I will show you. **2**“I will make you into a great nation,
     and I will bless you;
 I will make your name great,
     and you will be a blessing.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+12%3A1-3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-301a)]
 **3**I will bless those who bless you,
     and whoever curses you I will curse;
 and all peoples on earth
     will be blessed through you.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+12%3A1-3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-302b)]

Before addressing more of the Exodus story, in which Moses acts on God’s promises, we must ask ourselves, how do we respond to God’s promises? How do you view your need for a redeemer? Church, listen. God keeps His promises. He means what He says, and to Adam He has said that He will make the Israelites into a great nation; He promises that those who bless them—His people, He will bless, but those who do evil to His people, He will curse. The promises of God drive the story in Exodus: God makes His people into a great nation. He blesses them. When, however, others curse them, God curses those who harm His people. This tale confirms the sovereignty of God, shows unequivocally the patience of God, and gives evidence that God has delivered and rescued—and will deliver and rescue—His people. The Exodus story is our story. Bound/enslaved by sin, we need a redeemer.

 The word *Egypt* comes from the Hebrew word mitzraim, meaning *to bind, to be bound, to be enslaved.*  The word *Israel* means *one who contends* or *one who wrestles with God* (\*Genesis 32:24-30). That’s US!! We are slaves to sin, lost, angry, bitter, steeped in addiction, hopeless, wrestling with God. And all the while, God has a ***perfect plan*** for our redemption (\*\*Titus 2:14). This plan shows us the kindness of our God, sealed in

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\*Genesis 32:24-30

24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

27 The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

28 Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

29 Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”

\*\*Titus 2:14

14 [He] gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.

the blood of our Savior—our testimony of rescue from slavery and deliverance into freedom: “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14). What God promises, He delivers to those redeemed—freedom, hope, personal relationship, deliverance, rescue, forgiveness. This redemptive plan is specifically for you. And GREAT NEWS! The Lord is patient: “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God’s exodus plan is for *YOU*. Even when you don’t understand what God is doing or don’t see that He works in your life, that doesn’t mean He isn’t doing anything! Look again at the portion of the Exodus story in which pharaoh instructs the Hebrew midwives to kill male Jewish newborns:

 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

 19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

 20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own (Genesis 32:24-30).

The Hebrew midwives fear and respect their God above all else, including Egypt’s pharaoh. They know the beauty and power of their God; in their profession, they see the sanctity of life created in His image, and these experiences generate their obedience to God. As we shall see, this respect for God, their refusal to follow the directive of the pharaoh, makes for the birth of Moses in Exodus 2. The faithful obedience of these women changes the course of history. God positions them to be there—this is no accident.

How do we participate in the deliverance, the redemption, the rescue of God? Christ’s Gospel is our Exodus, our redemption from the heart of Christ because of His mission to give His life as a ransom for many. And that ransom covers all: “I know that You can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted,” Job says (42:2). God’s plans will be fulfilled, whether anyone else likes them or not. And God need not ask permission to act. Let me ease your mind. You may think you have messed up your life so that God’s plan for peace cannot reach you or save you. Stop being so arrogant: You are not that powerful! Yes, you and I need a redeemer. And we have one in Christ. We need to receive Jesus in repentance and by faith. No matter how much we have sinned or how far we think we are from the God who made and loves us, we can’t get beyond His reach. We can never sin beyond His patience and Love that saves. He is still Emmanuel, God With Us. Even when we don’t understand what God is doing, we can trust Him.

 Where are you in the story of God’s redemption? Are you still enslaved, wrestling with God? Listen. We can trust God’s promises. We are rescued by and for His glory. And here is a wonderful truth: He *already* has all the pieces in place for your spiritual success. How are you treating God’s promises? God has not stopped the flow of His grace to you. He has not quit on you. Are you trusting Him? Don’t wait to decide to repent and live in Faith in Him. The plan for your redemption is in place. It is the supreme work of Jesus Christ. Leave allegiance to this world behind. Rejoice in the deliverance and freedom He gives. JESUS IS BETTER!

Passages in support of this sermon:

Genesis 15:12-14

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

Exodus 1:8-22

8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them, or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so, the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile but let every girl live.”