

Weekly Bible Study Lesson (Pages 1-3)
Study of Exodus

God in the Lives of His People: Review of Chapters 1-3

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Date: May 28, 2020

Topic: God in the Lives of His People

Scripture Focus: Exodus Chapter 1-3;

Supporting Scriptures: Ephs. 2:10; Rom. 8:28-39

Many Christians struggle to believe that God is active in the lives of human beings. They believe that God was active in the lives of those in the Bible, but struggle to believe that God is active in their own individual lives. The people mentioned in the Bible were ordinary people with nothing special or different about them. They lived and had difficult circumstances, oppression and warfare, the loss of love ones, broken relationships and restoration, disabled children, had disobeyed God, experienced being sold into slavery, had to pay taxes, under government rule, displacement from home and family, marriage and divorce, rape and murder, children removed from the home, children killed at the hands of evil men and so on. The scripture tells us that every time they cried out to God in their dilemmas that he heard their cry and responded. God hears our cry and gets involved when we ask him to and sometimes just because he cares. When he gets involved in the lives and concerns of his people, he brings change, but expects a response of reference and obedience.

God will respond when we ask for his help. I would like to challenge you in reflection of biblical texts that indicates that God has thoughts about you, your life, and actively participates in bringing you to an expected end, as stated in Jeremiah 29:11. This scripture makes it clear that God cares about what happens to you and has a divine plan for your life and the life of his overall Body, the Church. It's also clear that we nor the collective Body of Christ ends up successful in the will of God without God's help. He has thoughts toward you and his authority is not only active, but essential to the fulfilled purpose God intended for your life and the life of the Church he has assigned you to. It was in the mind of God before you were formed in your mother's womb and before the Church was birthed by Christ.

In Exodus 1-3, God is manifesting his concern for the burdens and toil of Israel by responding to her cries

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Psalms 133

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that rain down upon the head, even Aaron's head: that went down to the skirts of his garments: As the dew of Herman, and as the dew that descended upon the mountain of Zion for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

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unto him. In looking at these chapters, it is clear that God is involved and has a strategy for delivering Israel from her bondage. He has been blessing her tremendously under Joseph's leadership by providing for her, expanding and multiplying her, bringing increase to Israel's population and in all abundance causing her to stand out because of his blessings upon her.

God's favor and grace was upon Israel so apparent, that Pharaoh noticed it and feared. His fear and jealousy manifested itself in his aggression to oppress Israel. But God knowing the end from the beginning had a plan to bring Israel out of this foreign land and into the land that he had planned to give her. It does not matter what your circumstances may look like and no matter how heavy the burden, God is yet in control. God is never without the power to deliver regardless of who has authority over your life or what the circumstance looks like. Your cry unto God provokes him to work in your behalf.

Key points in Exodus Chapter 1-3, Israel struggled and God got involved in the outcomes of their circumstances:

Chapter 1 Dilemma

- Joseph had died and Israel had no one in Pharaoh's favor to fight for them
- Pharaoh grew jealous of God's blessing upon Israel
- Pharaoh oppressed and afflicted Israel with heavy burdens
- Pharaoh seeks to kill all Israel's male newborns
- Pharaoh sends a decree against Israelite's male newborns

God's Involvement

- God uses the midwives to spare the Israelite male newborns
- God increased and multiplied the births and prosperity of the Israelites in spite of their oppression

Chapter 2 Dilemma

- Pharaoh established a decree for all Israelite's male newborn to be thrown into the river

God's Involvement

- God caused the baby to cry at the right time for Pharaoh's daughter to hear him
- God gives the baby's sister wisdom to follow the child to be present to be used by God
- God uses Pharaoh's daughter putting compassion in her heart for the crying baby
- God uses Moses sister to offer a Hebrew mother to nurse the child, who was really the mother of

- God allows Moses mother to bring back home the baby she had to put in the river to possibly die
- God spares baby Moses as he had a plan for his life to deliver Israel out of the hands of Pharaoh

Chapter 3 Delimna

- Moses has to flee from Pharaoh for killing an Egyptian
- Moses has to live in a foreign land and out of the royal environment he was familiar with
- Moses displays fear of Pharaoh and the Israelite people
- Moses demonstrates low self-esteem
- Moses offends God

God's Involvement

- God prepares a place for Moses in Midian with the Midianite priest and daughters
- God speaks to Moses out of a burning bush
- God speaks and calls Moses to confront Pharaoh and to bring his people out of Egyptian
- God gives Moses a sign for building faith in the people of Israel
- God gives Moses a physical sign of his power so the people and Pharaoh would believe
- He tells Israel to spoil the Egyptians to come out with the bounty
- God plans to use Moses to introduce himself to the Israeli people and to inform them he is the God of their generations and is their deliverer
- God demonstrates his power and authority using Moses rod to aid Moses fear transforming it to faith in God's power
- God proves himself to Moses so he understands God has power and authority to deliver the people
- Though angry, God compensates for Moses low self-esteem
- God makes Moses as the symbol/mouth piece of God to Aaron authorizing Aaron to stand in Moses stead to speak to the people instead of Moses an alternative to God's original plan.
- God establishes he is the maker of all humans disabled and fully functional and is not hindered by our disabilities but still chooses to use us
- He promises Israel a land filled with milk and honey

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