

THE GOSPEL PROJECT – CHRONOLOGICAL

GOD DELIVERS

GOD THE REDEEMER

The Redeemer Reveals His Glory

God's first revelation of His glory to mankind was through creation: **Psalm 19:1 (ESV)**¹ *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.* Eventually God the Father would reveal His glory in God the Son. **John 1:14 (ESV)**¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* In the events that occurred surrounding the deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt after 400 years, we find another beautiful example of the Redeemer revealing His Glory.

When Moses had his first personal encounter with the LORD at the burning bush, he was frightened. **Exodus 3:6 (ESV)**⁶ *... for he was afraid to look at God.* However, as time passed the more Moses saw of the glory of God, the more glory he desired to see. **Exodus 33:18 (ESV)**¹⁸ *Moses said, "Please show me your glory."* And this was the LORD's reply: **Exodus 33:19 (ESV)**¹⁹ *... "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' ... Like Moses we too see the glory of God through His goodness to us! The revelation of God's glory is a consistent theme throughout scripture. Our first focal passage shows how God revealed His glory by challenging the powerful.*

We studied last week, when the LORD explained to Moses that he had heard the cries of His people and would deliver them out of Egypt. As Moses prepared to return to Egypt as God's human instrument for the deliverance, the LORD assured Moses that He would enable him to do miraculous signs but that Pharaoh would only harden his heart and thereby invite more judgments from the Lord. Before Moses even arrived in Egypt, he knew it would not be "a piece of cake" to convince Pharaoh to let his Jewish slaves go.

Read Exodus 5:1-9 (ESV)¹ *Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"*² *But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."*³ *... "*⁴ *But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens."*⁵ *And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!"*⁶ *... Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters...,*⁷ *"You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves."*⁸ *But the number of bricks ... you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.'*⁹ *Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."*

Pharaoh asked a question that each generation asks: "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice..." Know this: anyone who asks *Who is the LORD* is asking the wrong question. There is a line in our Christmas musical

that asks the right question, “Who are we that you are mindful of us? What do you see that is worth looking our way? The song provides the right response: All that is within me cries that you alone be glorified.

Often when God is working for our good and His glory in us, His work for good may be preceded by very difficult and discouraging circumstances. Such was the case with the Israelites. Their burden in Egypt became heaviest just before their great day of liberation. When you are discouraged, hold on to God. Cling to the words in **Jeremiah 32:17 (ESV)** ¹⁷ *‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. When we realize that life’s situations are out of our hands and in God’s control, then we become strong. Paul explained in **2 Corinthians 12:10 (ESV)** ¹⁰ ... For when I am weak, then I am strong. We are strong in the hands of our Redeemer!*

Although the Bible does not name the Pharaoh whom Moses confronted, many Bible scholars believe his name was Amenhotep II. There are those today who would like for you to believe that the Jews were never even enslaved in Egypt and that the biblical account of the Israelites’ miraculous deliverance is not true. Either God’s Word is all true or none of it is true. The truth of the Bible is not founded on what we determine to be true. **Proverbs 30:5 (ESV)** ⁵ *Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. I agree with Paul who said in **2 Timothy 1:12 (ESV)** ¹² ... for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.*

You may be wondering how God is revealing His glory in this passage by challenging the powerful especially since Pharaoh so blatantly defied the God of heaven? God could have struck Pharaoh and his armies down in one swift lightning strike or any number of other ways. Instead God challenged Pharaoh for the purpose of giving Pharaoh the opportunity to change his ways (even when God already knew that Pharaoh would not). And, God’s challenge to this seemingly all-powerful human was setting the stage for future revelation of God’s glory. This picture of God’s glory that would be revealed in the Israelites’ deliverance to be taken to a new home reminds me of a snapshot of God’s glorious home for us in the future. **Revelation 21:23 (ESV)** ²³ *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

Our difficulties frequently bring doubt and discouragement and that should not surprise us because even the strongest of God’s children sometimes become discouraged. Moses had 80 years of background preparation for his difficult assignment but when Moses saw the added burden that Pharaoh placed on the people, we read in **Exodus 5:22 (ESV)** ²² *Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? This is a biblical proof text that even when the LORD sends us to do His work, circumstances may arise that cause us to wonder, “why in the world am I even doing this?” That is the time we must cling to the promises of God! Now, let’s read how God reveals His glory by comforting His people.*

Read Exodus 6:2-9 (ESV) ² *God spoke to Moses ... “I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel ... as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the*

Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery... and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out... ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'" ⁹ *Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.*

Some would suppose that there is a contradiction in verse 3 when the LORD said *by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them*. Scripture is clear that God had already disclosed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as Yahweh. Don't forget Yahweh is translated LORD in most biblical translations. For example, we read of Abraham in **Genesis 12:8 (ESV)** ⁸ *From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent...And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.*

We studied last week in **Exodus 3:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"* The name God told Moses was the same four-letter word YHWH used by Moses' ancestors. They knew Yahweh as the God who protects and blesses. So what was the difference in the name? In the deliverance of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, God was revealing a deeper significance to His name. **Genesis 6:3** shows that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not know the fuller meaning of Yahweh, which was to be revealed to Moses and the Hebrew people in His role as **Redeemer** during the Exodus experience. God's response to Moses was not so much a reference to His proper name but an affirmation of who God is. We can apply the progressive revelation of God's name to His children to how He reveals Himself to us in deeper and fuller ways as we journey through life with Him. First we call Jesus Savior – then we make Him Lord!

When we are studying God's Word, it is good for us to be aware of scriptures that disbelievers consider controversial. However, we need not fear. God's Word cannot and will not be discounted. More important than controversies is learning the deep things of God's Word.

For example, in this passage, we find the seven "I Wills" of Redemption. In previous lessons we have studied the five "I Wills" of Satan recorded in Isaiah. God's I Wills of Redemption are much more significant than anything Satan would say! As you would expect, the events of the redemption of the children of Israel in the Old Testament are pictures of our redemption through Jesus, our Redeemer, in the New Testament. From the seven I Wills in the Old Testament, I have connected seven parallel verses in the New Testament – some suggested by others – some are my own. These connecting New Testament verses for the I Wills of Redemption are not limited to those I have chosen.

(1) I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians,

Matthew 11:28 (ESV) ²⁸ *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

(2) I will deliver you from slavery

Colossians 1:13 (ESV) ¹³ *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*

(3) I will redeem you with an outstretched arm

Galatians 3:13 (ESV) ¹³ *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us...*

(4) I will take you to be my people

Ephesians 1:5 (ESV)⁵ *he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ...*

(5) I will be your God

Romans 10:13 (ESV)¹³ *For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

(6) I will bring you into the land

Revelation 19:1 (ESV)¹ *After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.*

(7) I will give it to you for a possession.

John 14:2 (ESV)² *In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

The ten plagues that were to come upon Pharaoh and his people were judgments of God proving their gods false. The longer Pharaoh resisted God, the more serious the judgments became. The first three plagues were distressful, the second three were painful and costly. The last four were dangerous and destructive. Wiersbe comments: The longer sinners resist God's will and refuse to hear His Word, the “louder” He has to speak to them through His judgments.

God reveals His glory by confronting false Gods.

Read Exodus 7:19-20 (ESV)¹⁹ *And the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.’”*²⁰ *Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood.*

To the Egyptians, the Nile River was a god. They served and worshipped it more than the Creator. Also they had stained the Nile River with the blood of the Hebrew children, and now God made that river run with blood for them blood to drink. A New Testament parallel is found in ***Revelation 16:6 (ESV)***⁶ *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”*

Read Exodus 7:22 (ESV)²² *But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.*

If the magicians had true powers, they would have caused the Nile River to run clear not bloody. God’s Word reveals that they did what they did through secret arts or enchantments. The New Testament parallel is found in the words of Jesus regarding the Great Tribulation. ***Matthew 24:24 (ESV)***²⁴ *For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*

As I think of the signs in the days of Moses, my thoughts turn to another sign coming in the future. ***Matthew 24:30 (ESV)***³⁰ *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*