

Series: Exodus: Seeing God in the Journey
Title: Victory over Tyranny
Text: Exodus 1:1-14

Introduction to Exodus

Foundation for English Revolution and American Revolution
Liberation narratives and contemporary political landscapes

The extraordinary claim almost without precedent is that morality has been given and discovered and not simply invented and constructed.

Hellenic gift to modern western civilization
Hebraic gift to modern and western civilization

Exodus is the story of:
Escape from tyranny / Sojourn through the desert / Ascent of the people of God

God is the primary being within the text

Carl Jung said that whatever is at the top of your hierarchy of assumptions functions as God for you, whether or not you're religious; and maybe you have multiple things at the top, which just means that you're confused; then if Jung is correct, and I believe he is, the question of what should be at the top really exists as the paramount question.

Jordan Peterson's view:

- The Exodus text represents the highest ethical Spirit to which we're beholden.
- It is presented precisely as that Spirit allies itself with the cause of freedom against tyranny, and is put forward as a prime ethical teaching.
- If it's the voice of God speaking to you, so to speak, then it's going to call you out of slavery.
- Maybe the slavery of your own mind, the slavery of external conditions, the slavery of the tyranny.
- It's going to call you out of that slavery into freedom, even if that pulls you into the desert.

Date: 1446 BC/ 1267 BC

- 1 Kings 6:1
 - A common view is that the Exodus occurred in c. 1446 BC. This is based on the calculation of 480 years from Israel's departure from Egypt to the fourth year of Solomon's reign (c. 966 BC; see 1 Kings 6:1).
- Ex. 1:11
 - Depicts Israel working on a city called Raamses,
 - Some scholars believe that this would suggest that the Exodus occurred during the reign of Rameses II in Egypt
 - 13th Century BC – 1267 BC
 - Twenty years into the reign of Pharaoh Rameses II (1279-1213 B.C.)

Authorship: Moses

- Formally, the book is anonymous, meaning that it does not begin or end with, "The words that Moses wrote," or the like.
- Why Moses?

The inscription on the Altar

- In Exodus 17:14 Moses is commanded to "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven"

10 commandments

- God originally writes the 10 Commandments for Moses with His own finger, carving them into two slabs of stone (**Ex 31:18**). Later, after Moses smashes them at the foot of Mt. Sinai, when the second set of 10 Commandments is made, the text tells us that **Moses wrote the words on the slabs (34:28)**.

Covenant Code

- In **Exodus 21:1**, right after God gives Moses the 10 Commandments, God tells Moses that "these are the rules that you shall set before them." God is referring to the so-called Book of the Covenant (or the Covenant Code), which is made up of all the laws set forth from chapters 21-23. The text then explicitly says in 24:4, after God is finished dictating the covenant commands that "Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD."

Law Code reiterated

- Exodus 34 - Moses is again told to "Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel" (34:27).
 - The Book (Law) of Moses
 - Josh 23:6, 2 Kgs 14:6, 2 Chr 8:13, 25:4, Ezra 3:2, Neh 8:1, Dan 9:11

Jesus

New Testament: Sadducee's argument and Jesus' response

- Mark 12:19 shows a Sadducee (a religious ruler) starting a conversation with Jesus by saying, *“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife...”* He is referring here to a law in Deuteronomy 25:5.
 - Jesus's response then includes the sentence, *“Have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush...”* (Mk 12:26).

John 5:46-47: ⁴⁶ *“For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”*

Questions about Moses

- Examples
 - **Genesis 36:31** – *These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the Israelites.*
 - **Numbers 12:3** – *Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.*
 - **Deuteronomy 34:7** – *Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.*
- Options
 - Moses did write them prophetically
 - Someone came along and edited them later, perhaps Joshua, perhaps David, perhaps Ezra. But they were edited or added under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We can still attribute these books to Moses

Background

- From Abram to Joseph
 - Out of Ur to Haran
 - From Haran to Canaan – Covenant of Land
 - Covenant carried on to children and grandchildren
 - Isaac
 - Jacob (Israel)
 - Twelve sons of Jacob
 - Joseph
 - Famine
 - Family spared and sent for to live in Egypt

Travel to Egypt

Ex. 1:1-5

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.

70 persons or 75 persons

- 75 – Acts 7:14
 - After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all.
- 66 - Gen 46:27
 - All those who went to Egypt with Jacob—those who were his direct descendants, not counting his sons' wives—numbered sixty-six persons.
- Additional 4 – Jacob and his wives
 - Jacob
 - Leah
 - Zilpah
 - Bilhah
- Additional 5 – Joseph, his wife and sons

Growth of the Israelites

Ex. 1:7 – *But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.*

Num. 1:44, 46 - ⁴⁴ These were the men counted by Moses and Aaron and the twelve leaders of Israel, each one representing his family... ⁴⁶ The total number was 603,550.

<https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route-population-of-jews-hebrews.htm>

INGRATITUDE LEADS TO TYRANNY

Ex. 1:8-14

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with

heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.”

Dennis Prager:

- If there are 10 best-known verses in the entire Torah
 - “A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph” is one of the ten.
 - It summarizes the human condition of ingratitude perfectly.
 - Joseph had saved the Egyptians from starvation and the subsequent Pharaoh doesn't even know his name.
 - He has forgotten the debts entirely.
 - We have forgotten our debts in America to Washington, Madison, Jefferson
 - There arose a new generation in America who knew not Madison.
 - America today remembers not what has gone before and so leans into fear and tyranny.

“If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest of freedom, go home from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen.”

— Samuel Adams

Government

We could draw parallels to modern America all day of tyranny taking place:

- Parents called domestic terrorists for wanting their children protected.
- Government agencies spying on American citizens.
- The judicial department forgetting the Constitution and condemning before a trial.
 - Breaking the laws of the land with false data and political motivations to circumvent longstanding laws and statutes.
 - Causing the censoring and removal of any discourse that opposes the viewpoint of those in power.
 - It is as if they have forgotten the path behind us and the history of such tactics that have destroyed societies many times before.

“This work was strictly voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half.”

— George Orwell, Animal Farm

Personal

- I want us to look at this ingratitude that brings us into personal slavery:

When we forget God’s blessings, we see the world around us as oppressive.

When we forget God’s blessings, we attempt to take it upon ourselves to get control.

When we forget God’s blessings, we get overwhelmed and see things as too mighty for us.

TYRANNY REPLACES GOD Ex. 1:11

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens.

When we forget God’s blessings, we allow Satan, others, and ourselves to replace God with our own endeavors and burdens.

- Build cities
- More oppressed
- Heavy burdens

Yet the Israelites, by God’s grace, continued to multiply

- In spite of oppression God’s favor was with his people
- They were taking hits from the enemy before they even knew freedom was at their door.
- They continued to look to God, thought they had not yet heard of his deliverance

“Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged.”

– Ronald Reagan

THE TYRANNY SEEKS TO DESTROY

“Let us deal shrewdly with them lest they...”

Slander to destroy

Accused before the fact – lest they...

- Lest they multiply

- Lest they join the enemy
- Lest they fight
- Lest they escape

If the enemy can keep your eyes on the daily grind and in a state of despair, he can take your eyes off God and gain the victory.

The enemy wants:

- To keep you out of the fight
- To keep you on the sidelines
- To keep you at the status quo of your faith

With God's blessings:

- We are stronger together
- We become the enemy of Satan
- We join in the fight against sin
- And we escape the bondage of sin

REPLACING GOD WITH TYRANNY MAKES US SLAVES

V 13-14

So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves

- People are seen as resources to be used
 - Decide what you want from them and then use your words to exploit what you desire from them
 - When we are enslaved, people around us, only exist to enable that which we are enslaved to

When something replaces God as your main desire then you become a slave to it – The thing we desire becomes our tyrant

- All that we do serves the tyrant – drugs, sex, money, work, self-esteem, identity

The name Israel – we who struggle with God

- We subordinate ourselves to something other than God.
 - Making bricks –to build our own cities
 - Babel – higher than God, civilization replaces God
 - Our built world becomes our god.

THERE ARE TWO TYRANNIES THAT MAKE US SLAVES

External tyranny to “pharaohs,” outside forces

- Governments
- Leaders
- Satan

Isaiah 10:1-2

¹ Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, ² to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey!

Internal tyranny to yourself and your lusts

John 8:34

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

“Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want.”

- Martin Luther

GOD OFFERS FREEDOM FROM THOSE TWO TYRANNIES

The Torah actually has a law, which many Jews still observe, where you count every day between Passover and Pentecost.

- Shavuot is the seven weeks after you do this; for seven weeks every day you actually count with a blessing using God's name.
- This is the seventh day of the 49 days and we count a blessing.
- Ex 19 – third moon from Passover – the giving of the Law

Freedom from external tyranny – Passover – the Cross

- He took Israel away from the oppressive tyranny of Egypt.
- He cares for you.

Psalm 72:4

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

Freedom from internal tyranny – Pentecost – Spirit and Word

- Sinai and the giving of God's law the second freedom

Romans 6:7

For one who has died has been set free from sin.

You have to be liberated from external tyranny by victory because of Jesus death

You can be liberated from internal tyranny by keeping the Word of God close with the power of the Holy Spirit to remind us of His Ways

- The Ten Commandments
- The Love for God
- The Love for Others
- Obedience to His Word

Challenge:

I will count God's blessings every day in spite of circumstances.

I will enter into the fight against the enemy of my soul.

I will Trust in the Lord for freedom from bondage to sin.

I will trust in the Lord for freedom from the tyranny over my mind.