

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:41 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's Overview of Exodus

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (teaching the faith), for reproof (correcting errors in our thinking), for correction (resetting the direction of our lives), for instruction in righteousness (training us in good living); that the man of God may be perfect (mature!), thoroughly furnished (adequately equipped!) for all good works!" (KJV plus!)

And that explains why we, as "men of the Bible," are joined together to study God's Word and now are taking on the Book of Exodus!

"Shepherd's Notes" notes that Exodus "can be considered the central book of the Old Testament since it reports God's basic saving act for Israel in the exodus from Egypt, and His making of His covenant with the nation destined to be His kingdom of priests"! Eugene H. Merrill, former professor of Old Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, said that the "exodus" is the "most significant historical and theological event of the Old Testament"! Constable writes that "the great contribution of this book is the revelation that Yahweh is the sovereign God who provides deliverance for man from the slavery in which he finds himself"!

MacArthur writes that, "in God's timing, the Exodus marked the end of a period of oppression for Abraham's descendants, and constituted the beginning of the fulfillment of the covenant promise to Abraham that his descendants would not only reside in the Promised Land, but would also multiply and become a great nation (Genesis 12:1-7)."

But as Constable notes, Exodus cannot stand alone, "in the sense that the book would not make sense without Genesis"! In Genesis 15, "the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision" promising that his descendants would be as "the stars of the heavens" and that they would inherit the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession (the so-called "Abrahamic covenant"), but that there would be (as MacArthur tells it) a "painful detour into Egypt"! In fact, God said (in verses 13-14): "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years! But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions..."! (Wow! God had it all planned!)

Then, in Genesis, we see the amazing story of how, in the "providence of God," the "children of Israel" got into Egypt in the first place! You know the story, beginning in Genesis 37: how Joseph's brothers conspired to "get rid of him" by selling him to Midianite (or Ishmaelite) traders who took him to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh; and how "the Lord was with him...and caused all that he did to prosper...and how the Lord (even) blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph"! (Genesis 39:3-5)

There's so much more! Recall how he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, landed in prison, but how "the Lord was with him...and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer"! How he was given the gift for interpreting dreams (recall the incident of "the cupbearer and the baker," in Genesis 40); and, wouldn't you know, how he would eventually be called before Pharaoh himself to interpret a troubling dream that he had about a famine that God was sending to Egypt, as well

as to the land of Canaan. How, through it all, in the providence of God, Joseph became "second only to Pharaoh" in land of Egypt, in charge of managing the famine by building warehouses and storing up food; and how, not by coincidence, Jacob would send his sons to Egypt to secure food, only to be confronted by Joseph, with the dramatic words, in Genesis 45:4-5: "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt! Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life!" Wow!

In accordance with the plan of God, Joseph would send for his father Jacob; and God would appear to Jacob in a vision, revealing Himself as "the God of your father" and telling him "not to be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there! I will go down with you...and I will surely bring you up again..." (Genesis 46:3-4)

Genesis 47:11 says: "So Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses (Goshen!), as Pharaoh had ordered!" And, verse 27 says, "Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous...(and) when the time for Israel (Jacob) to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him...'Please do not bury me in Egypt, but when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place (Cave of Machpelah, in the land of Canaan)!"

Interestingly, Genesis 50 closes with Joseph "making his brothers swear that they would carry his bones from there" as well! Hebrews 11:22 says, "By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones"!

And so, after 280 years of silence, Exodus picks up the narrative, with the birth of Moses! It an obvious "sequel" to the Book of Genesis! In Genesis (so says Constable), we see the need for man's salvation--with the "fall" and the repeated failures of man! Exodus teaches that God provides salvation (deliverance) and that man appropriates what God has provided by faith!

So, what can we expect from our study of Exodus and how does it relate to us today?

Constable says it all about the sovereignty of God, and the salvation of man, and "the methods by which the sovereign God effects man's salvation"! And speaking of God's sovereignty, he notes that "while man constantly falls short of what God requires, human failure does not frustrate God's ultimate purposes! This proves that God is indeed sovereign!" Wow!

MacArthur divides Exodus into three parts: (1) Israel in Egypt (Exodus 1:1-12:36), (2) Israel on the road to Sinai (Exodus 12:37-18:27, and (3) Israel encamped at Sinai (Exodus 19:1-40:38).

The slide introduced in last nite's overview by Paul Logan (which we'll see every week in our MOB presentations) shows Exodus organized into two main sections: "Redemption from Egypt" (Exodus 1:1-18:27), and "Revelation from God" (Exodus 19:1-40:38).

"Shepherd's Notes" also notes that the 'thematic focus" of Exodus in "redemption"! God "redeems Israel from slavery and offers them a covenant relationship in which they will become a channel of reconciliation to an alienated world"!

And so, we can already see the connection to be drawn between the exodus deliverance in the Old Testament to God's redemptive plan through Christ in the New Testament! And how God's acts of redemption call for a positive response from God's people! And how the exodus deliverance, the Sinai covenant, and the wilderness journey all provide "models" and "lessons" for living the Christian life! And how we, as believers, are in a sense undertaking our own "exodus" from bondage in sin and evil (to borrow some language from "Shepherd's Notes")! And, like the Israelites, who when they accepted the Sinai covenant, were still "in the wilderness, far from the Promised Land"! And so (again borrowing from the language of "Shepherd's Notes"), acceptance for believers (that would be us!) means "living out their (our!) kingdom pilgrimage in the wilderness of this world system"!

Well, can hardly wait to get further into the "inspired word of God" in the great Book of Exodus! Great to have each of you aboard!

May our sovereign God use this study in our lives in whatever way He chooses!

Have a great week, men!

Lowell