

July 26th, 2020
Yahweh Leads and Delivers
Exodus 13-15

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

July 19 Proverbs 19-21	July 23 Proverbs 30-31
July 20 Proverbs 22-23	July 24 Eccles. 1-4
July 21 Proverbs 24-26	July 25 Eccles. 5-8
July 22 Proverbs 27-29	July 26 Eccles. 9-12

Lesson Introduction: As we continue in the book of Exodus this week, we come to one of the more incredible miracles documented in the Bible; the parting of the Red Sea. As God's people make their way out of Egypt, they are pursued by Pharaoh and his army, even though he had agreed to let them go. Through all of this, we will see how God ultimately receives glory as He defends His people, seeing them to safety and defeating their enemies. Our lesson today will focus on how the Lord calls us to remember all that He has done on our behalf in the past, how He fights our battles and wins victory for us by His power, and how we should react to the Lord when he delivers us from the hands of our enemies.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS:

- *God's people are called to remembrance (Ch. 13)*
- *The Lord fights His people's battles (Ch. 14)*
- *The Lord is for His own glory (14:4, 17-18)*
- *Praise is the proper and natural response to God's deliverance (Ch. 15).*

Read Exodus 7-12

Discussion Section 1: The Importance of Remembering (Ch. 13)

-What was God's purpose behind establishing the annual Festival of Unleavened Bread? (V. 8-9, 14)

-Why is it important to look back on all that the Lord has done for us in the past?

-What are some ways the Lord has worked on your behalf in the past, and how might remembering those things encourage you today?

Note: In Exodus 13 we see the LORD setting up the Festival of Unleavened Bread. In chapter 12 we read of the deliverance God gave His people as He passed over all the Hebrew houses marked with the blood of a firstborn lamb. The LORD established this festival in chapter 13 as an annual reminder of His great deliverance. In verses 8-9 and 14-16 we see the LORD telling the people that this act of deliverance should be remembered, as well as passed on to the generations to come. As we consider these instructions, it is good for us to dwell on the importance of remembrance in our Christian walk.

Throughout our lives, there will be times of trial and difficulty. It is vital during those seasons that we are able to recall the Lord's goodness toward us in the past. May we be diligent to pass down the testimony of God's faithfulness to our children and the rest of the future generation, that they may hear of and be encouraged by all that the Lord has done in the past, and be able to look forward to all that He will continue to do for those who belong to Him. Perhaps we would do well to establish a rhythm of remembrance in our own lives. Consider ways you can lead your family to remembrance and celebration, that you may never lose sight of God's never-ending faithfulness.

Discussion Section 2: Fighting our Battles for His Glory (Ch. 14)

-What was God's ultimate purpose in hardening the heart of Pharaoh and fighting against him on the behalf of Israel? (V. 4, 13-14, 17-18, 31)

-What does the parting of the Red Sea tell us about the magnitude of God's power? (V. 21-29)

-What battles have you seen the Lord fight on your behalf?

Excerpt from *Exalting Jesus in Exodus* by Tony Merida, Pg. 71-72:

"The strategy described in the first three verses was crazy unless God was in charge. Israel was on their way out when God told them to go back and camp between the sea and the desert. The precise location is debated, but we know the sea refers to the Red Sea. It seems likely that they crossed the northern part of it. Upon traveling

to this location, Israel had become vulnerable. It seems that if Pharaoh approached, they would be trapped.

God used unusual strategies throughout the Bible. Remember Abraham and Sarah's age when they had a child (Gen 21:5)? Have you heard the story of Gideon and his little army (Judges 6–8)? What about Jehoshaphat's battle with the Ammonites and Moabites (2 Chr 20)? What about the demoniac and the pigs (Mark 5)? Ultimately, God used an unusual strategy with Jesus Christ going to the cross. Satan, like Pharaoh, must have thought that he had Jesus trapped, that He was about to die. Yet in His unusual strategy, God brought deliverance for us and glorified Himself.

Verse four tells us that God does what He does for His own glory. He said, "I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh." This is central in Exodus. Know that He is God and that He gives His glory to no other. God is passionate about His glory. "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen" (Rom 11:36).

As the story continues, Pharaoh pursued God's people just as God said that he would (Exod 14:5-9). Pharaoh thought he had a good military strategy, but what he was actually doing was fulfilling the purposes of God and bringing Him glory (Rom 9:17). As he pursued Israel, he would have used the best of chariots while Israel fled on foot. Egypt had all the modern military advantages. Surely they thought the Israelites would be defeated. Pharaoh was singing victory songs before the battle had begun. However, he had another thing coming.

We see Pharaoh's hardness of heart throughout this story: (1) he initially refused to do what God wanted, (2) he negotiated, (3) he asked for prayer for blessing, and (4) when he finally let Israel go, he changed his mind. Pharaoh "stands as a warning for us today. God's patience will eventually turn to wrath. Do not be swallowed up. Heed God's word and turn "to Jesus. There are two ways God can be glorified in someone's life: in His just judgment or in His saving mercy. Which way will you glorify Him?"

Discussion Section 3: Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving (15:1-21)

-What is your first reaction to the Lord's deliverance in your life?

-What is the primary subject of this song?

-What can we learn from the reaction of the Israelites after the Lord delivered them out of Egypt?

Excerpt from *Exalting Jesus in Exodus* by Tony Merida, Pg. 76:

"Moses and all the people sang of the Lord's triumph. Miriam went out with all the women and sang of His glorious triumph with dancing and a tambourine (vv. 20-21)! Everyone was singing because everyone had been rescued.

Every believer should sing to the Lord, not because they have a good voice, but because of what God has done for them! Praise is the natural response from those who have experienced God's grace. The exodus was the most important event in the Bible until the cross. What did they do after it? Sing! That is what saved people do. This pattern continues throughout the Bible all the way to Revelation 5, where we see everyone worshipping the Lamb who redeemed a people with His blood. The Song of Moses is similar to other songs or psalms in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Examples include:

-Deborah and Barak's song in response to victory over Sisera and Jabin of Canaan (Judges 5:1-31)

-Hannah's song at the birth of Samuel (1 Sam 2:1-10)

-Mary's response to the angel's news and Elizabeth's greeting (Luke 1:46-55)

-Zechariah's prophecy after the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:68-79)

The exodus song is rich with lyrics, as are the other songs in the Bible. We have no melody for these songs, but we have the words. That shows us how important the lyrics are in music. Here they were narrating God's work: His mercy and His judgment. This is important. It is not just "mood music." It is a good model for reminding yourself of God's redeeming grace. Songs help us remember. Songs are portable theology. Everyone should sing from their heart to the Savior for the great deliverance they have received.