

“Promising Proof”

The Exodus

May 26, 2013

Intro: "Memorial Day" = remembering...
Memorial Day = remembering those who gave their lives for....
Sadly, it has become summer's kick-off long weekend...
So it is with church-goers on Sunday mornings...

Review Series...

Today...

- **Promise PROVED!**
- Start with Abe...
 - * Gen. 12 & 17 (promise)

Don't miss the parallels in this foundational account...

Slavery & Sin

Moses is both royalty & unlikely

10 plagues & tribulation

Exodus & Redemption

Passover Lamb & Jesus

Israelites & "church"

- grumbling ingrates
- critics & complainers
- disobedient deceivers
- talkers & takers

Remnant & "Church"

- faithfully obedient
- humble & holy (set apart)
- worship / without idols

Today we celebrate Memorial Day weekend...

Everyday should be a “memorial day” for Christians!

Exodus 12:11b-14a =

*It is **the Lord's Passover**. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.*

*13 **The blood shall be a sign for you**, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 "This day shall be **for you a memorial day...***

Today is about remembering our confidence & courage in Christ!

Job 19:25

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

Promise Personified:

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Promise Explain & Plan Laid-out:

Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that

I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you. I will curse those who treat you with contempt; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you. 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...

Proving Prophecy:

Genesis 15:12-14

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Proving Patience: (see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob... and the move to Egypt)

Proving Power:

MOSES & "I AM"

Read: Exodus 2:23 - 3:22

God Hears Israel's Groaning

23 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. 24 And God heard their groaning, and God

remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **25** God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

The Burning Bush

3 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. **3** And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." **4** When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **9** And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with

which the Egyptians oppress them. **10** Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" **12** He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **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.'" **15** God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. **16** Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, **17** and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" **18** And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' **19** But I know that the king

of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. 21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, 22 but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

1. Unbroken thread of God’s loving power & promise
2. I Am...
3. You are...
4. They will...
5. Trust & Obey!

Key Issues:

- God calls out to Moses from the burning bush...
- 2 eternally, life-defining questions asked/answered:
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- **“Who am I?”**

- Note: God doesn’t answer per us...
- God’s answer: “I will be with you”
 - ~ Our identity is “IN-HIM”
 - ~ See N.T. references to being “in-Christ”
 - ~ Jump/Jet illustration...

- **“Who are You?”**

- “I Am who I Am” = unchangeable and uncomparable...
- “I Am” also indicates incomprehensible

- John 14:6 = Jesus’ “I Am”

- See the Creator-Christ, Gospel-Giver-Christ, Providential-Prince-of-Peace Christ, and now the Jesus, I AM-Christ...

Proving Perseverance:

LET MY PEOPLE GO:

Pharaoh rejects & disrespects the Lord:

Exodus 5:1-2 = *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."*

God prompts & promises Moses...

- God declares that He will rescue His people
- God sends Moses to Pharaoh (not an easy assignment)
 - Pharaoh responds with intense defiance
 - Pharaoh's disobedience sparks sinful response
 - Israelites get mad at Moses! (tragic irony)
 - Sin is blinding... & deceiving
 - "Sin craves sin vs. its Solution." – JDP
- God is using Moses to fulfill His promise to Abraham...
 - God's instruments are often met with resistance
 - "Many a minister & missionary have been marred, marginalized, & martyred by those to whom they were sent to serve & save." – JDP

Note: God's promise & plans will not & cannot be stopped!

1. See Genesis 1:1; Genesis 12:1-4; Genesis 15:13-14; Genesis 17:1-7; Isaac, Jacob... you & me
2. Moses... saved to serve
3. "No matter what!"
4. World powers...
5. Plagues...

GOD'S WRATH:

Note: God is disrespecting, disproving, & dismantling Egypt's false gods...

- Egyptian culture gave Pharaoh a god-sized role...
- Pharaoh was the representative of Ra the sun god

10 Plagues:

1. **Exodus 7:17** = *Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. (magicians copy...)*

2. **Exodus 8:2** = *if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your country with frogs. (magicians copy...)*

3. Gnats (magicians could NOT copy...)
4. Flies... (so that you will know... magicians don't even try... P lies)
5. Egyptian Livestock die (Israel's all live)
6. Boils on Egyptian people & livestock...
7. Hail on all but the Israelites... (P cracks but lies again...)

8. Locusts... P keeps claiming repentance but never really repents/obeys
9. Darkness over Egyptians but not the Israelites for 3 days...
10. Death of the 1st born (human & livestock)

God's Wrath is released to demonstrate His relational:

- Truth in love...
- Seriousness & Trustworthiness (He doesn't bluff!)
- Justice & Holiness
- Goodness (wrath forces us to accept/reject His divine & perfect authority)
- Urgency

God's Wrath should spark Christian's sense of empathy for the lost...

God's Wrath begs the question: "Is this the God I know & love?"

- Many don't know this true biblical God...
- Many think they know God but don't....
- For many, the God of the Bible and the god of their own understanding are not even close to same...

God's Wrath is totally consistent with God's Love & Omnipotent Sovereignty!

- See the Cross of Christ!
- ...greatest wrath ever realized...
- ...greatest love ever lived out...

Proving Passover:

- A. How did we get here...

- B. What just happened? (see **Exodus 12:29-30**)

VIDEO: Passover Lamb

- C. Don't miss this!
1. ALL of God's promises WILL come to fruition!
 - Enemies of God are ultimately eliminated
 - Receive & Believe or Deny & Die...
 - The Red Sea parts...
 - Grumblers get fed...
 2. See the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Exodus
 - **John 1:29** = *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*
 - **1 Corinthians 5:7b** = *Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*

Note: God is just as dependable to uphold His promise of wrath as blessing!

- Don't miss God's mercy & grace in this account...
- God offered Pharaoh/Egypt a way out of this discipline:
 - Surrender & submission begets mercy & grace
 - Note: even those who were protected from the plague did so through submission & surrender, mercy & grace

Note: Our surrender & submission are to Christ... just as our redemption and restoration come only thru the blood of the Lamb...

- Connect the Passover to the Cross...
- Connect the Gospel to the Passover!
- ~ Trust & obey, there's no other way

~ Biblical faith = biblical forgiveness

➤ **1 Peter 1:13-21**

...preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

THRU the RED SEA:

See the Miracle, Messiah, & Mission in the Red Sea encounter...

Chronological account:

- Pharaoh changed his mind... "Sin pursues!" - JDP

- God's people again appear to be in impossible predicament
- God demonstrates His providential power & provision... again!

Note: We can learn a lot about God's attitude & character by God's actions...

A FORGETFUL PEOPLE:

See the sin-nature... Israelites go from "grace to grumble" over & over...

- We need to see ourselves in the Israelites...
 - **Repent** of our grumbling!
 - **Remember** our Red Seas!

Colossians 1:13-14 = *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Exodus 12:11b-14a =

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*the houses where you are. And **when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you**, when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 "This day shall be **for you a memorial day...***

Let's pray:

**He Loves Us
One Thing Remains
10,000 Reasons**