

“PROMISES of GOD”

Exodus 1-19

February 11, 2012

“Therefore He is the Mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.”

- Hebrews 9:15

Preliminary Promise: Genesis 3:15 = *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

Patriarchal Promise: Genesis 12:1-3 = *The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

Genesis 15:13-14 = *Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.*

People Promise: Exodus 1:7 = *the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them.*

Exodus 2:23-25 = *The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.*

Person Promise: Moses (the deliverer)
Exodus 3:10 = *Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.”*

Messiah (the Deliverer)
John 14:6 = *I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except thru Me.*

Power Promise:

Pharaoh had a “power encounter” with the great I AM... via 10 plagues

- a. Nile to blood – 7:14-15
- b. Frogs from Nile – 8:1-15
- c. Dust to Gnats – 8:16-19
- d. Flies – 8:20-32
- e. Dead livestock – 9:1-7
- f. Boils – 9:8-12
- g. Hail – 9:13-35
- h. Locusts – 10:1-20
- i. Darkness – 10:21-29
- j. Death of 1st born – 11:1-10; 12:29-32

Passover Promise:

Exodus 12:12-13 = *I am the LORD. 13 (N)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.*

John 1:29 = *Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

Provisional Promise:

Manna in the morning.....Jesus is the only Prophet we need
Quail for dinner.....Jesus is the only Priest we need
Water when thirsty.....Jesus is the only King we need

Pillars/Protecting Promise:

Pillar of Cloud protected...
Pillar of Fire protected...
Pillar like “walls of water on the left and right”

Prioritizing Promise: Exodus 19:5 = *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine*

“Shared treasure” = Exodus 19:5 & Matthew 13:44

Priestly Promise: Exodus 19:6 = *...and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*

1 Timothy 2:5 = *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

Acts 1:8 = *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be my witnesses....*

Exodus 1-19

Ch. 1

- The Patriarchal family fully transitions into Egypt long-term...
- Israel's people multiply greatly
- Eventually a "new" Pharaoh comes into power who fears & forgets the Israelite contribution
- The new Pharaoh enslaves the Israelites
- The new Pharaoh insists that all new born Israelite boys be killed

Ch. 2

- Baby Moses is born, floated, & rescued by Pharaoh's daughter
- Moses' mom gets to nurse him (with his sister's help), under the providence of God
- Moses is raised as Pharaoh's daughter's "son"
- Moses kills an Egyptian who is hurting other Israelites... note he then hides the body
- Moses later breaks up a fight between two Israelites... and they mock him, asking if he is going to murder them too – like he had done to the Egyptian...
- Moses is fearful that the word has gotten out about his killing the Egyptian...
- Pharaoh learns of Moses' murder... resulting in "Pharaoh tries to kill Moses"
- Moses in turn flees to the land of Midian
- Moses meets, rescues, and serves the 7 daughters of Midian's Priest
- Moses marries Zipporah, one of the 7 daughters
- The Pharaoh/king of Egypt dies...
- God tells Moses: "The sons of Israel cried out due to their bondage"
- Moreover: "God heard their groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob... God took notice."

Ch. 3

- Moses was shepherding at Mt. Horeb and the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a "burning bush" that was not consumed by the fire...
- "God called to him from the bush"
- Moses replied to God: "Here I am."
- God said: "This is holy ground" and "I AM the God of your father"
- The Lord said: "I have surely seen the affliction of My people... I have given heed to their cry because... I am aware of their sufferings... I have come down to deliver them... and to bring them up to a good and spacious land flowing with milk and honey... Now behold the cries of the sons of Israel have come to Me."
- God directly addresses Moses: "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that, you will bring My people out of Egypt."
- Moses doubted...
- "But Moses said to God... Who am I ... that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"
- And God replied: this will be the sign... When you bring them out of Egypt, you will worship God at this mountain."
- Moses agrees but is worried and asks: "But what do I say when the people ask me who sent me... when they ask: What is your God's name?"
- God answers: "I AM that I AM – tell them I AM has sent me to you... the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob sent me, now go gather the elders of Israel together and tell them that God has said: I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you..."
- Moses tells them of God's promise: "...so God said: I will bring you out... to a land flowing with milk and honey..."
- God promises Moses that the people will take heed to what is shared.

- God instructs Moses further: “You and the elders will go to Pharaoh and tell him: The God of the Hebrews has met with us... He wants you to let His people go 3 days into the wilderness to worship Him...”
- God tells Moses the outcome that will follow: “But I know Pharaoh will not let you go.”
- Next, God tells Moses, as a consequence for Pharaoh not letting my people go... “I will reach out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles...”
- God assures Moses that: “after that, he/Pharaoh WILL let you go.”
- God’s following quote: “I will grant this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians and when you are released to leave Egypt, it will not be empty handed... you will plunder the Egyptians... they will voluntarily give you silver, gold, & clothing as you go.

Ch. 4

- Moses says: But what if they don’t believe me?
- God responds: Throw your staff on the ground... it becomes a snake... then pick it up again
- God responds: Put your hand in your shirt... pull it out (now diseased)... put it back in again... pull it out (now healed again)
- God responds: Take water from the Nile... pour it out... see it turn to blood
- God uses those visual responses to demonstrate His miraculous power and to give Moses both confidence and instruction on how to handle doubters...
- Moses begins to doubt again...
- Moses says to God: “Please Lord... my speech is slow/not good”
- God replies: “Who has made man’s mouth?” “Now go! I will be with you & your mouth.”
- But Moses continues with his whining... “Please Lord, send your message through someone else...”
- Note: “Then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses...” YET, no demonstrative consequence followed (MERCY!)
- God’s next documented response was simply: “Aaron is coming... I WILL BE WITH BOTH OF YOUR MOUTHS... He will be your mouth... You will show My signs (and wonders).
- Thus, MOSES OBEYS and goes back to Egypt per God’s instructions
- Moses was told by God to go to Pharaoh & perform the miracles God revealed to him...
- God tells Moses: “I will harden his heart so he will not let the people go...”
- Note: we also see that “Pharaoh hardened his (own) heart” multiples times...
- Key Point: Here we see God demonstrating the “both/and” truth of God’s sovereignty AND man’s responsibility... God is sovereign over ALL... AND man is solely responsible for his sin
- Subtle but important point... Note that God had Moses demonstrate the miraculous signs to the Israelite leaders before heading to Pharaoh... This is key because that means that when the people later grumble... They are grumbling after first getting a “pre-show demonstration” of God’s power. Next, they are foretold of what God will miraculously do – which He does. Then they see the breaking down of Pharaoh and his gods at the promised hand of Almighty God... ultimately being demonstrated in their miraculous release... and yet they still whine, complain, grumble, and even go so far as to say that Moses should have left them in Egypt...
- Note how Moses frequently confronts the grumbling by asking the people why they are complaining to him vs God...
- After a series of “power encounters” (a.k.a. plagues), God tells Pharaoh that if “you won’t let my 1st born son (Israel) go to serve/worship Me, then I will kill your son, your 1st born son”
- **Note:** In the midst of all this, God threatens to kill Moses (Ex. 4:24-26) because he has neglected the covenant conditions (he had not circumcised his son). See Gen. 17:9-14; & Jeremiah 4:4

Ch. 5

- “Thus says the Lord” = an authoritative cultural prefix... Note how it is used by God in His speaking to Pharaoh and the people... AND, at the same time, Pharaoh uses the same tone/ term in his response to God... It sets up a face-off of sorts... NO CONTEST!
- God says: Let My people go!
- Pharaoh responds: “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will NOT let Israel go!”
- Pharaoh goes even further, demonstrating his disdain for God and God’s people... As an act of direct disrespect and challenge, Pharaoh orders the Israelites to maintain their enslaved quota for bricks to be made, but now they have to do so with the hay/straw that is normally provided... they have to get their own hay and keep up their quota... a nearly impossible feat.
- NOTE: Notwithstanding God’s demonstrated power & concern for His people... the people doubt God and damn Moses... The Hebrew leaders turn on Moses, saying: “The Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh... and have put a sword in his hand to kill us.”
- NOTE: At this point, Moses too begins to whine and complain (vv.22-23) and one is reminded of Job at his low point...

Ch. 6

- Read vv.1-9 where God strongly affirms His plan to Moses
- God in turn tells Moses to go back and tell the people again...
- NOTE: Moses tells them just as God had told him (OBEDIENCE)... “but they did not listen because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.”
- Focus on verse one in this chapter.

Ch. 7

- Moses and Aaron go before Pharaoh and “did just as the Lord commanded” (OBEDIENCE)
- NOTE: While Moses did what he was told by the Lord, Pharaoh’s magicians were able to mimic God’s power at first (but that was short lived)...
- Note the pattern... God demonstrates His truly unique power... Pharaoh and his magicians resist, try to copy, and ultimately deny God...
- Each time we are told: “Still, Pharaoh’s heart was hardened...”
- Also, each time, in describing the results, we are told: “as the Lord had said.” (Sovereignty)

Ch. 8

- Key message: “Thus says the Lord... Let My people go SO THAT they may SERVE ME”
- Notice how Pharaoh begins to buckle... he is willing to compromise... but God will not!
- KEY POINT: Never forget... there is neither compromise nor “can’t” in-Christ!
- Pharaoh goes as far as to agree to let the people go... but he does not keep his word.

Ch. 9

- Key message: Pharaoh actually says: “The Lord is righteous” (due to the hail plague).
- However, Pharaoh is still only willing to partially agree to God’s terms...
- God will not compromise with man – period!
- Pharaoh continues to say one thing in the heat of the plague & then turn on his promise
- NOTE the two different “characters” in contrast... man the liar; God the Promise-Keeper

Ch. 10

- The patterns continue...
- Pharaoh even asks Moses to ask God to stop.... Promising to give in
- Ultimately though, Pharaoh’s best offer is still just a compromise...
- Over and over again, stubborn Pharaoh lies and turns back on his word...

Ch. 11

- God foretells of the final plague and how Pharaoh will still harden his heart...
- God tells of the killing of the first borns....
- NOTE: God declares to Moses/people: "After this, Pharaoh WILL let you go."
- God declares: "There will be a great cry throughout the land..."
- **God also promises:** "No (covenant keeping) Israelite will be hurt... SO THAT you will KNOW that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."

Ch. 12

- The PASSOVER... = the Gospel!
- Read vv.12-13... Compare these two verses to Genesis 3:15
- This is another passage demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a foreshadowing way
- Read John 1:19...
- "It is the Lord's Passover... I AM the Lord. The blood (of the Lamb) shall be a sign for you on your houses (hearts) where you live; and when I (God) see the blood (of the Lamb in your hearts) I will pass over you, and no plague (damnation from sin) will befall you to destroy you (in hell) when I strike the land (on Judgment Day) of Egypt." - Exodus 12:11c, 12c,13)
- Note some of the key details: A). The lamb is to have no broken bones (like Jesus); B). No outsider was to eat the Passover meal (like our Communion); C). All outsiders are welcome to convert and join in... (the Great Commission).
- NOTE: After this power-encounter & final plague, Pharaoh gave up... "Pharaoh said go!"
- Notice... Everything happened exactly as God said it would... (SOVEREIGNTY)
- Notice... "...and the Lord brought them out of Egypt." (GLORY, HONOR, & PRAISE to Him)

Ch. 13

- God calls for the first born to be dedicated/sacrificed to Him
- God restates once again His promise of a land... the Promised Land
- God insists that they never forget How He delivered them... Always celebrate the Passover
- God told them to tell all future generations: "With a powerful hand the Lord delivered us up and out of slavery" (v.13)
- Note: God led the people out via the "long road" vs the short path because He knew they were not ready to fight the Philistines... Praise God for the long road sometimes!
- God sent them a "pillar of cloud" and a "pillar of fire" to lead them by day and night... and He did not take the pillar away from them..." What an AWESOME TRUTH... There is nothing better than to know that God is your demonstrative guide!

Ch. 14

- God specifically tells Moses to camp next to the Red Sea... don't miss the direct, specific, instruction... for it counters what any "human" instruction would be, given the risk of Pharaoh's potential (and ultimate) attack...
- Once again, God tells Moses: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart and he will come after you."
- God tells Moses that twice... and sure enough, Pharaoh changes his mind again, reneges on his word, and comes to literally destroy God's people...
- NOTE: AGAIN the people GRUMBLE, WHINE, COMPLAIN...
- Moses hears: "What... were there no graves for us in Egypt? You rather we die in the desert?"
- **Don't forget...** these people had a pre-game show... they had watched God predict and then do 10 miraculous, unbelievable demonstrations of His power, and He delivered them out of Egypt... YET, here AGAIN... they doubt God, demean Moses, and betray their true King: "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians."

- **AWESOME:** “DO NOT FEAR... see the salvation of the Lord, what HE WILL accomplish FOR YOU today... THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU while you keep silent... Now GO FORWARD through the midst of the sea ON DRY GROUND!” Then the pillar of cloud MOVED FROM IN FRONT OF THEM TO BEHIND THEM and was positioned between the Israelites and the Egyptians... (read 14:13-20... AWESOME... This is OUR GOD!)
- As Moses obeyed, the Red Sea parted, just as God said it would – Amen!
- NOTE: “The water was like walls to them on their left and on their right” (said twice!).
- **NOTE:** God offered the mercy of truth but the Egyptian leaders rejected it... “Let us flee... for the Lord is fighting for them.”
- **NOTE:** God directly used Moses as an instrument of wrath/judgment... God told Moses to raise his staff once more over the sea, acknowledging that the sea would then swallow and destroy the Egyptians... Remember Job: “The Lord gives & the Lord takes away...”
- **NOTE:** “Thus, the Lord saved Israel that day... and no Egyptian remained, they washed up dead on the shore...”
- **“When the people saw the great power of God they feared Him.”**

Ch. 15

- This chapter is known as “Moses song of Praise”
- NOTE: **“The Lord is a Warrior!”**
- NOTE: If the Lord is a Warrior... we are to be warriors! “Fight the good fight” – “Put on the full armor of God” – etc.
- Salvation & heaven are gifts of grace... told in v.13: “In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed; in Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation.
- **Christ’s Cross/Crucifixion foretold in v.16: “...until Your people pass over O, Lord, until the people pass over whom You have purchased.”**

Ch. 16

- AGAIN... the PEOPLE GRUMBLE, WHINE, COMPLAIN...
- “We should have stayed near pots of food in Egypt...”
- God PROVIDES!
- God miraculously sends manna in the morning & quail meat for dinner!
- NOTE: Don’t miss this opportunity to be in awe at the GLORY of GOD!
- NOTE: God supplied “daily needs” and tested the people to trust Him but not hoarding...
- God was teaching them... don’t just trust Me “once,” trust Me ALWAYS – EVERYDAY!

Ch. 17

- Having been miraculously fed, one might think the grumbling would stop... Not a chance.
- Israelites begin grumbling about a lack of water...
- “They tested the Lord, asking: Is He with us or not?”
- God proved again that He was with them... When God commanded them to fight against Amalek, the battle was won (led by Joshua) when Aaron & Hur held up the arms/hands of Moses over the battlefield. Conversely, (as a sign of God’s supernatural presence) every time Moses’ arms were lowered the tide would turn for the worse in the battle...
- One is forced to ask: “Why do they continuously complain? Why don’t they learn or love to simply, humbly, lovingly ask God to provide???”
- The sad answer is found in the bad hearts...
- Sad answers come out of bad hearts and bad answers come out of sad hearts.
- The solution: Love & learn the Person & promises of God!

Ch. 18

- Jethro (Moses’ father-in-law) brings Zipporah and Moses two sons to Moses...

- Jethro proves to be very wise and encourages Moses to DELEGATE lesser responsibilities
- Jethro teaches the principle of guarding against “Burn-Out”
- “You will wear out... teach them the statutes and duties... pick good men to lead over 1,000’s, 100’s, 50’s, and 10’s... THEY WILL BEAR THE BURDEN WITH YOU”
- Cross reference Jethro’s Godly advice with Paul’s teaching in Ephesians 4 (undeniably linked and mutually profound!)

Ch. 19

- Mount Sinai comes into focus after about 3 months...
- God calls to Moses from the mountain...
- God tells Moses to tell the people an eternity impacting truth...
- Here the loving, albeit conditional, PROMISE OF GOD in vv. 4-6:
- ***“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagle’s wings, and brought you to Myself. ~ Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...”***

1. Patriarchal = Genesis 15:13-14
2. People = Ex. 1:8 (sons of Jacob become the people of Israel Ex. 1:1-6)
3. Preservation = (they made it to the Exodus)
4. Person = God’s perfect P.E.O.P.L.E. plan again uses imperfect people (Moses)
 - a. Who am I that I should go? (3:11)
 - I will be with you... (3:12)
 - b. What is Your name... if they ask... (3:13)
 - I AM who I AM: Yahweh, the God of Abe, Isaac, Jacob (3:14-15)
 - c. How will the people believe that You have sent me? (4:1)
 - Staff to serpent (4:2-4)
 - Hand with leprosy; hand healed (4:6-7)
 - Nile water into blood (4:9)
 - d. But my speech is weak... I am not eloquent... (4:10)
 - I made your mouth... don’t worry (4:11)
 - e. Please send someone else.... (4:13)
 - Aaron will be your mouth and you will be Mine sign (4:15-16)
5. Power = plagues
 - k. Nile to blood – 7:14-15
 - l. Frogs from Nile – 8:1-15
 - m. Dust to Gnats – 8:16-19
 - n. Flies – 8:20-32
 - o. Dead livestock – 9:1-7
 - p. Boils – 9:8-12
 - q. Hail – 9:13-35
 - r. Locusts – 10:1-20
 - s. Darkness – 10:21-29
 - t. Death of 1st born – 11:1-10; 12:29-32
6. Passover = “blood of the Lamb”
7. Provision = manna, meat, water...
8. Pillars = clouds & fire... front & back
9. Protector = walls of water; swallowing up Egyptians; defeating Amelak (arms)
10. Possession = treasured, priestly possession... IF, child of the covenant/promise