

That the World May Know – God Heard Their Cry: Session 5 – The Lord Reigns: The Red Sea

God's Glory Reigns

As God continued to unfold his story of redemption, the Hebrews became more active participants in it. When the time came for the last plague the Hebrews chose to take action as God commanded. Then God led them out and they followed. They followed when God led them back toward Egypt and had them camp by the sea. But was their God powerful enough and trustworthy to care for them as their situation became desperate?

- 1 After the Hebrews left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind and wanted his labor force back. He caught up with the Hebrews as they camped by the sea. Imagine what you would have felt – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Exodus 14

Why did God orchestrate these events?

Why did he perform those miracles in such a physically intense way?

- 2 The experience of the Hebrews at the crossing of the Red Sea became a central event in their identity and a powerful testimony to later generations. What were the long-term impacts?
Deuteronomy 11:1 – 9
Joshua 2:8 – 12
Joshua 24: 6 – 7
Psalm 66:5 – 7
Psalm 77:13 – 20
Psalm 78:52 – 53
Psalm 106:1 – 12
Isaiah 43:15 – 19

God Destroys Pharaoh and His Gods

Egypt was extremely powerful. The temples, pyramids, and other evidence of a great civilization show the everyday lives of people of that time in a whole different light. Imagine how Pharaoh felt as the God of the Hebrews defeated Egypt's gods and turned Pharaoh's worldview upside down. Perhaps it is not all that surprising that Pharaoh tried one more time to challenge God in an attempt to defeat a little bit of chaos and reclaim some of what he had lost.

- 1 Having experienced what God did through the ten plagues how did Pharaoh and the Egyptians respond after the Hebrews left Egypt?
Exodus 14:5 – 8

- 2 What kind of wind did God use to create a path through the sea? What would this have meant to the Hebrews?
Exodus 14:21

What does an east wind often symbolize in the Bible?
Isaiah 27:8
Jeremiah 18:17
Jonah 4:6 – 8

- 3 What did Moses, who was called to be like God to Pharaoh, do again by the sea, just as he and Aaron had done to bring the plagues upon Egypt?
Exodus 14:15 – 28

Why did Moses do this? What did his staff and hand represent?

- 4 While pursuing the Hebrews, what did Egyptian soldiers learn about the nature of the battle in which they were involved?
Exodus 14:24 – 25

God's People Put Their Trust in Him

When God began unfolding his plan to redeem his people from the physical and spiritual bondage in Egypt, he indicated that there were two parts to the process. He would first bring them out of bondage so that they would know he was their God. Then God would make them his people and bring them into the Promised Land. Standing on the shore of the sea, they finally put their trust in their one, true, sovereign God. Putting Egypt behind them, they faced a new life with the God who had redeemed them.

- 1 As God began to act on behalf of his people, how did they respond? What was the relationship between his acts of deliverance and their commitment to him?
Exodus 4:29 – 31
Exodus 12:21 – 28
Exodus 14:16 – 31

- 2 As God's plan for his people became known through his powerful actions on their behalf, how did the Hebrews' view of Moses change?
Exodus 5:19 – 21
Exodus 14:31

- 3 Pharaoh led with a stick and dominating, harsh treatment. What kind of treatment had the Hebrews recognized in the way God led them?
Exodus 15:13

- 4 The crossing of the Red Sea was a pivotal event in the history of God's people. What do these Scriptures emphasize about that event?
Joshua 24:20 – 24
Isaiah 51:9 – 10
Isaiah 63:11 – 14

Why are the Egyptians not even mentioned?

The Hebrews Sing a Hymn of Praise

Commonly called the “Song of the Sea” by Jewish people and the “Song of Moses and Miriam” by Christians, the poetic song of Exodus 15 was clearly written by and for people who knew the Hebrews’ history. The power of its words and beauty of its composition are enhanced when we know its historical and physical setting.

- 1 Remember the story leading up to the Hebrews’ dancing and singing on the shore of the sea. The first fourteen chapters of Exodus describe their struggles and redemption. The Song sums it all up.
Exodus 15:1 – 21
- 2 God promised to redeem his people. After the redemption of Israel from Egypt, the theme of redemption echoes throughout Scripture.
Exodus 6:6
Exodus 15:13
- 3 The Hebrews’ spontaneous outpouring of praise after the crossing of the Red Sea became a model of praise for future followers of God. How do the following passages correlate with the Hebrews’ praises?
1 Chronicles 13:5 – 8
Psalm 102:18
Psalm 106:1
Psalm 149:1 – 4
Psalm 150

When the Lord Reigns

Despite the Hebrews’ commitment to God’s reign, there were not yet ready to bring knowledge of him to the whole world. The reign of God (Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven) comprises three elements:

- The kingdom begins with the power of God in actions – God’s “finger (Exodus 8:16 – 19)
- Those who recognize his power and acknowledge his reign call him *Lord* (Exodus 15:18)
- Those who call him Lord obey him so that his kingdom will advance as his will is done (Exodus 19:3 – 6)

In response to God’s deliverance, having made a commitment of faith, the Hebrews had to learn to obey God so that his kingdom would advance as his will was done.

- 1 Because of what God had done for the Hebrews in his grace, and as a response to their confession that he was their Lord who reigned over them, what did he command of them so they would become a part of his reign – a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation”?
Exodus 19:1 – 6
- 2 Before God gave his people the Ten Commandments, he summarized his great and gracious act of redemptive deliverance from Egypt. What is the basis for God calling his people to obedience?
Exodus 20:1 – 2

Why did his act of redemption demand the response of obedience?

Why did God give the Ten Commandments after the redemption, the crossing of the Red Sea, and their journey to Mount Sinai instead of at the beginning of Exodus or Genesis?

References

Genesis 1	Exodus 1
Exodus 2	Exodus 3
Exodus 4	Exodus 5
Exodus 6	Exodus 7
Exodus 8	Exodus 9
Exodus 10	Exodus 11
Exodus 12	Exodus 13
Exodus 14	Exodus 15
Exodus 18	Exodus 19
Exodus 20	Deuteronomy 7
Deuteronomy 11	Deuteronomy 13
Deuteronomy 15	Deuteronomy 24
Joshua 2	Joshua 4
Joshua 24	2 Samuel 7
1 Chronicles 13	2 Chronicles 6
2 Chronicles 7	Psalms 66
Psalms 74	Psalms 102
Psalms 106	Psalms 149
Psalms 150	Isaiah 27
Isaiah 44	Isaiah 51
Isaiah 63	Jeremiah 18
Ezekiel 20	Jonah 4
Matthew 3	Matthew 4
Matthew 5	Matthew 6
Matthew 7	Matthew 9
Matthew 10	Matthew 23
Matthew 24	Luke 4
Luke 8	Luke 9
Luke 11	John 14
Acts 2	Acts 8
Acts 19	Romans 8
1 Corinthians 3	Galatians 3
Hebrews 2	Hebrews 10
Hebrews 11	James 2
1 Peter 1	1 Peter 2
Revelation 4	

Think About It!!

Many of us have seen God accomplish an amazing work in our lives or in the lives of people we know. Which experiences have had an impact on your life and your relationship with God?