

LESSON 14 – A CHOSEN NATION

PURPOSE

Exodus 2:23–25

After 400 years in Egypt, the children of Israel numbered more than one million, and they were enslaved by the Egyptians. They cried out to God for their deliverance, and God was concerned for them and remembered His covenant with Abraham. In this lesson, we will see that God is faithful to His Word and to His world purpose.

GOD PREPARED A DELIVERER

Exodus 1–2

Hebrews 11:23

Acts 7:20–36

The Pharaoh, Egypt's leader, was a cruel tyrant, and he decreed that all of the male children born to the Hebrew slaves should be thrown into the river and drowned. But God gave extraordinary determination and wisdom to a woman from the tribe of Levi (the Priestly tribe) who was also the wife of a Levite. After this courageous and loving woman gave birth to a son, she took him and hid him for three months.

When she could no longer spare his life in this way, she made a small basket boat for him and placed him at the water's edge near the place where the daughter of Pharaoh bathed. When Pharaoh's daughter saw the infant, she had compassion on him, though she knew he was one of the Hebrew children.

The child was named Moses, and God sovereignly made a way for his own mother to serve as his nurse. And so, she not only saved his life, but had the opportunity to train him.

Though he was raised in Pharaoh's household, Moses identified with the Israelites, and wanted to aid them . . . he even killed an Egyptian who was beating one of his Hebrew brethren. Pharaoh sought to kill Moses, but God led Moses into the Sinai desert wilderness, where He trained Moses for 40 years. When Moses was ready, God sent him back to lead Israel out of Egypt.

GOD USED MOSES TO DELIVER THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

Exodus 4–15

Exodus 11:1–8

Exodus 12

Hebrews 11:28

Through Moses, God demonstrated His power and authority, by miracles, signs, and wonders. The Lord used Moses to deliver the Israelites from their oppressors in Egypt. God sent nine terrible plagues upon Egypt, and when Pharaoh would not release the slaves, He decreed the death of every firstborn Egyptian son.

But God preserved the firstborn sons of Israel by providing lambs as sacrifices. When the Hebrews placed the blood of the lambs on their door posts, the Lord 'passed over' their homes, touching only the unmarked homes of their oppressors.

There was a dreadful cry in Egypt . . . Pharaoh and the Egyptians urged the Israelites to leave their country at once. The Egyptians even gave to them silver, gold, and clothing.

The Lord instituted the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread as continuing memorials throughout the generations, to remind the Israelites that He had saved their firstborn sons and delivered them from Egypt.

Exodus 13–15

Hebrews 11:29

But Pharaoh changed his mind. He sent out an army to bring the Israelites back to Egypt. Against one of the greatest armies of that day, God protected His people with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Then, God parted the waters of the Red Sea, and brought the people through to the other side. When Pharaoh and his army tried to pass through the sea, God caused it to close back in over them so that they were all completely destroyed. The people rejoiced and the name of the Lord was exalted.

A NATION FORMED BY COVENANT

Exodus 19–24

Exodus 19:3–6

There is a tremendous difference between being a grouping of former slaves and becoming a holy nation. But after crossing the Red Sea, God led the people into the wilderness of Sinai, where He reminded them of His delivering power and His covenant choice of them as His people. He offered them a special place of service in the earth if they would obey His covenant.

Exodus 19:7–8

Exodus 20–23

The people committed themselves to obey God, and then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Lord also gave instructions for how these commands were to be applied. He reaffirmed His covenant concerning the land promised to Abraham, and gave instruction concerning it.

Exodus 24

The people of Israel affirmed the covenant, saying, 'All the words which the Lord has said we will do.' Moses wrote God's words into a book and they offered up a sacrifice to the Lord. Then, Moses and the elders of Israel went up onto the mountain of God, where they ate and drank in His Presence. The covenant between God and the nation of Israel was established.

Exodus 25:8

It was God's desire that He could dwell among His people. God gave them the pattern for the Tabernacle, a tent dedicated to Him for His Presence.

Exodus 25–31

The Lord laid out specific instructions for the furnishings of the Tabernacle, including the ark of the covenant, as well as instructions concerning those who would minister within the tabernacle.

Finally, He revealed the system for sacrificial offerings. They were to look to Him to provide the sacrifice necessary for forgiveness of sin.

APPLICATION

In what ways did the Passover Lamb foreshadow Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God? (For further insight, read Isaiah 53:4–7; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; and 1 John 3:16.) There were more than 400 years

between God's covenant with Abraham and the formation of Israel as a covenant nation. What does this history show us about the fulfilment of God's covenant promises? Is God's perspective on time and generations different than ours?

CONCLUSION

2 Peter 3:8-9

2 Corinthians 5:21
Hebrews 12:22-24

The Lord is patient and is not slack concerning His promises. He brought the children of Israel out of slavery, and made them a covenant nation . . . just as He had promised. And though that nation was to be tested many times, and the faithfulness of its people was frequently found to be lacking, God remained faithful. In fact, He was continuing in His covenant purpose, to prepare the true Passover Lamb. There would be another mountain on another day, and a better way for us to stand righteous in His Presence.