

“Who Does God Choose?”

The Exodus

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January 24, 2025

I want to welcome everyone here today—especially those who are here for the first time. We say this often, but we really believe it: You belong before you believe. You’re family the moment you walk through those doors.

A couple of weeks ago we kicked off our new series called Cliff Notes on the Bible where we are journeying through God’s word. One book at a time. We started with introducing the bible and talked about the beginning, then last week we talked about who Abram was and where he was called.

This week we start in a new book—the book of Exodus. But we have some catching up to do. In order to get where we’re going we will have to start with where we left off. We were introduced to Abram who then became Abraham he has the promise. That God has chosen HIM to be the father of many nations.

Through trials and having his son Isaac we see that that same blessing was passed from father to son, and then from Isaac’s son to Jacob. God’s promise didn’t skip generations it moved through them. From Abraham through Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Leading us to the land in Egypt. This now brings us to the beginning of the book of Exodus.

Dahn Dahn Daaaaah.

By the time the book of exodus starts we can see that there is a Pharoah in charge that does not remember Joseph or any promises that previous Pharoah’s made to the Israelites. Through this time God blessed his people and they became numerous—so much so that Pharoah was afraid they would overthrow him by teaming up with his enemies. So out of fear he enslaved the Israelites.

Through this time there was a man named Moses. Moses was a Hebrew who was raised by Egyptians and then cast out by both groups. Moses didn’t know where he belonged. He was fleeing from Pharoah because he killed an Egyptian to protect a Hebrew—but the Hebrews and Egyptians saw him as a killer. He was rejected by the Hebrews. Outcast from the Egyptians. Hiding in the wilderness. And if you’ve ever felt that... you understand Moses more than you think.

When Markie and I first were being interviewed here we were asked to come in and speak at youth group and see what the parents and other students thought. We weren’t sure what to think or even what to speak on. In that moment we felt like Moses. Uncertain. Nervous. Questioning

whether we were really the right people for the calling in front of us. And wouldn't you know it, that night, the person we ended up teaching on...was Moses. As we talked about Moses feeling unqualified for what God was calling him to do, we realized something: we weren't just teaching the story, we were living it.

We felt unqualified. And that night we shared a line that I want to remind us of today: God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. And if that was true of Moses, and true of us...It's true of you too. God chooses Moses as HIS man! The man who would approach Pharaoh and be known and the one who said "let me people go." Pharaoh however had other plans. With a hard heart he refuses over again to let the people of God go.

He doesn't loosen his grip until his first born son dies in the final plague. Which leads us to a moment that goes down in history. The Israelites are now stuck between the Red Sea and the chariots of Egypt—And we know that when there is no way God makes a way so God splits the sea and they walk through untouched (and unphased) to the other side. The Egyptians get stuck in the water and die. The Israelites are now free being guided by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (that would be pretty cool to see a pillar of fire guiding you through the wilderness).

Through their experience in the wilderness God is choosing them and providing them food and water (even as they complain). Exodus 15:26 Exodus 15:26 NIV 26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you." Even in this we see that God is faithful and wants to bless the people that He's chosen. God even decides to make water come from a rock yet His people complain and want to return to the place God delivered them from. But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" I think they were being dramatic but it's because I know where the story is going. They have complained so much that right after they say that Moses says Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." Moses at this point may be regretting all his life decisions having to deal with this giant crowd of complainers.

How many of you have kids? or how many of you know of someone that complains about everything? (I want you to drop a thumbs up if that's you). After a lovely encounter from the Amalekite Army we gained victory over them and Moses brings up men from the tribes and instructs them to deal with disputes (advice given from his father-in-law). We have now arrived at Mount Sinai. It is at this point in the journey that God is making promises and declarations and we get introduced to the Law. God starts the conversation off by saying Exodus 19:5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.

These are some of the first words that God speaks to Moses & the Israelites. I think that God starting the conversation this way is quite profound. God in this moment is reminding Israel of their Identity. Through the shifts of Egypt to the wilderness, to now mount Sinai we can see that God is reminding them that they are chosen people. They are God's chosen people who He is

calling to be set apart. That started with Abraham and the covenant he made with him and has made its way to this moment. How many of you have ever made a conditional promise? That if you did this then this action will be the result. I think that's pretty common. If you are a parent listening to this you understand this well. You might have said to your children "If you clean your room you get an allowance." or "If you do your chores then you can play with your friends." We see God here using that type of language but if you start to follow this story or know anything about Israel's future it is certainly not that they follow God's commands and obeyed Him.

We may be wondering "what are God's commands?" Well it's a good thing for us that God tells us in the next chapter. In chapter 20 we can see God delivers to the 10 commandments to Moses. Not by stone tablets yet but just verbally. Now turning to Exodus 20 let's see what God has to say! And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. God is declaring here that freedom comes before obedience and relationship comes before rules. God is anchoring His relationship not on Israel's obedience but on His own faithfulness.

And God spoke all these words:

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

This is the beginning of the law:

1. Do not have other gods besides me.
2. Do not make an idol for yourself
3. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God
4. Remember the Sabbath day
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not give false testimony
10. Do not covet

These are 10 commands that God is instructing his people to keep. The 10 commandments were also considered the LAW to the Israelites. This is what they lived by. The law was not just viewed as a list of rules for the Israelites, but it was a gift that showed them how to live as God's chosen people. After delivering these commands God says in Exodus 20:24 Exodus 20:24 NIV 24 "

'Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. What is the point of all this? You may be sitting here listening to this wondering do I have to keep all 10 of these commands in order to be chosen by God? If that was

the case than the Israelites wouldn't have made the cut either. Looking at the journey we've been on so far from Adam to Abraham to now Moses throughout all the generations of Isaac and Jacob God was constantly choosing His people. And this gift from God is calling the Israelites (and us) to live set apart from the world. As scripture later says we have to live in the world and not of the world.

The Israelites didn't earn the right to be chosen by God, but God, out of his love and plan for them and desire to bless them chose them and called them to be set apart. And this. This calling, this posture. This is what God is calling us to do in our world today. He is calling us to be set apart from the world we live in. God is choosing us. Or let me say it this way "God has already chosen us." So to answer the question "Who does God choose?" He chooses YOU.

Some of you just heard that and don't believe it. You don't believe that God would choose you because through your whole life you haven't been or felt chosen by anyone. You have been struggling to understand where you belong in this world and what your purpose is. Let me take a moment right now to speak to that. So if that's you lean in and listen to these words. God loves you.

God has picked you out and brought you in. He has His arms wide open welcoming you in to His family. The choosing of you was not an accident. It was you who Jesus had on His mind on the cross when He was crucified. In that moment choosing forever humanity. Allow us to walk confidently in this world understanding that we are chosen by God and that choosing is not dependent on our actions or words or how perfect we are but it is dependent on God and how holy, righteous He is.

When God chooses you we are called to be set apart. Just like the 10 commandments were given to the Israelites to set them apart, we are called to live our lives "set apart" from the world. We are called to be patient, peacemakers, to follow the 10 commandments—which we even see that Jesus sums up in just 2 commandments. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself. Now for some of you that may look like having more patience with a frustrating co-worker.

For others it can look like praying for your waiter at the restaurant. But no matter where you find yourself in the world today here are 3 things you can practice to be set apart in your life today: Through this story and the history of God's people from Adam to Moses and beyond there was always a progression. It started with being chosen then set apart then sent.

We see that in countless peoples lives in the Bible. Throughout scripture God's chosen people follow a pattern. We are chosen, set apart, and then sent! Chosen>Set Apart>Sent 1. Remember Who Chose You a. God is calling us to remember that our identity is already made before our activity is displayed. Exodus 19:5 NIV 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

Although the whole earth is mine, • This week I want you to practice that this week by telling yourself: "I am chosen by God before I do anything today" Exported from Logos Bible Study, 11:58 PM January 23, 2026. 7 • This matters because when you forget you're chosen, you start

trying to earn what God already gave. 2. Live Set Apart, Not Pulled Apart Exodus 20:1–3 NIV 1
And God spoke all these words: 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out
of the land of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before me. • God doesn’t call you to
blend in—He calls you to belong to Him! This doesn’t mean drastic change overnight!

You can pick one thing to change. Here are a few areas you can choose from

Your words

Your patience

Your integrity

Your sabbath rest

Asking yourself “Does this choice reflect who I belong to? Trust the God Who Makes a Way.
Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the
Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

- The same God who chose you is committed to carrying you!
- When you feel stuck, pray this simple prayer:
- “God, I trust You to make a way where I can’t see one.” (pause after prayer)
- This moves the posture of our hearts from anxiety to trust. God didn’t choose you because you were perfect.

He chose you because He is faithful. And when God chooses you, He calls you to live differently—not to earn His love, but because you already have it.