



GOD LEADS HIS PEOPLE



In this chapter you will ...

- (1) Marvel at God's deliverance of a faithless people.
- (2) Understand God's commitment to His own glory above all.
- (3) See how God set in place the purpose of the giving of the Law.
- (4) Clearly see the references to Christ in the exodus and the wilderness wanderings.

Joshua 24:14-18 - It is the LORD who did it!



The Lord designed the crazy events of Joseph's life for the preservation of Israel's family from famine. He had led them to Egypt for their good. Now a Pharaoh came into power who "did not know Joseph" (Ex 1:8). And the chosen family became a chosen hoard of slaves in Egypt, soon to become a chosen nation wandering in the wilderness. Then as the people of God take over the promised land of Canaan, their young leader Joshua instructs them to worship the Lord alone. Their immediate response is to give God the glory for being the one who accomplished their deliverance. It was not the might of human kings or strong warriors, but the Lord alone who did it for them. God's people were being led by God Himself. From the slave stocks of Egypt, with miraculous signs in the Wilderness, through the stronger enemy nations, and into the promised rest of the Land ... God had done it all!



God is For His Own Glory

Traveling through the whole story of God it becomes clear that God needs no help, has no equals, and shares no glory. And it couldn't begin more clearly than in this chapter of the story. God hardens Pharaoh's heart to show off His delivering power. God gives the Law to direct His people's every dealing toward Him. God judges His own to teach them He is holy. And God eliminates Israel's enemies so that His purposes are established. There is no one like our God! And the only proper response, then AND now, is to tremble before Him in humble praise (Ex 15).

Our Passover Lamb



When Jesus showed up near the Jordan River, one of the very first declarations was - "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*" (Jn 1:29). John the Baptizer understood Jesus to be the true and final Passover lamb. A celebration established for God's people marking their grand rescue by Yahweh God came to its conclusion at the Cross. Not only were the Hebrew people slaves, but all of mankind is in slavery and need of rescue. We, like the nation of Israel, are idolators deserving of judgment. And we need that "greater prophet" that God told Moses would come (Deut 18:18). Jesus is that greater prophet. He is our Passover lamb. He alone sets the captives free and leads us in victory. Sing the song of Moses (Ex 15). Take the vow of Joshua (Josh 24:14). Declare the wondrous things He has done for you. You will not find freedom in any other place. Worship Him now!

Story-Tellers Takeaways ...

- (1) God's deliverance of Israel from slavery should convince all that He can deliver them too.
- (2) You are not the hero of the story and you can take NO credit, God is jealous for His own glory.
- (3) In God's deliverance, there are directions and demands - Walk in obedience, Be holy!
- (4) Christ can be seen throughout the exodus story and the wilderness testings. At every place where God rescues and provides for Israel, it points to a greater rescue and greater provision.

My Notes:

How to Read the Story ... the Big into the Small, and the Small into the Big ... all to Penetrate Our Hearts!

Feathers - You must have an understanding of the epic narrative of God's story ... this is Biblical Theology that guides our reading of the story.

Shaft - You must approach each text of Scripture honestly and openly ... this is Exposition of Scripture that shapes our understanding of the story.

Point - You must have a soft heart to worship the author of the story ... this is Gospel Centeredness that changes life.

For Discussion:

- (1) Where do you find God's power and glory most attractive in this chapter of the story?
- (2) Discuss the concept of God being for His own glory and His jealous commitment to not share.
- (3) Where have you enjoyed the benefits of rescue without a commitment to the demands of obedience?
- (4) How might this chapter influence your approach to the Lord's table? What might you do different?