

MADE FOR MORE



MORE THAN SLAVERY.

Have you ever felt trapped?

Perhaps it's in a job you hate or a toxic relationship.

Perhaps it's a year long lease on the worst apartment or a disease you'll probably never shake.

For the Israelites, it was a really angry army and a really big sea.

Or maybe you've never really felt trapped.

But you were.

All of us were trapped in our sin before Jesus. We had no hope out of the endless cycle of hurt, rebellion, and brokenness. We had no hope of life or heaven.

But just like God parted the water of the Red Sea for the Israelites, he made a way into freedom for us through Jesus. Through the cross, through our baptism, through grace upon grace - we get to live in freedom!

Even while we will still fall short and life still may suck, we cling to a real hope for the future; we pray to a God who really listens and actually cares; and we can remember our baptism and know we are loved, saved, and free!

IN THE BIBLE.

Exodus 14:1-4

Then the Lord gave these instructions to Moses: 2 “Order the Israelites to turn back and camp by Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea. Camp there along the shore, across from Baal-zephon. 3 Then Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are confused. They are trapped in the wilderness!’ 4 And once again I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord!” So the Israelites camped there as they were told.

Exodus 14:29

29 But the people of Israel had walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, as the water stood up like a wall on both sides. 30 That is how the Lord rescued Israel from the hand of the Egyptians that day.

Isaiah 43:18-19

““Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

19 See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

Romans 6:3-8

3 Have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be

raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

QUESTIONS.

1. Have you ever felt trapped? What was that like?
2. What does it mean that we get to live in freedom through Jesus?
3. What can you learn about the character of God from the story of the Israelites' deliverance from slavery?
4. A lot of people think more "restriction" than "freedom" when they think about Christianity. How can you share freedom with disconnected people?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?