

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free

TITLE: Stranger Things

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 4:18-31

DATE: September 25, 2016

PASTOR: Charlie Boyd

We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

There's no question about it—the Bible can be a hard book to understand at times. God did not make his Word unclear, but there are a couple of things that make certain parts of the Bible unclear to us.

1. **First, there is a time and culture difference.** Depending on what part of the Bible you're reading, there's between 3400 and 1900 years' difference between when it was written and us today.
2. **Second, the Bible contains different types of literature.** The Bible contains history, law, poetry, songs, wisdom literature, prophecy, and apocalyptic literature.

There are parts of the Bible that don't make sense to us, but even the stranger things of Scripture have something to teach us. **What could we possibly learn from the bizarre story about God wanting to kill Moses in Exodus 4:18-31?**

Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for our Father God to set us free from our broken, messy lives so we can live free in loving, personal relationship with him. The way God worked in people's lives in the past is the way he works in our lives in the present.

Deuteronomy 29:29—*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us*

There are two principles that this bizarre Bible story teaches us—principles about who God is, who we are, and what God is doing in our lives:

1. **The judgment of God always begins with the people of God.**

The Bible says when God shows up, he judges his people first (see 1 Peter 4:17). So God meets Moses at this lodging place because judgment begins with the household of Moses, not the household of Pharaoh.

2. Sin is not just doing bad things; sin is also failing to do the right things.

The obedience coin has two sides: avoiding evil and pursuing righteousness. For most of us, we naturally assume that the “avoid evil” side is more important than the “pursue righteousness” side. But failing to do the right things will come back to bite us (see James 4:17).

The stranger things of the Bible should not keep us from learning the lesson of the plainer things. ALL Scripture is profitable to teach us and correct us and train us in the pursuit of righteousness.

For Discussion:

1. How do you feel when God doesn't answer a prayer in the way you want or expect? Does it impact your faith to have prayers left “unanswered”?
2. Charlie listed a couple of things some Christians leave out when pursuing righteousness (baptism, caring for the poor and needy, forgiveness, and giving). Do you agree? How have you seen this play out in your life?
3. Failing to do the right thing can be as important as not doing the wrong thing. Is there something God's calling you to do that you've been avoiding?