

Exodus

Sunday 5/9/2004

Exodus

Everything you need to know about that book, you have everything at your grasp when you study the Bible so that you can truly understand it. I learned that a lot of people want to read the Bible, but a lot of people get discouraged in reading the Bible. The reason why they do is because the Bible, first of all, looks like an intimidating book. It is really not an intimidating book; it is a very easy book, but it looks intimidating, especially if you have never been in it before.

When you start reading it, you have the best intentions, and you really want to learn what it says. But once you start to dig into that book—and there are 31,171 verses in the Bible—once you start getting into that, it just gets overwhelming. Suddenly, in the midst of what you are reading, you find yourself asking, "What am I looking for?"

We know about God. We know about the things of God. Suddenly, you are caught in the middle. You want to read the Bible. You want to learn about the Bible. You want to learn about God, but you are caught in this void, a vacuum of what you are supposed to be looking for or what you are missing. That is what this church is all about. If you have not noticed it already, we are a little cut different than the average church because we put all of our emphasis on the Word of God. That is the only thing we are here for, and that is the only thing we exist for. We have a lot of fun in the process. We do not get hung up on a lot of things that a lot of people do. We just get hung up on the Bible, and that takes care of itself.

My standard plan and policy is I will spend time with anybody in this church, whether you are a member or not, on a weekly basis, every other week, however it works out, to help you understand the Bible. We have our Thursday night Bible study, where you can ask any question you want about the Bible, because I want you to have a place where you can get everything you ever wondered about the Word of God dealt with. This church, or any church, does not do you any good if we do not focus on what your needs are.

Years ago, I was in New York, and I remember I was driving along the freeway coming out of Brooklyn with another preacher friend of mine, and I saw this big billboard. The billboard said, "Christ is the answer." It was one of the Campus Crusade organizations to reach people for Christ. The big billboard said, "Christ is the answer." Well, as with everything in New York, somebody had scaled up the pole or the ladder and got a big can of spray paint and wrote underneath it, "What's the question?" I thought to myself when I saw that, "That is what is wrong with churches today." We are answering questions that nobody is asking. We are missing what the real issues are, and the real issue is your relationship with God. That is why we are doing the study that we are doing.

I. Introduction to the Book of Exodus

Last week, we talked about Genesis, and I showed you how the book of Genesis was the book of the beginning. Today, I want to talk to you about the book of Exodus. The book of Exodus has 40 chapters, as you can obviously see. It has 1,213 verses and 32,662 words. It is the second book of Moses, which is commonly called one of the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch. We talked about that last week. It is definitely, without a doubt, the book of redemption.

Do you remember last week when we looked at the last part of Genesis, and I showed you how Genesis ended? Genesis ends with a man in a coffin in Egypt. I showed you last week how the book of Genesis is a picture of how God begins to do something, man comes in and thinks he can do it better, and the whole book of Genesis is a picture of man against God, trying to overthrow God. Many of those characters are trying to find God, but the whole theme of Genesis shows you light versus darkness.

What the book of Genesis shows you is this: The very best that you and I can do, as far as religion is concerned, as far as God is concerned, the very best that you and I can do to merit anything from God, certainly eternal life, is going to end us in a coffin in Egypt. Because that is the end of all men. The Bible says that we are going to die, and after this, the judgment. Without a man or a woman coming to the point in their life where they experience God's redemption, where they understand that there was death in this world, God has given us life through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. What the book of Exodus does is show you that redemption. It shows you Christ typified as our Passover Lamb.

II. Prophecies and Structure of Exodus

The book of Exodus deals with two great prophecies. These are some of the technical things you need to get down and understand. You will want to put these in your notes as you are coming through your Bible about the structure of Exodus.

- 1.) It deals with the prophecy in Genesis 15 that talks about the 430 years that Israel is going to have to be in bondage in Egypt. That is a great prophecy that God gave Abraham. He said, "You are going to have to sojourn in a strange land for 430 years." He is talking about the time they go into Egypt, which is in the book of Exodus.
- 2.) It is the fulfillment of Hosea 11:1 that talks about My Son being called out of Egypt. In an Old Testament sense, the nation of Israel is looked at as God's Son, as a nation. You are going to find that when Jesus, in Matthew 2, right after He was born, a strange thing happened. Joseph and His mother take Him and go down to Egypt. They stay there for a while, and then they come out. The Bible says when they come out, the Scripture has been fulfilled that He says, "I have called My Son out of Egypt." Those two places give you a great key to the Bible. The great key to the Bible is that Christ is a picture of the nation of Israel, and His

sufferings and Israel's sufferings are pictures of one another. As you go through the Bible, those two great prophecies get fulfilled in the book of Exodus.

Not only that, I am going to give you a real easy breakdown of the book of Exodus. Every book in the Bible has a breakdown. That breakdown is what you want to get so that when you look at it and you begin to read it again, you know what you are looking for. There are two redemptions in the book of Exodus. That is what really splits the book.

- Chapters 1 through 14 deal with a physical redemption, where God brings them out of Egypt.
- Chapters 15 through 40 deal with a spiritual redemption. God gives them the Ten Commandments.

If you want to look at it in a general sense, the book of Exodus gets broken down into those two components. The first one is a physical redemption. The second one is a spiritual redemption.

Already, before we go any farther, we see the New Testament principle. Israel was born physically when she came out of Egypt, but she had to be born spiritually. You and I were born physically, but the Bible says in John 3, "You must be born again." So we have to have a new birth, a spiritual birth, which puts us into the body of Christ. Where the physical birth put Israel into the land, the spiritual redemption put them into God. It is a great picture of just what you and I have in our lives. If you are saved this morning as a New Testament Christian, you are going to find that everything in that Old Testament will foreshadow and picture something that we are going to deal with in the New Testament.

III. Types in Exodus

When you come to the book of Exodus, you have two more types to put on your list.

- The first type is Moses, and he is going to be a type of Christ. Remember last week, I told you there were 21 men in the Old Testament that foreshadowed the Lord Jesus Christ in things that they did, and are what we call types of Christ. They are very incredible to study. So we have Moses now as our next type of Christ.
- Then we have another type of Antichrist. Remember, I told you last week, there are 18 men in the Old Testament that foreshadow the coming man of sin. For us in the book of Exodus, this will be Pharaoh.

IV. Doctrinal and Prophetic Significance

Now, we begin to see that doctrinally, and you will want to put this note somewhere in the beginning of your Bible too. We are not going to get into this in depth today, but you want to know this: Doctrinally and prophetically, the book of Exodus pictures the Tribulation Period.

Moses is a type of the two witnesses, or he is one of the two witnesses in Revelation 11. He comes back in the Tribulation. He goes before Pharaoh, a type of the Antichrist, and he tells Pharaoh, who has the people of Israel in bondage, "Let my people go." Pharaoh will not let them go. So Moses brings the plagues, turns the waters to blood, brings down the hail mingled with fire. All the plagues fall on Egypt, just like they are going to fall on the Antichrist in the Tribulation Period, because he will not let God's people go.

So, in a doctrinal sense, you are going to find that the book of Exodus represents for us much of the end-times material that you are going to find in the book of Revelation. In fact, as you study the Bible more, you are going to find that probably at least 90% of the Old Testament foreshadows the latter days. We call it prophecy. We call it a doctrinal concept of the Bible dealing with prophetic doctrine. So you want to remember those things. As you look at them, put them someplace in the early notes of your Bible at the beginning so that when you begin to look at that book, or somebody asks you a Bible question, you have all that material there, and you know how the book of Exodus lays itself out, because those are some of the things that you want to begin to look for.

V. Exodus as a Picture of the Christian Life

As I said earlier, the book of Exodus, I think, is probably one of the most incredible books in the Bible from the standpoint that it shows you and I our complete life. I have never seen anything like it in my life. It is no accident that in Exodus 4, Israel is called God's Son, because the nation of Israel, from a practical standpoint, you are going to find, lays out the redemptive plan of God in such an unbelievable, unique way that you cannot miss it. I want to say to you this morning, Danny sang the song, "Yes, I know the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin." I am saying that to say this: In the world that we live in, you can know that your sins have been forgiven.

We live in a world where we have everything backwards. We think we are living because we are going to live forever. We think this world is going to go on and get better and better, and someday we are all going to attain the majesty and peace that everybody wants. But I have news for you: This whole world is on a collision course with God. As you saw when we started our study, God has a plan. When you look at the book of Exodus, you see the redemptive plan of God so clearly. It shows the life of an unsaved man or an unsaved woman before you got saved. It shows you and me the bondage we were under before God saved us. It shows how God heard our cry, that God saw us in our sin, and that God then sent a Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ, and sent His salvation. As you look at that, I am not kidding you, every aspect of your life is laid out from Exodus 1 to Exodus 40.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

The Bible says when you get saved, God begins a work in you. God is going to perform that work with you or without you, right up to the day He comes and takes us out of here in the

rapture of the church. The book of Exodus is that story. It is the story of redemption. If there was one book in the Bible that I could take you to and show you every aspect of your Christian life, with every concept and every event, from before you were saved, when you got saved, right up to the point of after you are saved, your baptism and everything, your ministry and everything—if there is one book that just puts it all in parentheses, it is this book right here. In my way of thinking, the book of Exodus is one of the most astounding books in all of the Bible. When you break it down, which I am going to do for you, you will never look at the book of Exodus again without understanding. There are some books in the Bible that take a little more work. Not this one. This is a freebie. This is so easy. All somebody has to do is just get you started on it, and it will explode into your mind with all of the concepts for your life. That is why God wrote the Bible. He wrote the Bible so that you and I could have an understanding of what life is all about and what God expects us to be and to do.

VI. Prayer and Overview of Exodus Chapters

Let us ask God's blessing as we jump into this great lesson. Father, again, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank You for His salvation. We thank You for His blood. We ask You today, Father, in a very real way, in a very special way, to open up our hearts this morning and to just really show us this great redemptive plan. Show us, Father, what is so real in this book. The magnitude of this great Bible, how it lays itself out chapter upon chapter, verse upon verse, giving us the great insight and concepts into the Word of God that we need to have for our own lives. We will thank You today and we will praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

I do not know if you have ever looked at the book of Exodus, but I do not necessarily want you to turn to all these places today. There is going to come a place where I want you to, but I would rather have you just listen to me because it is easier to absorb it all. Then, if you are really interested, you can get the tape or take notes or whatever, or see me, and I will sit down with you and go through it again. When you come through the book of Exodus, chapters 1, 2, and 3 are great chapters. This is how the book breaks down, so you want to follow me along with this.

In chapters 1, 2, and 3, you have a picture of an unsaved man under the bondage of this world, typified by the nation of Israel under the hard bondage of Pharaoh. Pharaoh is a type of the devil. Israel is a type; it is called a man in the Bible as a corporate nation. It is down in Egypt, a type of the world. The last thing we saw was a man in a coffin in Egypt, in the last verse of Genesis, in the last chapter. Now here we are in chapters 1, 2, and 3. The Bible says the nation of Israel is down in Egypt under hard bondage. There is nothing good in Egypt. There is nothing that is going to help the nation of Israel. Pharaoh has them making bricks for his pyramids. He is killing them by the thousands. He is trying to wipe them out. He hates them. There are no days off. There are no holidays. They are work, work, work, because they are under the bondage of this world. What a picture it is of before you and I got saved.

VII. The Reality of Worldly Bondage

Let me just say this to you this morning: If you are unsaved this morning, I understand that you probably think the life you are having is really fun. You enjoy going out and drinking all night

and throwing up all morning. That is a great time. You enjoy all of the things that you have to go through in life that you think are fun. The problem is you do not find out until you are about 50 that those things really are not fun.

It is the same way that it was with your parents. When you were a kid growing up, a teenager, you thought your parents were the dumbest people in the world. You knew more about everything in life than they did. Suddenly, when I turned 20, I realized that my mom and dad had gotten so smart in just a few short years. The truth of the matter is, they were always smarter than me because they had more life than me. They had more time under their belt, more mistakes under their belt, and they saw what life had done to them. Here I am, just a kid out of high school, and I think it is going to be a great life. I am looking forward to going to the military. I am looking forward to getting my shot at things, and I am looking forward to all this stuff and all the life that goes with it. My parents had seen some things and said, "All that glitters out there is not gold." But to me, it was neon lights in party city. To me, it was, "Man, I have the world by the tail, and I am on my way."

Now I am 53 years old. I know I do not look like it. You do not have to make a big deal about that. But I am telling you, life is a veil of tears. This world will not leave you any better than it finds you. Why? Because it wants to put you under bondage. Right now, you are looking at having a great time, drinking and partying, and you say, "This is what we are to do." At 60, it is called cirrhosis of the liver and a nose that big. McDasies look like nothing. Right now, it is "smoke this, take this, take this drug." At 60, it is "mush brain city." You cannot even remember where you live. Right now, cigarettes are the "in" thing. "I like to smoke. It did not hurt anything over here." Over here, it is the doctor coming in and saying, "Well, Mr. Alexander, I have some terrible news for you. We are going to take out all your lungs. But do not worry, we are going to give you a pipe to breathe out of. Just hold it up and catch some air whenever you can." That is the other side. The devil always makes it look good until you get to the place where you realize how stupid you were. But then it is too late. That is the devil. That is the bondage. That is where I was, and that is where many of you were before God heard my cry.

VIII. God Hears and Delivers

Exodus 2:23-25

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

What a great passage. I know you think that is in the Old Testament, but God made another covenant, and He made it with His Son. When Bob Alexander was down in sin, when Bob Alexander was lost, without Christ, without hope, when Bob Alexander was under the pressure

and the bondage of this world, my groanings went up to God, and God remembered a covenant He made with His Son on the cross. Thanks be to God! For I know today that the blood of God's Son will cleanse you and cleanse me. Why? Because I was under bondage, and God heard my groanings.

Then we come to chapters 4, 5, and 6. In chapters 1, 2, and 3, it is Bob Alexander under the bondage of this world, crying under the affliction and the bondage. But in chapters 4, 5, and 6, God hears the cry, and God sends him a Deliverer, Moses, a type of Christ. Moses, as a Deliverer, comes to get me out of the bondage.

Do you ever study Moses? He is the second man in the Bible that is called the friend of God. There are only two. I know that a lot of other people were friends of God, and a lot of you are friends of God, but there is a reason why God just picked two men and says, "If you want to be My friend, study these men's lives." Moses is a type of Christ, and God sends him down as a Deliverer to the nation of Israel to get them out of bondage. God sent His Son down to me to get me out of the bondage.

Do you ever look at the similarities between Christ and Moses? When you read chapters 4, 5, and 6, you find that Moses was divinely chosen. So was the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find that when Moses was a little baby, they had to hide him in the bullrushes in a boat down there in the swamp because a king wanted to kill him at birth, just like in Matthew 2, the king wanted to kill Christ at birth, killing all the babies three years and younger. If you study his life as he goes on, he goes out there into the wilderness and meets a man by the name of Jethro, king of Midian, and he marries his daughter Zipporah. Here is a man who is divinely chosen like Christ, almost gets killed as a baby like Christ, and now he gets a Gentile bride just like Christ does.

Later on, he feeds his people with bread, just like Christ does in John 6:32 when He says, "I am the bread of life." What else? Moses carried those people through to the Promised Land, but he dies before the people get into the land. Jesus Christ came in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to give His people the Promised Land, but He died before they ever got into the land. Look at this: Moses, a type of Christ, divinely chosen, almost killed as a baby, Gentile bride, feeds his people with bread, died before they get into the land. The first time he shows up to his own people, in Exodus 1:14, they reject him. The second time he shows up, in Exodus 4:31, the Bible says the people believed and accepted him. That is like Jesus. The first time He came, they rejected Him. The second time He comes, they are going to believe. Chapter by chapter, you have a complete and total picture of every man and every woman on the face of this planet, and every aspect from the time they were lost to the time that God sent them a Deliverer.

IX. The Battle for the Soul

Then you look at chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. What happens there? The devil gets wind that they have a Deliverer. What you see in chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, ladies and gentlemen, is nothing more than the battle for your soul between God and the devil. The devil does not want to let you go. Pharaoh did not want to let them go. Moses, the type of Christ, came down and said, "Let Bob Alexander go." I am telling you, how many times I have seen it, the fight and the battle. I

have seen it in this room when you preach, and there are men and women that are lost, and you get down to the end and you talk about accepting Christ or receiving Christ, and the battle is so clear. How many times I have talked to husbands and wives, or moms and dads, or a wife will have a husband that is not saved, or vice versa. When they start to get confronted with Christ, their whole attitude changes. They get angry. They get mad, and the wife takes it personally. I tell her, "It is not you. Do not get upset. Do not take it personal. He is not mad at you. There is a battle going on for his soul."

When you see the battle, the devil will do everything he can to keep you in Egypt under bondage. He will do everything he can to make MTV and all your movies you see, and all the books you read, and all the billboards make this bondage and Egypt look like it is glorious, like you are having a great time. But by the time you get to your 50s and your 60s—and I know it looks like a long way away, but it is not—there are several laws in the Bible that are absolute. One of them is the law of sowing and reaping. What you sow, you will reap.

In chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, the adversary, the devil Pharaoh, shows up and he says, "Let my people go." Pharaoh says, "No." You ought to see the compromise here. You have to see what Pharaoh does to keep them when he knows that he might lose them. He says in Exodus 8:26, "Okay, okay. You want to go sacrifice to your God? Go ahead and go, but just don't sacrifice a lamb." You want to go to church? I think it is great. Just do not get hung up with those crazy people who believe that Christ on the cross and His death will save you. Just go do some nice work someplace.

The second thing he says in Exodus 8:28, "Okay, go ahead and go, but don't go very far away." Try to make the best of both worlds. Do not become a fanatic. Do not go off the deep end. Recognize and realize what you are dealing with here. It is okay to go to church, and it is okay to be religious and all that, but do not be reading your Bible every day. Years ago, I had a woman come in to sit down with me, and she had a problem with her boy. She said, "Bob, you have to help me with my son." She said, "He is just out in the world. He is staying out late at night. He is just doing everything in the world, and I do not know what we are going to do." I said, "Well, I will be glad to talk to him." I do not put much hope in those, but I always give it a shot. In this case, I was wrong. This kid hit it off right off the bat. We talked about everything. He was interested in World War II and military history and history in general, and so was I. We went out to lunch, talked about things, and talked about the great battles in life. I brought it all around and showed him the great battle in life. Well, he got saved, went home, started coming to church, started coming to Bible study, honest to goodness. Eight weeks later, I got a call from his mother, mad at me. She said, "What did you do to my son?" I did not know what I had done to him. I said, "What is the matter? Is he back out?" "No, he will not cooperate with his old friends anymore. He just sits around and reads his Bible all the time." I did not know what to say to her that would have been Christian. I thought to myself, "The problem here is not the boy. The problem here is you." What do you want? You did not like it because he was out in the world. Now you do not like it because he is with God. What she wanted was that nice place in the middle where she was. Out here, that is too radical to the left. But over here, that is too radical to the right. He is making me look bad in both cases. "Why can't you just make him like me?" I am

telling you, the devil will try everything in the world to keep you from getting saved. He will make every compromise in the world. He will tell you everything you want to hear just to get you where he wants you, and then he will go right back to doing what he wants to do.

The third thing he says is, "Okay, if you are going to go sacrifice, that is fine. But leave the kids. We will watch the kids while you go." In other words, "If I cannot get this generation, I will get the next one." I do not have time to get into all that this morning, but I am saying this: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 show your bondage in the world system before you were saved. Chapters 4, 5, and 6 show God sending you a Deliverer. Chapters 7, 8, and 9, 10, and 11 show the devil not liking it. But then, chapter 12...

X. Salvation Through the Blood of the Lamb

Look at Exodus 12. It does not matter if the devil likes it or not. Salvation through the blood of the Lamb. Exodus 12 could well be called the Gospel according to Exodus. You have every picture of Christ being crucified on the cross that you could ever find in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Watch this:

Exodus 12:7

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

Exodus 12:8

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Exodus 12:9

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

Exodus 12:10

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

Exodus 12:11

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.

Exodus 12:12

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Exodus 12:13

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

We sing the song, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood, I will pass, I will pass over you." Why? Because in Exodus 12, they put the blood on the door. I am telling you, you were in bondage in Egypt. I am telling you something else: God sent you a Deliverer. And I am telling you something else: The devil did not like it. But thanks be to God, in my life and most of your lives, there came a day anyhow when you took that bucket of blood and you put it on the door of your soul, and you were covered by the blood. When God's judgment comes, He sees the blood, He is going to pass over you. That is your salvation. Blood on the door. Can you ever look at it? Blood on this side, blood on this side, blood on the top. I will tell you why: One thief here, one thief here, one thief here. Notice He is higher than they are. He is numbered with the transgressors, but He is Deity. One, two, three. The fourteenth day of the month. That is the day Christ was crucified on. Israel kills Him. A male. First of the flock. Notice down there in verse 9, it says, "No water can touch this sacrifice," because Christ on the cross said, "I thirst." He says down there in verse 11, "When you eat it, shoes on your feet, staff in your hand." You know why? Get ready to do something for God the day you get saved. God does not save you to sit. God does not save you to do nothing. He said, "When you eat this Passover Lamb, get your shoes on your feet, get your staff in your hand, get ready to go." I will show you something about this book you will never find any place in this whole world.

Exodus 12:3

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

Exodus 12:4

And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Exodus 12:5

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

What kind of mind do you think behind that Bible would go the first step: "A lamb." Second step: "The lamb." Last step: "Your lamb." You see? The first thing you need is a lamb, without not specifying whatever kind. But you do not just need a lamb, you need the Lamb. But you can know all about that Lamb. I can tell you all day long, your friends can tell you, your mom and dad can tell you, you can hear all about that Lamb. But until you make that Lamb *your* Lamb, you do not have the blood on the door. I am telling you, that book is something else. "A lamb," "the lamb," "your lamb." And he says in Exodus 12:13, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood."

There was a day in my life when I was tired of that bondage. I knew what the devil had done. I knew there was no hope in life. I was down. I was despondent. I thought to myself, "What is life all about?" I remember back then there was a song that came out. I remember who sang it. It was a woman. One of my favorite songs. The theme of the song was, "Is that all there is? Is that all there is, my friend? Then let's just keep dancing. Let's do it on the booze and have a ball." I thought to myself, "Is this all there is?" And yet God said, "No, Bob, there is more to that. But you need to get saved first." In that day in my life, I put the blood on the door. The devil did not like it. I put the blood on the door. I am telling you what, I got the sacrificial Lamb of my life. As Danny sang today, "I know the blood of Jesus Christ has washed away my sin." The blood is on my door.

XI. Sanctification and Baptism

Then the next chapter, Exodus 13. What you find in this chapter, and this thing fits. Chapter by chapter, you come to the place where you are lost. You come to the place where God sends you a Deliverer. You come to the place where the devil does not like it. You come to the place where you get saved. In Exodus 13, what does he talk about then? He talks about your sanctification. He says in verse 2:

Exodus 13:2

Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

I do not know if you know it or not, but that is a great doctrine in the Bible. The doctrine is this: When you get saved, you are no longer part of Egypt. When they came out of Egypt, they were out of Egypt, and they were not to look back. They were not to go back. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

1 Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

You are bought with a price, and God saves you, and He calls you out of the world, and you are never to go back again. You are separate now. You are sanctified. You are set apart. 2 Corinthians 6:17 says:

2 Corinthians 6:17

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

You are separate now. When you got saved, it sanctified you. That is what sanctification means; it means you are separated. When they came out of Egypt, the type of the world, God said, "You are no longer to look back. You do not marry anybody from Egypt. You do not do anything with Egypt. You do not have anything to do with their horses. You do not have anything to do with their cattle." You are completely separated. I am telling you, if you do not make that separation the day you get saved—I am not saying you will not struggle, I am not saying you will not fall—I am saying you better set into your heart, "I am done with this world." You will be right back in it again. I will show you why in just a moment.

The next chapter, Exodus 14. We have seen how, coming through here, we have seen the picture of their bondage. We have seen their Deliverer. We have seen the adversary try to keep them from getting saved. We saw them get saved. Now we have seen their sanctification. What do you have in Exodus 14? You have their baptism. 1 Corinthians 10:1-5 talks about the baptism of Moses. When he went through the Red Sea, the Bible says they were baptized in a cloud. The mist of that sea coming under got them all wet. They went under that thing. It was a picture of Christ dying. When they came out the other side, they were all wet.

We are going to have a great service here coming up probably. As soon as the weather gets nice, we have a whole bunch of people. We do not have a baptismal here; we have to bring it up to fill it up. But we are going to go someplace where there is an old lake or swimming pool. We are going to have one of the guys preach. We are going to have some food. They are going to baptize. We have a swath of people that have been saved that need to be baptized, and we are going to have a great time. Why? Because baptism signifies for you and your salvation with the death of Christ. It does not save you, but it connects you, showing the world that you have been dead, buried, and resurrected with Christ. When he went across that Red Sea, they went down under that water just like you go under the water. They were immersed or dispersed with all the mist of that water. They believe if you are baptized, you go to heaven. What do they sing? "Water, fellowship, water, joy." I do not know. I sing "Power in the Blood." They must sing "Power in the Tub." I do not know. I just know this: I have a book, and I have a song in my heart. It is not because I was baptized. It is not because I go to church. It is because my Deliverer came, and He lives inside my heart today, and I am happy because my sins have been delivered.

XII. Joy in the Midst of Trials

I have a dog bill I have to pay in another hour: \$450. For my kid. They were going to keep her tomorrow, one more day, \$700. No. I look at that and I think to myself, "Whoa." You think through your mind, "A bullet is only a buck." You know what? You are going tomorrow. I am going to tell you, next week something bad is going to happen to you. You are going to think you are going to get a little farther ahead. The car is going to break down. Somebody says, "We are a three-car family," and they think that is a big deal. For me, it is just three times the problems. That means, in my mind, somebody says, "Well, you have three cars." I think, "Oh, what is going to go wrong with one of them next week?" Nothing is cheap anymore. Barbie had a little Suzuki. You used to see her drive around for years. One time, it went bad. We went in there, and the guy said, "It will be \$975." I said, "For what? The car is not worth that much." He said, "Well, there

is one little computer box in there that runs everything." "Oh, and it is broken?" "Yes, it is."
"Well, okay. How much? \$975?" Oh, man.

Some of you are going to be disappointed next week. Maybe your boyfriend or girlfriend is going to say, "Sorry, it is over." Maybe your boss is going to say, "Sorry, it is over." Maybe somebody is going to get sick like little Emily. Maybe some real tragedy, not like my dinky dog, but some real thing is going to fall in your life or my life. Life is tough. I am not looking forward to next week any more than I was last week, because this life is a veil of tears. But I do not care about the dog bill. I do not care about the car breaking down. Why? Because my worst-case scenario, if I die now, I am going to heaven. That is our entire burden to bear, but I will bear it. I am out of here. This old world does not mean anything. This old world is going to collide. This old world is going to blow up. I am telling you, I have a song in my heart because God sent me a Deliverer. Now I have to pay a dog bill. I have to fix the car. I have to cut the grass. I have to fix the banisters. I have to paint the house. I have to do this. I have to do that. So what? I do not care what happens next week. I am going with Him.

That is why you are finding that Bible over and over again: Psalms 95, Psalms 96, Psalms 48. Over and over and over, they are singing. And Psalms 137:1-4. The children of Israel in captivity. Babylon comes down and takes them into captivity. The Bible says they are sitting down there by the river in bondage under the world. Their captors come over and say, "Hey, why don't you sing us one of those songs of Zion?" And the answer is:

Psalms 137:4

How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

I will tell you why there is no joy in your heart this morning. I will tell you why you do not have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in your heart. I will tell you why you do not sing, and there is no new song in your heart if you are saved. I will tell you why: because you have lost the victory. You have lost the power of God. You look up in the morning and you see all the despondent things in this life, and you forget the very fact: You may lose some battles down here, but bless God, you have won the war. You have overcome. Because you have overcome, He lives inside you, and there is a new song in my heart. I could care less about the trials of this life, when all they are compared to the song that God pulled me out of the mire, when old Pharaoh had me making bricks with my feet and killing me under bondage, and God came down and brought me out.

XIII. The Word of God and Prayer Life

What is the next chapter? The next chapter is they get the Word of God. Exodus 16. They are out there in the wilderness, nothing to eat. The old food that they got back in Egypt does not taste good anymore. The water is bitter. Picture the day you get saved. You cannot eat the old places you used to eat. You cannot drink the old things you used to drink. So God gives you something better, a supernatural food from heaven, the Word of God. It is no wonder Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:13:

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

It was supernatural from God, and God brought the bread down to them supernaturally, and God brought this book down to me and to you. It was manna, the source of strength in the wilderness. It is the Bible, my source of strength in the wilderness. I will tell you something else: It came right to where the people were. They did not have to search for it. They did not have to go out and find it with a microscope. They did not have to find it in some dead cave. No, God brought the living Word of God right to them. When they got up in the morning, it lay right around the tents. They got up in the morning, and they picked it up and they ate it. Yet the Bible says, in all of that, when God brought it down and God brought the supernatural food right to where the people were, the Bible clearly says that some gathered more and some gathered less. You see, you can have exactly of God what you want. Your limit of God is not me. It is not your circumstances. It is not your mother. It is not your father. It is not your husband or your wife or your boyfriend or your girlfriend. Your limiting of God in your life depends on you. How much of God you are willing to give to Him. Lastly, the Bible says that the manna was preserved in the ark. The Word of God is preserved. God has given you the supernatural gift.

When you get to Exodus 17, you have the picture of your prayer life. You have a battle called the Battle of Rephidim. You have a man by the name of Amalek, a picture of your flesh. You have Moses, a picture of you. There is a battle going on in the valley, a picture of the battles of your life. Moses stands up on a mountain overlooking the battle. The Bible says, when he lifts up his hands, they win. When they drop their hands, they lose. Picture your prayer life: When you lift up your hands in prayer to God with the battles of your life, you win. When you stop praying, you lose. What does the story say? Moses' hands get heavy, and he cannot hold them up. Sometimes in your life, your hands are going to get heavy in prayer. What happens? Hur and Aaron come over and lift up his hands and help him hold them up. It is a picture of you calling your friend. It is a picture of your friend calling you and saying, "Bob, I am going through a tough time, and I have been praying, but I am weary. I need you to pray with me. I need you to help hold it." In three or four or five or six, you get together, and you pray, and you hold up each other's hands, because prayer is the power of God in your life.

XIV. Ministry and Standards of Holiness

Exodus 18. You find the ministry. You find the great story there of Moses being a leader over a great number of people. Some of you right now are growing spiritually. I am going to tell you, in God's time, it is coming. You are going to be a great leader, and you are going to be working with people in various scenarios. Maybe someday, I have no doubt in my mind, some of you will be pastoring a church, and you will be doing a thing for God that is pleasing to God. That is where Moses found himself.

It is a great picture of how not to get the right advice. Because Jethro comes in. I do not have time to go into all this. Every preacher, every Bible college in the country teaches their young men, "This is the standard format of how you deal with churches." Jethro gave him the wrong

advice. If you take your Bible—remember the B-I-B-L-E? That is the book for me—if you take your Bible and you compare Jethro's advice with what God already said about Moses, you are going to find that Jethro gave him the worst advice in the world. By the time you get to the book of Numbers, you see the damage that it did. Yet we take that and we lift it up, and we tell every young preacher in the world today, "This is how you run your church." No wonder churches are failing today. Jethro gave him every piece of worldly advice and even took away the very things that God said to him. Ask that question some Thursday night. That will take us a couple of weeks. But I am telling you what, you are going to deal with people, and you need to learn to do it the right way. You need to know how to deal with them. You need to know what to say. You need to know how to organize it, how to structure it. You need to know what to look for, how to, in time—not now maybe, but in time. The Bible is the book, and that is why God puts those stories in there. Here is old Jethro. He had every piece of old homespun philosophy. No wonder they called him Jethro. He comes in and he says, "Oh, Moses, do not do it this way. You do it this way." "Do not do this, do not do that." I will give you one of the things he says: "You do not need to deal with these small matters. You need to deal with the big matters. You are too important, Moses. You do not need to deal with all these little piddly things. You need to deal with the big things." Well, the Bible says, "Excuse me, Jethro, but it is the little foxes that spoil the vines." It is not the big things that screw up Christianity; it is the little things. It is not crossing the T's and dotting the I's. I am telling you, if you dealt with the little things, you would not have the big thing. You got the big thing because nobody dealt with the little things. That chapter is such an incredible chapter.

Then you get into chapters 19 through 24. What do you deal with in those chapters? You deal with the Law. God gives them an understanding of the Old Testament Law. What does it simply say for you and for me? Simply stated and translated in the simplest form, it simply says this: God has standards of holiness. God has standards of holiness that are non-negotiable. For a child of God, if you think you can be saved and live like the world and get away with it, you are wrong. I am telling you young people something right now: You think you can do your own thing and live like the world on one side, and then go to church and do the thing and talk about the Bible? You are wrong. You may get away with it for a short period of time, but I am telling you something: There is a law of sowing and reaping. If you sow the wind right now, you will reap the whirlwind later. There are laws in that Bible. In fact, there are seven of them that are absolute, and one of them is the law of sowing and reaping. I am telling you, God's people need to understand that God is a holy God. Going into church on Sunday morning and doing one thing, and living like the devil at other times, and going out with your old friends and doing this and doing that—I am telling you right now, you are fooling yourself. If you go through that whole procedure, following this and that, 5, 10, 15 years down the line, you are married, it is going to be a mess. Your kids are going to be a mess. It is going to be one big mess. Why? Because God has standards of holiness.

XV. The Work of the Ministry and Conclusion

Then in chapters 25 through 27, chapters 28 through 31, and chapters 32 through 40, we have the work of the ministry. We do not have time to go into all those today, but this is what you need to look for:

- Chapters 25 through 27 cover the Tabernacle. That is where you, as a priest, do the work.
- In chapters 28 through 31, he talks about the priesthood. That is where you get a good look at what you should do as a priest and how you should be and conduct yourself as a priest.
- In chapters 32 through 40, you get the great chapters on working with the saints and their sins. You get an example of dealing with people and the problems of their lives all the way through that book.

The book of Exodus is one of the most incredible books that you will ever find in your life.

In summary, I am saying this, and I am done. The book of Exodus teaches seven great truths. Here is a recap:

1. An unsaved man is like a bondsman in this world to a fierce master.
2. It takes a direct intervention from God to free that slave.
3. God will use a man to free the people that are in bondage.
4. Redemption is only by the blood.
5. There can be no compromise with the world by the redeemed.
6. Redemption starts a life of battles and trials and tribulations, but God will fight and win those battles for you.
7. God has standards of holiness that must be conformed to, for they are absolute.

The book of Exodus, the book of redemption, chapter by chapter. That is what you look for. Every head bowed and every eye closed.