

God's Grand Story pt 5 – Telling the Story of Redemption: Moses & the Mosaic Covenant

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Celebrations & Church-Wide Prayer: Peace and Salvation for all of Israel

- Pray for Jesus to reveal himself to Israelis & Palestinians. Whether secular or religious. Through dreams, visions or Christian witness.
- Pray for the release of hostages and for their families. Protection, freedom, strength.
- Pray for God's purposes to be completed in the Middle East.
- Pray against the growing antisemitism in the world
- Pray against antisemitism in the Church
- Pray for Jesus to return and establish his kingdom on the earth! MARANATHA

Why does the Grand Story matter?

- **We have two fronts in our post-Christian world where truth is under attack:**
 - **Outside the church.** E.g. abortion, MAiD, distortion on marriage, rampant sexual immorality - the breakdown of the nuclear family, the devaluing of life.... And the result? PEOPLE ARE MORE CONFUSED, ANXIOUS, DEPRESSED & ADDICTED than ever before.
 - **Inside the church.** We are seeing the rise of progressive Christianity... progressive Christianity responds to the accusations of the culture by changing the Gospel to make it less offensive. E.g. remove OT, the Cross, suffering, sexual ethics, etc.
- **The problem:** “just believe in Jesus” Christianity is MORE than a personal relationship with Jesus! it provides the framework – or lenses – through which we can properly know God, understand who we are, why we are here, what's important in life, and how to engage the world around us in the BEST WAY POSSIBLE. – **IDENTITY – PURPOSE – DESTINY!**
- **We need to take Jesus' warning seriously!** “WATCH OUT THAT YOU ARE NOT DECIEVED” – Mt 24
- **We also need to take Peter's command seriously,** when he wrote through the Holy Spirit, “honor the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” **1 Peter 3:15**
- **The Grand Story – provides big picture – protects from deception – reveals the character and nature of God so we can KNOW HIM & FOLLOW HIM whole heartily! – identity – purpose – destiny – belonging – problem with the world – and the solution!**

Recap: 4 Chapters, 5 Main Promises, 1 HERO – Jesus and is moving towards the most EPIC finale ever and the FINAL happily ever after! This is a love story – a story of redemption!

- **Creation → Fall → Redemption → Promise 1: Edenic Covenant “Serpent Crusher” → Noah: the flood, Promise 2: Abrahamic → Great Nation, Land, Blessing to Nations...Unilateral, Unconditional, Eternal, and applied to his descendants!**

Intro: Grand Story pt 5 Telling the Story: Redemption: Moses to the Mosaic Covenant

Abraham is in many ways the Father of Faith... he was the first one to put his trust in the promise of a Savior – though he didn’t know who it was! He believed God! Said, YES and obeyed! **FAITHFULNESS**

A. Redemption: Joseph to Moses

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

- **Unoffendable** is the only word that comes to mind! **Reflect:** what would your life look like if you had Josephs attitude for the difficult things you are experiencing?

Our story picks up: Joseph dies in Egypt... and a new King rises...

Exodus 1:8-10 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.”

- **IMAGINE being a Hebrew person living in these times:** 1) heard the Stories 2) You know of the Serpent Crusher, 3) You have heard of God’s greatness! He is your deliverer! 4) TRAPPED in BONDAGE! They must have LONGED for REDEMPTION! This is the heart of the MARANATHA CRY!
- **Pharaoh is fearful of population growth! ORDERS:** baby boys to be murdered!
- Moses is born into a Levite family... his parents put him in a basket and send him down the Nile...
- Pharaohs daughter finds him and takes him as her own and names him Moses.
- Moses is raised as an Egyptian, educated, but knows he is a Hebrew...

Exodus 2:11-12 One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

- Moses kills the Egyptian, two Hebrew men ask him if he will kill them too, afraid – he runs to Midian!
- Meanwhile... the people of Israel cry out for help!

Exodus 2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

Genesis 15:13-14 Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

- **Just as God had shown Abraham 350 years earlier!**
- **Moses is a shepherd at this point**

Exodus 3:2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

Exodus 3:7-8 Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

- The Lord intends to fulfill the Promise he gave to Abraham!
- **NOTE: why wait so long?**
 - **One reason** → "the sin of the Amorites is not complete" God is JUST, merciful & patient
 - **Second reason** → the Lord was allowing a group of 70 people to become a nation!
 - **Third reason** → Persecution kept them from assimilating into the culture – kept them separate!
 - **Fourth reason** → so Israel would "know the Lord"

Exodus 6:6-8 Say therefore to the people of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord."

The 10 plagues: God gives clear directives, warns, disciplines and judges – merciful, patient and JUST.

- Water turns to blood – Egyptian gods match
- Frogs – Egyptian gods match
- Gnats (lice)
- Flies
- Disease on livestock
- Unhealable boils
- Hail
- Locusts
- Darkness
- Death of the first-born

Exodus 12:36 And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

- **Why did God deliver Israel out of Egyptian bondage?** 1) Because he loved them; 2) Because he said he would – God speaks & it is so!
- **MESSAGE OF HOPE for us:** 1) God loves us, 2) God has promised to save us! IF we put our faith and trust in him! “YES”

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- **We participate with God** – but salvation? Redemption? **Ultimately depends ENTIRELY on GOD.**
- **We choose if we will partner with him, or, reject and work against him.**

How many in here want to be used by God? SHOW OF HANDS

- **NOTE THEN:** God used Pharaoh & Moses. God uses everyone. God used the Amorites & Israelites to reveal himself to us.
- **YOUR CHOICE:** Romans 9 – Instruments of wrath? Instruments of mercy?

Almost immediately after Israel leaves Egypt... Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues them with all his military might! Pursuing the people of Israel all the way to the Red Sea... where he had them! Hemmed in by the sea!

BUT GOD → God miraculously parts the waters before Israel... giving them a dry path to cross the sea! When the Egyptians tried to follow, the Lord let the walls of water down and wiped-out Pharaohs army!

Days later, God called Israel to Mt Sinai to constitute them into a Nation and give them a governance system and corresponding Laws!

B. Redemption: Promise 3: the Mosaic Covenant

Exodus 19:5-8 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”

Exodus 19:18-20 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Purpose of the Mosaic Covenant:

1. **Details for living as a Righteous Nation**

2. Offered temporary covering for sin
3. Revealed the nature of God – His character and how to fellowship with him
4. Revealed the nature of mankind – just how sinful and broken we are
5. Revealed how to fulfill the Great Command – Love God & Love People
 - a. **10 Commandments:** 1) No other gods; 2) No idols; 3) Don't misuse Gods name; 4) Remember the sabbath and keep it holy; 5) Honor your father & mother; 6) Do not murder; 7) Do not commit adultery; 8) Do not steal; 9) Do not lie; 10) Do not covet anybody's spouse or stuff
6. Prepared Israel for the Davidic & New Covenant

Conditions of the Mosaic Covenant:

1. **Conditional – Two-way: Blessings for obedience & curses for disobedience**
2. **Worked WITH Abrahamic Covenant. Showed them how to remain in the Promise**
 - a. God gave them the Land – YES. UNCONDITIONAL. But to REMAIN in the land, they had to LOVE HIM & LOVE PEOPLE. Otherwise, he would JUDGE THEM AS HE JUDGED OTHER NATIONS.

THEY COULD NOT KEEP THE LAW → 613 Laws given – All the details needed to be a RIGHTEOUS NATION & STAY IN THE LAND – yet the Law proved what God had said, “EVERY inclination of Mans heart is towards Evil”

Romans 7:12-13 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

Promised Land → 11 day journey took 40 years! **REBELLION** → God raises up Joshua!

Summary of the Promises:

1. **Edenic** – promised a Serpent Crusher – that would be human and have the ability to undo the curse! UNCONDITIONAL.
2. **Abrahamic** – was unconditional... it transferred the seed... but focused primarily on 1) Great nation; 2) LAND; 3) blessing to ALL nations – it was UNCONDITIONAL. God was going to do it.
3. **Mosaic** – CONDITIONAL – why? The Mosaic Cov gave Israel the details on how they must live in order to REMAIN in the Land God gave them.

C. Applying what we've learned:

- a. **Problem with the world: SIN** –“every inclination of mans heart is towards evil”
- b. **Solution: what is the solution? One plan. One Hero. Jesus the ONLY WAY**
 - i. Did perfect conditions fix the problem?
 - ii. Did restarting from scratch fix the problem?
 - iii. Did geographical location solve the problem?
 - iv. Did God revealing himself in power and miraculous ways solve the problem?

- v. Did the PERFECT laws fix the problem?
- c. **Purpose:** to partner with God – faith = Yes + Action → Love God & Love People
- d. **Consider:** IF this is true, what should you do today or this week?

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

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SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal:** Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers