

Exodus “God Delivers and Invites”

January 15, 2006

Genesis was about “Beginnings & Promises” --- God created and we saw so many beginnings and firsts; then God began to deal with a chosen man and his family and we saw God’s promises reiterated to each successive generation. They, like we, had to live by faith in God, not having received the promises, but having “seen” them afar off (Heb 11:13).

Whereas Genesis could be seen as the book in which God created and blessed (gave promises), in Exodus we can see that God separated a people to Himself as the next step of fulfillment of his previous promises. Exodus can therefore be seen as the book in which **God delivers and invites**. He delivered his people from bondage and invited them into relationship with him through a covenant. Here are some questions to consider as you read through the book of Exodus this week.

1. What were the reasons (excuses?) that Moses gave for not being ready/fit to lead the children of Israel? How did God answer each of them? What do you observe about God through these dialogs? What do you observe about human nature through the objections of Moses? What parallels do you see in your life to Moses’ attitude toward God’s call for his life? What should you change?
2. Describe the attitude(s) of the children of Israel for/against the direction that God was leading them through Moses. Was it stable and consistent? What seemed to influence it? What do you observe about God’s direction/reaction through their fluctuating moods? What parallels do you see between them and how people [or you] respond to God’s direction?
3. Before leading the children of Israel to _____ (“any” place to which he led them), did he know what they would

encounter there? Why might he do that? Do you think that “comfort and convenience” was at the top of God’s list of criteria for new encounters? What was? Take time to write about 5 situations in which God (in his foreknowledge) knew what YOU would encounter in some situation which you faced, which you really “didn’t like” at the time, but through which afterward you suspect that God used in a significant way in your life for good (Gen 50:20).

4. In Exodus chs. 15-17, 20 God “proved” (or “tested”) the children of Israel. Can you think of any New Testament passages that might parallel the idea of God “proving, testing, or ‘tempting’” his children. What may be God’s purpose through these times?
5. List all of what the children of Israel and the elders and Aaron saw and experienced in chapter 24. Now, contrast the experience of the elders with Moses and Aaron in chapter 24 with what took place in chapter 32. What changed, happened? What does this suggest to you for your walk with the Lord?
6. Examine Exodus 33:7-23. List whatever devotional applications these verses suggest to you. Spend at least 15 minutes (or more) with the Lord praying as the Lord leads you based on what you find in this passage.

Exodus outline:

God demonstrates his power through the deliverance of his people (Exodus 1-18).

God invites his people to enter into a covenant with him. The covenant instructs them how they are to live and worship God (Exodus 19-40).