

# DELIVER ME

Exodus 1-40

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades  
February 6, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

## Introduction:

Life unraveling, about to come apart? At end of rope. No where to go, no one to turn to. I know, some of you have been there, are there, will be there. Shared desperation, exasperation, dismay. Crying out for a savior ... "Deliver me!"  
Story of the Exodus reminds us when at the end of rope, we can turn to God. God's plan is to DELIVER. Let go (idols). Trust God ... WHO delivers us and transforms us so we can worship and serve Him.

Please open you Bible to the book of Exodus. Page ... \_\_\_\_\_. TODAY = Overview. Introduction. Context.

Not knowing current events, I've been planning to start this for almost a year. Eyes of the world fixed on Egypt ... Demonstrations in Cairo, 30 year rule, Oppressive regimes.  
Dial back 3500 yrs. History repeating itself, coming full circle, oppressed people, looking for a deliverer.

The story of the Exodus ... takes place in Egypt, begins at the end of Genesis, death of Joseph. There was a severe famine in the land. 12 tribes of Israel (Jacob), rescued from demise. 70 number. 1:1-7 Saved from famine. Salvation story. Joseph dies. 400 years. Grown from 70 mentioned here, to 2 million. New political regime (greatest nation on earth).  
v. 8 New king ... either Amenhotep (1546 BC.) or Thutmoses I (1525 BC.)  
vv. 9-14 Organized into large labor gangs under Egyptian taskmasters.  
Who do you think built all those impressive monuments? The Habiru. Socio-economic class. Hebrews?

3500 years ago ... seems so foreign, so far removed from my experience; what bearing on my life? One mom ... "you've got to be kidding, the death angel killing the first-born male in every family?"  
Always loved the stories, captivate me. Timeless truth. God is speaking to me.  
For Jews story of deliverance resonates ... Passover. For followers Jesus; deliverance resonates as well.

Three divisions of BOOK that accurately describe the Christian Life ... ETERNAL LIFE.

**Exodus 1-18... The Deliverance. From bondage to freedom, from death to life.**

PARALLELS ... EX 400 years of silence, Crying out to God. MATT 400 years of silence crying out to God. Miraculous BIRTH narratives (Moses in Nile, Jesus in stable). Moses – Exile, return, "Let my people go".

BEFORE WE CAN WORSHIP AND SERVE GOD ... we have to be delivered, set free from bondage. BONDAGE? WHAT BONDAGE? What is it that holds you captive? Destructive habits ... Selfishness. SLAVES TO SIN ... the sin nature is a harsh taskmaster. We need a deliverer, without a deliverer, we remain in bondage. Unable to help ourselves.

Doubts ... confidence, assurance, certainty; not in self, but in God.

Fear ... nothing can separate, victors. No good. Ineffective, failure, wasting my life.

Insecurity ... always trying to prove ourselves, wondering if someone will approve.

Pride ... humility. Thinking you are better than everybody else. Super-spiritual, judgmental.

**The story of the Exodus reminds us that God has freed us through His miraculous power.**

Just as God sent Moses to deliver those He loves. God sent Jesus as our deliverer; in response to our cries. End of your rope ... right where He wants you. No where else to go, you'll turn to Him. Exodus exper. QUOTE Beth Moore. ... Every true believer has an Exodus story because every true believer has been freed from bondage. WHAT IS YOUR EXODUS STORY ... delivered from what?

**Exodus 1-18 The Deliverance ... reminds us that God has freed us through His miraculous power.**

**Exodus 19-24 The Law** ... requirements for relationship, REQUIREMENTS we can't EVEN begin to meet. God wants relationship; not based on ability to be righteous, but in spite of our **inability** to be righteous. The law was given so we would know we can't achieve righteousness on our own.

Deliverance is based on grace. **Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith --**  
**The Law reminds us that our relationship with God is based on His grace rather than our righteousness.**

We hold out righteous deeds (Isaiah says they are filthy rags), instead, wants our brokenness.

What we have in common ... not how good we are, but that no matter how good we are, we are unable to be good enough to have a relationship with God.

Our good works may be good enough for us, good enough for friends/family, never good enough for God.

Moses on the mountain, the people worshipping a golden calf at the base. Says it all. Giving them the law (outlined requirements for relationship) they were violating every part of it. And He still loved them. Relationships aren't based on law; based on love. Covenant of grace. Heseed; NT charis. Loving kindness. Transparency ... vulnerability ... I'm desperate. Deliver me! Save me.

Ill. Come to God telling Him how good we are ... when He knows the truth. Rich young ruler

Not our spiritual successes and accomplishments.

The law makes it impossible for us to come to God on our own. So God comes to dwell with us.

**Ex 1-18 The Deliverance ... reminds us that God has freed us through His miraculous power.**

**Ex 19-24 The Law... our relationship with God is based on His grace rather than our righteousness.**

**Ex 25-40 The Tabernacle ... God's plan is to live with us and in us; both individually and as a body.**

**1 Cor. 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?**

1 Corinthians 6 ... context = church, physical body.

Tabernacle reminds us that God has come to live within us; hearts, worship.

**Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands."**

Deliverer sent, came to live with us. Relationship, die for us. WORSHIP ... so we could live with Him.

Ill. every week when we meet together, we become the body of Christ. We lost the wonder.

Jesus shows up. I can feel Him, I can see Him ... I can hear the praises of those who know Him. Exodus.

Story of Exodus reminds we've been delivered by God's grace ... worship and serve the one true God.

Communion: LIFE COMING APART, AT END OF YOUR ROPE. Deliverer raised up in answer to cries.

Blood on Doorposts. Sacrificial lamb. Without spot or blemish, spill blood, wipe on doorposts, eat lamb, burn the rest as a sacrifice to God. Called Passover ... God will spare your first-born and deliver you.

Blood on the cross. God did not spare His first-born. Jesus, lamb of God, perfect, shedding His blood, running down the cross, giving His life for us ... the perfect sacrifice.

Divisions in the Church – the Body of Christ

**1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV84) <sup>16</sup>Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?**

## Sexual Immorality – the physical body

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV84) <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

"*Hesed*" is a Hebrew word that describes the indescribable, that defines the un-definable. Put simply, *hesed* is the defining characteristic of God in the Old Testament. It is a key to opening the mysterious door to understanding who God really is.

Lament happens when we experience suffering that seems inconsistent with God's *hesed*, when the door to His Presence seems locked and barred from the inside. Such moments are often signaled by the word "why."

Why am I sick?

Why does my enemy triumph over me?

Why did my loved one die?

God, if indeed You are defined by *hesed*, then why...

At the heart of understanding *hesed* lies the notion that it is unmerited, undeserved, un-earnable. This facet of *hesed* is what the New Testament calls "grace."

Jesus spent so many of his parables trying to define *hesed* for us. The emotional power of the parable of the prodigal son comes from the unexpected forgiveness of the father. (Lk 15:11-32) The twist of the parable of the good Samaritan is that the person who was not obliged to give anything, gave it all! (Lk. 10:30-37) "Unmerited." "Impossible to earn." God will not wash His hands of us because of His surprising *hesed*.

*Hesed* teaches us that a supremely untranslatable word can only be understood when it becomes "enfleshed," translated into a living person. Through the Incarnation of Jesus, *hesed* was at last perfectly defined. But the call of God for you and me is to continue that incarnating in our own lives. Within the two simple syllables of this indefinable word lay all the richness of the grace and mercy of God. When circumstances cause us to question His *hesed*, we invariably reach out through lament. And somehow, through the mystery of lament, we find it again... Which is to say we find Him again.

MICHAEL CARD

The word stands for the wonder of his unending love for the people of his choice, and the solving of the problem of the relation between his righteousness and his loving-kindness passes beyond human comprehension.