

REST ASSURED

Exodus 12:29-42

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
April 10, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Man on Wire. DOCUMENTARY examining amazing exploit of tight-rope walker Philippe Petit. In 1974, Petit had a secret plan to extend a steel wire between the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York. At the time, the towers were still under construction. Same towers destroyed on September 11, 2001.

After much planning and practice, the day arrived. Snuck to the top of the buildings, shot a wire across the vast, quarter-mile-high canyon that separated North and South Towers, and Petit went to work.

Petit was on the wire for 45 minutes. Thousands gathered below. On each end of wire, police waited for him to finish. Petit made eight passes before finally coming in. To this day he insists stunt wasn't for publicity or even to see if he could do it. He had complete confidence, absolute assurance (no safety net). He knew he could do it.

Wouldn't it be great to confidence ... never fall. Assurance ... live life on the high-wire with no safety net. We can! When we put our confidence and trust in God? Because of who He is (strong and loves us) ... and because of the promises He has made to us. **When God promises, He always delivers ...**

Please open your Bibles to Exodus 12. Page 48.

Reminded of what God promises to those who trust in Him ... as seen through the lens of the miraculous deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt in the 15 century BC.

Read Exodus 12:29-30

Egyptology ... evidence that successor Amenhotep II (Pharaoh with a hard heart) was not his 1st born son ... a son but not 1st born. Thutmose IV went to great lengths to legitimize his right to the throne. Firstborn ... punishment for 80 years of genocide. **RAMM** "for at least 80 years, since the time of Moses, all male babies the Egyptians could apprehend had been killed. "

The 10th plague came as a judgment on that special act of cruelty. Answer to their prayers.

Genesis 18:25 (NIV) "Will not the judge of all the earth do right?"

God takes the lives of the Egyptian 1st, as He saves Hebrew 1st through the blood of the sacrificial lamb; prefigured what He would do in redeeming our lives through the giving of His 1st, the lamb of God.

Ill. Redemption - Abraham Lincoln purchase slave.

There is an old story [probably apocryphal, according to one Lincoln historian] that Abraham Lincoln went down to the slave block to buy a slave girl. As she looked at the white man bidding on her, she figured he was another white man going to buy her and then abuse her. He won the bid, walking away with his property, he said, "**Young lady, you are free.**"

She said, "**What does that mean?**" "**It means you are free.**" "Does that mean **I can say** whatever I want to say?" **I can be, I can go.** "Yes, you can go wherever you want to go." The girl, tears streaming down face, said, "**Then I will go with you.**"

God has redeemed us. DELIVERED, purchased us at the greatest price. 1st born son.

Jesus cleanses (paid it all), Jesus satisfies God's just demands, Jesus lives in us, so we can live with him
When God promises, He delivers.

Read Exodus 12:31-32

NIGHT, emergency. Up ... leave. GO worship ... BLESS ME ... shocking in light of the fact that he was a god himself. Pharaoh saw opportunity. "If YHWH had the power to curse, he also had the power to bless." Chains fell off, the yoke was removed. Enemy defeated ... miraculously freed. Pharaoh could not stand against God of the Covenant.

Absolute assurance. No longer slaves. **God has set us free.**

Galatians 5:1 (NIV84) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

FREE, yet we continue to struggle ... Pharaoh doesn't go away. Pursues to attack/retrieve what was lost. **Spiritual warfare** ... ill. feel like there has been a lot of that lately. Enemy uses many tactics ...

Head Game, author Tim Downs writes: Psychological Operations, a form of warfare as old as the art of war itself.

Early example found in strategies of Alexander the Great. On one occasion ... army in full retreat from a larger army, ordered his armorers to construct oversized breastplates and helmets that would fit men 7 or 8 feet tall. As his army would retreat, he would leave these items for the pursuing army to discover. When the enemy would find the oversized gear, they would be demoralized by the thought of fighting such giant soldiers, and abandon their pursuit.

Unfortunately, many Christians surrender to the enemy, have same attitude about Satan and temptations. Bigger than life, unable to resist. Promise ... power to overcome.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

When God promises, He delivers.

Read Exodus 12:33-36 PLUNDER Ill. riches ... hit the lotto,

Flat broke and homeless, brothers Geza and Zsolt Peladi literally lived in a cave near Budapest for years. They left their dank home only to scrape together whatever money they could through selling scrap metal and candy. Theirs was a hopeless situation. But then everything changed.

One day, out of the blue, charity workers informed the brothers that they had inherited a substantial portion of their late maternal grandmother's \$6.6 billion fortune. And just like that, two destitute brothers, **Would call a castle their home when all they had ever known was a cave.**

God pours out spiritual riches on us. We lack nothing. Spiritual inheritance. Every spiritual blessing **2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.**

When God promises, He delivers.

Read Exodus 12:40-42

God promised to take them to the land and give them all of it. Escort them on the journey. Protection ...

Psalm 16:1 (NIV) "Keep me safe O God, for in your I take refuge."

Psalm 91:1 (NIV) "He who dwells in the shelter of the most high, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

God keeps a vigil over us. Nothing can touch us. How many times? Ill. God's hand on our car.

In his book entitled *Prayer*, Philip Yancey writes: As Jesus once prayed for Peter, now he prays for us... In fact, the New Testament's only glimpse of what Jesus is doing right now depicts him at the right hand of God 'interceding for us.' In three years of active ministry, Jesus changed the moral landscape of the planet. For nearly two thousand years since, he has been using another tactic: prayer.

God is keeping vigil over us. Jesus interceding. God's hand of protection.

God stands guard over us to protect us. When God promises, He delivers.

Conclusion:

Now they were officially on their way to the promised land.

"We live in a world ruled by the God of Exodus and Easter. He will do things in us that neither we nor our friends would have supposed possible." Eugene H. Peterson

When God makes a promise, He keeps it. Guaranteed. He is the covenant keeping God.
Of this we can rest assured ... we belong to Him (He bought), the enemy cannot defeat us, we are rich beyond belief and He watches over us to keep us safe.