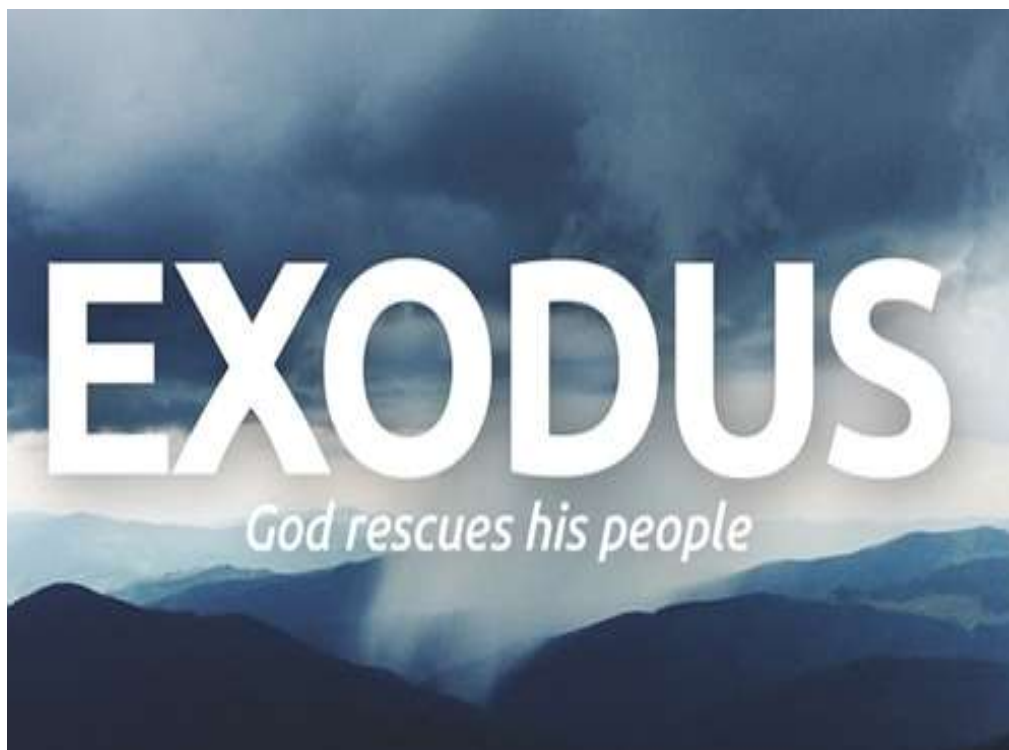


Let's Worship God

13th-18th January 2020

Exodus



EXODUS

Monday - Exodus 5:1-9 - Waiting Patiently

As we come to the end of chapter 4 of Exodus everything seems to be going well. God has chosen Moses, told Moses to set the people free from slavery, and has promised that he will be with Moses. The people are ready. Moses is ready. Aaron is ready. Surely now is the time when God will set his people free. Now is the time when the Covenant LORD will act and deliver them out of slavery. Or is it?

Moses goes to Pharaoh and Pharaoh refuses to let the people go! What a disappointment this must have been to the people of Israel. Later Moses will even question God about this very thing (verse 22-23). He was being prepared for this moment for 80 years and now, instead of God's people being set free, life will get harder.

Chapter 5 is about living in a culture of hostility. Patiently waiting for God is not easy. Trusting in God's providential ruling is not always comfortable.

Pharaoh mocks God's name (verse 2) and mocks the worship of God (verse 8). It is as if Pharaoh is saying, "There is no God, I don't have to obey him, and worshipping him is a waste of your time, and mine." This sounds like the culture in which we live. There is hostility to the Word of God.

Pharaoh then makes life more difficult for God's people. They have to gather their own straw to make bricks for Pharaoh. A time consuming, difficult task.

Sometimes when we are seeking to live for Jesus Christ we find that the culture of the world is against us. But don't be discouraged because chapter 5 will be followed by chapter 6.

Questions

1. Why is Pharaoh's response to Moses a disappointing surprise for Moses?
2. In what ways have you found it hard to stand up for Christ and his truth?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would wait patiently for God's timing.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Exodus 20:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Tuesday - Exodus 5:10-19 - Life Keeps Getting Harder

The culture of hostility that exists between Pharaoh and God's people becomes even more hostile and dangerous. Pharaoh expects more and more from the Hebrews and all the while he exerts harsher restrictions on them. They have to continue making the same number of bricks as before but with harsher restrictions applied to them.

Pharaoh demands that God's people should be serving him first, they should be giving their time and energy to Pharaoh and his kingdom, and most of all they should not have in their minds this notion that they are to go and worship the LORD (verse 17-18).

This again sounds very much like the society and culture in which we are living. Our culture demands that we follow their rules and standards. Our culture seeks to restrict our worship and Christ-like living by saying to us, "keep your religious life to your own private time, and most of all it is not to have any impact on your day to day living." It is becoming harder and harder to live for Jesus Christ.

And yet in all of this we should not be surprised. Jesus said to his disciples, even though he would be with them to the very end of the age, the world would hate them because it hates him.

We are not promised an easy life. Rather we will face a culture that is hardened to the truth of God's Word. We will face a culture that is set against Christ and his people. Our laws, our rulers, our bosses, family members, all those who say, "I don't know your God. I don't care for his worship. I don't believe his word. And I hate you his people."

But remember, chapter 5 will be followed by chapter 6.

Questions

1. What are some of the ways we face hardship from the world?
2. Why should we not be surprised by this opposition?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would stand firm in the face of opposition.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Exodus 20:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Wednesday - Exodus 5:20-23 - Questioning God

It can be very confusing living for Jesus Christ and at the same time being hated by the world. Moses was confused. He was promised by God that God would set his people free from slavery in Egypt. Moses was promised that God would bring his people out to worship him in the wilderness. God promised that he would be with Moses. But what does Moses experience? Hardship, difficulty, and confrontation from God's people! So Moses questions God. Verses 22-23, "Why have you done this?"

It is hard to understand why God doesn't work the way we expect or want him to. It is hard to understand why God's plans are not our plans, especially when our plans seem so good!

Look at the difference between chapter 4.31 and 5.21. From bowing their heads in worship the people confront Moses and question God's plan. Why? Because life is hard. Because they "stink" before the world. Because they live in a world that hates God's Word and will try to discourage them in their faith. Because Satan loves to try to make us doubt God's plan and purpose. Even Moses questions God.

There are perhaps times when you have questioned God. Is this really God's plan? Is this really what God wants for me, for our church? Like the people and like Moses you are discouraged in the circumstances in which you find yourself. Churches or congregations can fall into this trap. When things aren't easy or things aren't going well they blame the church leadership, or they question God's goodness. When we "stink" before the world let us remember that chapter 5 is followed by chapter 6.

Questions

1. Why does Moses question God?
2. Why do we sometimes get disappointed by our circumstances?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would faithfully trust God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Exodus 20:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Thursday - Exodus 6:1-13 - God's Perfect Promises and Plans

What great comfort. Aren't we glad that chapter 6 follows chapter 5. God has his plans, his purposes, and his promises. And they are all perfect. There will be times when we are discouraged, times when we feel broken, times when we are unsure as to why God is working out circumstances in such a way. We may even question God's plan. Like Moses we should make sure that we bring those doubts and questions to God, and then make sure that we listen to God's answer. God has his plans, his purposes, and his promises. And they are all perfect.

God doesn't explain to Moses why he was allowing his people to suffer, he doesn't tell Moses why Moses was chosen for this task, God doesn't justify himself, but he does repeat the promise that he will bring his people up out of slavery. God is working all these things together for the good of his people, so that Pharaoh himself will drive them out of the land.

We must hold on to this truth. We must humbly cling to God's promises.

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

John Calvin put it this way in his commentary on Exodus, "God wished to accustom his servants in all ages to patience, lest they should faint in their minds, if he does not immediately answer their prayers, and at every moment, relieve them from their distresses."

As we face discouragement we have the covenant promises of God. God speaks them again to Moses, and we can look beyond our disappointments and discouragements and look to the promises that we have in Jesus Christ.

God has his plans, his purposes, and his promises. And they are all perfect

Questions

1. What are some of the promises that God has for us?
2. What comfort does it bring knowing that God always keeps his promises?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God's plans and purposes are perfect.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Exodus 20:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 17 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Friday - Exodus 6:14-30 - Pointing Us to Christ

Sometimes we come to a passage in the Bible that makes us wonder, "why does God have this here?" That is how we might feel about today's reading; a list of names that seems to break up an exciting account of the confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh. But this list of names is not a pointless list. Like all of Scripture it is here for our good and to point us to Jesus Christ. Verses 26-27 tell us that this family tree is here so that we can be sure that Moses and Aaron were God's chosen servants, called to lead the people out of slavery. Before the final confrontation with the enemy we are to be absolutely sure that this is God's chosen Servant. The servants are prophets in that they are bringing God's Word to God's people and to a fallen world. Verses 26-29. The servants are also from the priestly family. The focus of the family tree is Levi and his family line. Down through Levi's family line, and down through Aaron who was set aside for the office of priest, we have the priestly family. Here are the intercessors for God's people before God. Even Moses can be considered a priest. Psalm 99 verse 6! God's unique servant, who will deliver his people from slavery will be chosen by God, a prophet and priest, one who will bring truth and be the intercessor and sacrifice for sin.

When we come to the New Testament we find that Jesus is this servant. And unlike Moses who was unwilling (notice the pattern for verses 10-12 and 28-30) Jesus was completely willing. Psalm 40, "Here I am, I have come as written in the scroll. I delight to do your will, O my God." The purpose of this passage is to point us forward to Jesus Christ and to give us confidence in knowing that he is the sufficient and unique saviour of his people. The one who will confront the enemy for us is this Jesus Christ. God's plans, purposes and promises come through Jesus Christ. There is no one else.

Questions

1. In what ways were Moses and Aaron God's chosen servants?
2. How does Jesus perfectly fulfill the role of promised Saviour?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the work of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Exodus 20:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Saturday - Exodus 7:1-13 - Hard Heart

Before the plagues we are given an insight into what will happen, verse 3-5. God will harden Pharaoh's heart. Even with the weight of overwhelming evidence to the power of God Pharaoh will not listen. But God will deliver his people, and in the end all Egypt will know that He is the LORD.

The heart of the wicked is hardened, but God will deliver his people. God's Word makes it clear that God is sovereign over death and life, including spiritual death and spiritual life. In Romans 9:14-18 Paul is commenting on Pharaoh's heart. "God says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy."

Pharaoh is a man who was unmoved by the Word of God. He is a man whose heart grew harder to the Word of God. By his continual rebellion and by his refusal to humbly cry out to God for forgiveness for his sin he hardened himself against the truth. This is a warning for you if you are not a Christian. Every time you sit under the ministry of God's Word and refuse to come to Christ you are hardening your heart.

Even with the hardness of Pharaoh's heart God's plans of salvation cannot be undone. God will deliver his people. There will come a day when God will gather all his redeemed together.

The evidence of God's power to save is before us in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again. Our only hope is that God changes our hard hearts and brings deliverance to us before that day when all the world will bow the knee before him and know that he is LORD.

Questions

1. In what ways can we harden our hearts to God's Word?
2. How can a hard heart be changed (Ezekiel 36:26)?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

Exodus 20:4

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com